Dear Network Members and Network Interested,

In this issue of the CRnews, we would like to draw your attention to alternative statements regarding the upcoming Global Child Labour Conference on May 10-11. Please feel free to contact us with comments, news and ideas for improvement via the regular e-mail address: info@enmcr.net

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,
Lea Fenner (Editor)

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STATEMENT regarding the Global Child Labour Conference - The Hague, 10-11 May, 2010

Professors, researchers, guest professors, allies, of the European Network of Masters in Children’s Rights (ENMCR), regarding the Global Child Labour Conference organised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Dutch Government in The Hague (The Netherlands) on 10 and 11 May 2010 express publicly their opinion as friends of working girls, boys and adolescents and state the following:

1. To urge competent authorities, within the remit of the United Nations and States parties, to revise ILO Conventions 138 and 182 in order to:
   a) Find juridical coherence between ILO Conventions 138 and 182 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child under the principle of the best interest of the child;
   b) innovate in social action to include the principle of participation of organised working boys, girls and adolescents, through their own representatives in a direct way within the ILO, expecting a favourable attitude towards their participation from this Organization;
   c) respect the principle of non-discrimination of working girls, boys and adolescents, and accept their demand to be valued as workers;
   d) implement actions against: i) economic exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation of children, slavery and similar forms of exploitation and to take to court the members of the mafia organisations who support those activities; ii) defend the rights of working girls, boys and adolescents when these are violated.

2. To demand from the competent authorities:
   a) To carry out an independent and complete appraisal of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) so as to assess its pertinence, consistency, efficiency and impact;
   b) To assess public policies aimed at the eradication promoted by the IPEC and implemented by the States Parties around the world;
   c) To disseminate the results of the aforementioned evaluations.

3. As regards working girls, boys and adolescents in the context of a fair world for the future, it is recommended:
a) To take into account their right to express their opinion and their right of association so as to respect fully their participation as protagonists in all national and international decision taking instances in all matters concerning them;
b) To take into account and articulate their way of life within public policies, programs, development projects and democratic governance;
c) To adopt inclusive policies for working girls, boys and adolescents living in the street as unemployed workers searching for work;
d) To adopt inclusive policies for sexually and economically exploited children and adolescents who are trying to free themselves from this subjection and have access to work in dignity;
e) To adopt inclusive policies for farming girls, boys and adolescents, members of communities and ethnic minorities, respecting their customary traditions, their education cultures, care for environment, territory and work, and particularly the right of girls, boys and adolescents to work in dignity within their communities.

4. As regards the policies of the European Governments, the European Union and the Council of Europe, it is recommended:

a) To respect and take into account in their policies the opinions and demands of working children and adolescents and their organisations in their continents;
b) To acknowledge the fact that there are many children and adolescents in Europe who have the experience of work and are searching for legal opportunities to work in dignity and free from exploitation;
c) To guarantee, at local, national and European level, and active and efficient participation of children and adolescents when decisions affecting their lives are taken, particularly those children and adolescents in disadvantageous conditions and social exclusion.

5. The undersigned will stay alert and examine academically the ILO Global Report on Child Labour 2010 when made public, and will state publicly their professional technical opinion if considered pertinent.
Like all human rights codified in the different United Nations Conventions, children’s rights -which are formulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child -claim world-wide validity. Nevertheless, they are particularly criticized in southern regions of the world. Children’s rights are frequently seen as a sign of western dominance and thus, not compatible with some cultural traditions. In the lecture series, we intend to tackle the following questions: Is this criticism justified and if so, to what extent? How may the universal claim of children’s rights involve cultural differences? At the same time, we will also discuss in which way the further development of children’s rights can promote children’s specific cultural ways of life as well as develop their equality and acknowledgment as rights subjects with their own perceptions and interests.

April 21 –July 14, 2010, each Wednesday, 18-20 h (13 sessions, lectures will be held partly in English and partly in German)
Download Flyer:
http://www.enmcr.net/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=33

In addition to the ENMCR’s statement above, we would like to draw your attention to the Latin American and Caribbean Working Children and Adolescents Movement’s position:

**MOLACNATs: Statement directed to the Global Child Labour Conference**
We raise our voices as the Latin American and Caribbean Working Children and Adolescents Movement to protest the disrespect shown to us by the organizers of the Hague Conference by
neglecting to invite us to participate, or indeed, even informing of us that it would take place. MOLACNATs, for more than 30 years, has been a place where working girls, boys and adolescents have organized themselves to implement collective action to protect and promote the rights of all girls, boys and adolescents. This activity revolves especially around our fight for social, cultural, political, and economic recognition as well as creating working and living conditions in dignity for working children, as well as for recognition of children in general as both subjects and social actors under the law.

It is unacceptable that we, the legitimate representatives of organized working girls, boys and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean, were not invited to the conference since the subjects under discussion are parts of our reality. The exclusive attendance by adults, most of whom are quite distant from the realities of our lives, once again confirms that the approach taken to working children and adolescents continues to be adult-centered and child and adolescent participation is relegated to lofty intentions and legal texts.

**We condemn the violation of our right to participate as children and adolescents as accorded under Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly given the observations and recommendations made by the Geneva Committee on the importance of complying with this article.**

For more than 30 years, our movement has defended its firm position to fight and denounce labor exploitation of millions of children throughout the world, while at the same time fully rejecting ILO Conventions C. 138, on minimum working age, and remaining critical and opposed to Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labor and its IPEC Program:

- As regards C. 138, We consider the minimum working age to be discriminatory, excluding minors younger than 14. This convention condemns thousands of girls and boys to the illegal and informal sectors, thus greatly exposing them to exploitation.

- As regards C. 182, which considers the use, procuring, or offering of a child for prostitution, the production of pornography or for pornographic performances, or the use of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production or trafficking of drugs as the worst forms of child labor, we believe that these are criminal offenses and flagrant violations of a child's human rights. We are clearly against all of these phenomena, but calling them "labor" creates dangerous confusion and leads to purely repressive practices as opposed to truly liberating alternatives.

**Serious consequences**

Our movement already has clearly made its presence felt in the Amsterdam and Oslo C.182 preparatory conferences (1997) where it drew attention to the negative implications C.182 would have on the lives of thousands of working girls, boys and adolescents. Its ratification has given way to the development of repressive policies in some of our countries that criminalize the social, cultural, and economic reality of many of our families. Unending raids, persecution and stigmatization of child and adolescent labor in the popular classes of countries like Colombia, Peru, Paraguay and Guatemala, are clear and regrettable examples of the effects of these "hard-line" policies.

**The lack of objectivity**

shown by these international organizations, who continue to deny our dignity with statements such as: “Child labor is a development obstacle” or “None of the main Millennium Development Goals can be achieved without eradicating the worst forms of child labor”. Statements of this kind conceal the real reasons for economic, social, and political crises that our people have historically suffered as a consequence of the neoliberal economic model which is condemning millions of girls, boys and adolescents to poverty, marginalization and exclusion. The next Hague conference will be a space where this hypothesis will be given just that much more momentum.

**We propose**

from our organizing spaces, as working children and adolescents who know the reality of working children in Latin America and the Caribbean, to contribute and propose work-education programs which would train us both as producers and citizens.

**We demand:**

Ø to be recognized as social actors, political and economic subjects by international organizations and society in general. (and to be invited immediately to participate in the discussions and drafting sessions of the next Hague conference).

Ø to be considered while public policy which could affect us is being drawn up.
Ø For our input to always be sought so that social policies can be implemented with a holistic perspective and in a way which favors development of our capacities and skills to overcome the exclusion and marginalization we face in many countries in the Global South.
Ø For governments to spend on education, health care, food, recreation and protecting the environment, instead of prioritizing payment on foreign debt.
Ø For our proposals to be listened to and considered for an economic system of solidarity where our social relationships and production take place without undermining human dignity and while protecting the environment and promoting solidarity among peoples.

We call upon labor, peasant, indigenous, Afro-descendant, student, women, and intellectual organizations as well as progressive world governments to show solidarity to our call and not submit to international organizations and their power grabs with programs and policies that while covered with a varnish of good intentions, only propagate a system which exploits human beings

We once again demand our recognition as working children and adolescent so as to achieve the wish expressed by a working child:

“We want to make it possible for children to be happy and walk hand in hand with adults and everyone in society to make this world a big house where we all belong”

Yes to work in dignity, no to exploitation!
Yes to equality, no to discrimination!
Yes to protected work, no to abuse and mistreatment!

April 2010, Latin American and Caribbean Movement of Working Children and Adolescents (MOLACNATS)
www.molacnats.org /Contact in Europe: pronats@googlemail.com or italianats@italianats.org

Germany: Gleiche Rechte für alle Kinder!
Bundeskabinett beschließt Rücknahme der Vorbehaltserklärung

Terres des Hommes: New Child Protection Website
The version 2.0 of tdh-childprotection.org website is now online: http://tdh-childprotection.org/
The objective of the overhaul of the portal is to improve the broadcast of the updated information and to become a modern – visitor friendly – specialised website.
The sections remain the same but their presentations emphasize the variety of sources and propose to the visitors several additional content linked to the country or to the topic. A particular effort has been made around an innovative concept “NGO news room”, managing information from traditional media (press reviews), the electronic ones (news on the net) and the news from
the field (regional projects and countries of intervention). In one glance on the home page, the visitors can easily see what is new, which sections have been freshly updated, what are the main elements of the week on child protection issues in Europe.

**Serbia: Recommendation on New Law on Social Welfare**

Serbian Ministry of Labor and Social Policy is preparing a new Law on Social Welfare. The Association for Protection and Promotion of Mental Health of Children and Youth organised a consultative process on the draft of the Law with the support of Social Inclusion Poverty Redaction Unit and Unicef.

50 Serbian Civil Society Organisations which work with children supported the recommendations on the draft of the Law that was sent to the Serbian Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. The recommendation is calling for:
- a major role of the Serbian State in enabling citizens to exercise their right of initiative;
- better inclusion of vulnerable children in the society;
- greater efforts by the Serbian State to identify children who need its social protection;
- support for families with children through prevention of factors that lead to poverty
- stop in building new institutions for children;
- provision of community-based services i.e. small units where children have to be accommodated as if they were in their own families, where their fundamental rights must be respected and their emotional safety ensured;

For further information please contact: s.stefanovic@oknis.org

**Communication on Roma in Europe and Report on Roma inclusion 2008-2010**

On 7 April, before the second European summit on Roma Inclusion which would be held in Cordoba (Spain) on 8 and 9 April, the European Commission adopted, for the first time, a policy communication dedicated specifically to Roma. The document defines the main challenges ahead and develops a programme to help make policies for Roma inclusion more effective.

The Communication also outlines the complexity and interdependence of the problems faced by Roma in terms of discrimination, poverty, low educational achievement, labour market barriers, housing segregation and poor health.

The same day, the Commission released a Progress Report on the implementation of the EU instruments and policies for Roma inclusion 2008-2010:


**European Roma Summit : Right to Proper Education**

The Summit (in Cordoba on 8 and 9 April) has discussed the importance of early childhood education as a key factor in breaking the cycle of exclusion. "Roma people do not need a separate labour market, they do not need schools that prolong the segregation of Roma children, and they should not live in renovated Roma ghettos. All Roma people are entitled to be accepted on equal terms everywhere" so Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and inclusion László Andor. Click here to read Andor's speech:


Click here to read an AFP report on the Roma Summit:

http://www.crin.org/email/crinmail_detail.asp?crinmailID=3288#eu

**INDIA: Right to education launched**

A landmark law which makes education a fundamental right for children has come into effect in India. It is now legally enforceable for every child to demand free and elementary education between the ages of six and 14 years. Indian PM Manmohan Singh said enough funds would be made available to ensure that children had access to education.

An estimated eight million children aged between six and 14 do not currently attend school in India. Mr Singh said that the government was committed "to ensuring that all children irrespective of gender and social category have access to education". Recalling his own childhood, Mr Singh, a qualified economist, said: "I read under the dim light of a kerosene lamp. I am what I am totally because of education." "So I want that the light of education should reach to all," Mr Singh
LEBANON: Children Submit First Child-led Report to UN

From cluster bombs to child labour, Lebanese children have shed light on the issues affecting children in Lebanon in an unprecedented child-led report submitted to the UN Human Rights Council for the country's Universal Periodic Review. Over a period of two months, children from Beirut, the Bekaa valley and Marjayoun, Southern Lebanon came together to brainstorm about issues that affect children. They then analysed, debated and agreed on the information to include in their report. 'In our Children’s Council in Marjayoun we decided to research about cluster bombs and landmines and how this situation affects the lives of children in Lebanon,' said Joelle Goubar, 13. 'We live in fear of cluster bombs and this causes psychological problems and lack of freedom of movement in our villages. This is violence against children.' 'We decided to write about street children in the report,' said Kassem Fouani, 14. 'We put ourselves in the place of street children and it is a terrible situation that no child wants to live in.' In the report, children also highlighted issues such as child labour, children with no identification/unregistered at birth, children with disabilities and violence against children. 'This activity was very good because we talked about child rights and we learned how children can help other children when their rights are violated,' said Hydar Abou Khoder, 14. 'We are very concerned about working children.' 'We clearly identify child participation and the principles outlined in article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a pivotal component in our advocacy initiatives,' said Patricio Cuevas-Parra, World Vision Lebanon Advocacy Manager. 'We are committed to children who expressed that they seldom have the chance to express their opinions and to be listened to. Children articulated great appreciation for the opportunity to participate and to influence their communities and peers and to contribute to a more just society.' Source: CRIN

Expert Database: Share & Connect

The European Wergeland Centre (EWC) is launching Share & Connect – an expert database designed to facilitate online networking among people working in the field of education for human rights, democratic citizenship, and intercultural understanding. Researchers, PhD students, teacher trainers, teachers and other education professionals across Europe and beyond can connect through the database to share their experiences and to benefit from each others’ expertise. You can join the Share & Connect database from www.theewc.org

About the EWC: The EWC started its work in February 2009 as a European resource center on education for human rights, democratic citizenship, and intercultural understanding, the result of an initiative between the Norwegian government and the Council of Europe (CoE). Its services are open to the 47 member states of the CoE, and its neighboring countries as well. The EWC’s main aim is to build bridges between policy, research and practice. It provides services and activities to teacher trainers, teachers and other professionals in education, as well as researchers, administrators and decision-makers.
Publications

New Book: Infância e Direitos: Representação, Práticas e Poderes
(In english: Childhood and Rights: Representations, Practices and Powers.)
by Fernandes, Natalia

Conference Report: Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Children Affected by War

Human Rights Watch Report: Slow Reform - Protection of Migrant Domestic Workers in Asia and the Middle East
The 26-page report reviews conditions in eight countries with large numbers of migrant domestic workers: Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Singapore, and Malaysia. The report surveys progress in extending protection to domestic workers under labour laws, reforming immigration "sponsorship" systems that contribute to abuse, ensuring effective response by police and courts to physical and sexual violence, and allowing civil society and trade unions to organise.

FRA Report on "Separated, Asylum-seeking Children in European Union Member States"
The European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has just published a summary report on ‘Separated, asylum-seeking children in European Union Member States’ that reveals many shortcomings and deficiencies in the care provided to asylum-seeking children in the European Union. The full report is expected to be published in June.
Read more about the findings and recommendations of the FRA Summary Report “Separated, Asylum-seeking Children in European Union Member States”:

Guide to involve children and young people in staff recruitment (Action for Children, UK)
Action for Children has published a guide called The Right Choice. The paper provides guidance on involving children and young people in staff recruitment and selection. The guide also offers an overview of the recruitment and selection process, considers why it is important to involve children and young people. It provides basic information and techniques to do this in an inclusive and empowering way. The guide has been re-designed by young people and features artwork specially created by children and young people.

UNICEF Report: Risks and Realities of Child Trafficking and Exploitation in Central Asia
The findings and factors highlighted in this report point to the structural obstacles and systemic difficulties in acknowledging and adequately responding to child trafficking. Such challenges must be addressed at sub-regional, national and local levels. It is hoped that this report will contribute to reassessing interventions to prevent protect children from exploitation, including trafficking, in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
Council of Europe Report - Consultation on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children

The Council of Europe Children’s Strategy for 2009-2011 ‘Provision, Protection and Participation in Europe’ has, amongst its major focuses, that of eradicating all forms of violence against children. In particular, it calls upon the interested organisations to launch comprehensive awareness-raising actions to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. In response to this mandate, the Council of Europe shall in autumn 2010, launch a Europe-wide campaign to stop sexual violence against children. A call for expressions of interest was addressed to experts wishing to participate in a meeting held in Strasbourg on 10-11 December 2009 to prepare a specific aspect of the coming campaign: the prevention of child sexual abuse within the family and community.

This report summarises the contributions of the participants who attended the meeting in December 2009. Click here to read the report on the EC Strasbourg meeting: http://www.crin.org/docs/CoE_ReportSexualAbuse_BD.pdf

Funding/Prizes/Research Opportunities

Call for Papers: 4th IJJO International Conference

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory invites you to present a paper in one of the different subject areas of the Fourth International Conference: “Building integrative juvenile justice systems: Approaches and methodologies regarding mental disorders and drugs misuse”, which will be held on 9 and 10 November 2010 in Rome.

Experts who are interested in presenting papers must submit them via email to the following address: roma2010@oiij.org, indicating:

- Title of paper.
- Name of author.
- Name of organization and position held.
- Author’s email address.
- Author’s address and telephone number.
- Keywords and summary equivalent to one page.
- Subject matter to which the paper refers.

Topics:
- Study of the situation of young offenders with mental disorders or disorders related to drugs misuse: the basics for intervention.
- The response of juvenile justice systems to offences committed by minors and young people suffering from mental disorders.
- Juvenile delinquency connected to the misuse of drugs: profile of young offenders and analysis of resources employed towards their social reintegration.
- Mental disorders, drugs misuse and juvenile justice: ethical aspects and good practices.
- The relationship between juvenile justice systems and health services: the need to encourage specialized resources.
- Encouraging policies and regulation: interface between systems.

If you should require audiovisual material, please specify:

- Projector for PowerPoint presentation, DVD player, Others.

The deadline for the submission of papers expires on 28th May 2010. Once these papers have been studied by the Scientific Committee of the IJJO, you will receive a response and an invitation to take part in the Conference. The time permitted for the presentation of papers will be twenty minutes. You are reminded that the working languages at the International Conference will be those of English, French and Italian.


**Upcoming Dates**

- **May 6, 2010**: Conference: Protecting Children Online, European NGO Alliance for Child Safety Online (eNACSO), Brussels, Belgium
- **May 10-11, 2010**: Global Child Labour Conference, The Hague, Netherlands
- **June 10, 2010**: Weltweiter Klimawandel und die Folgen für Kinder und ihre Rechte, Bonn, Germany
- **June 10-11, 2010**: Growing up in Divided Societies, Belfast
- **June 14-18, 2010**: World Summit on Media for Children and Youth, Karlstad, Sweden
- **July 2-7, 2010**: Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) 2010
- **July 6-8, 2010**: 3rd INT. CONFERENCE- Childhood and Youth in Transition, Sheffield
- **July 11-17, 2010**: XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology, Sweden
- **July 12-22, 2010**: Utrecht Summerschool – International Juvenile Justice
- **September 6-8, 2010**: Europe at a Crossroads, Bruges, Belgium. www.uaces.org/bruges
- **September 22-24, 2010**: Primer Congreso Nacional De Antropología Social Y Etnología, Ciudad De México
- **September 26-29, 2010**: XVIII ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect, Honolulu, Hawai’i, USA
- **September 30 - October 2, 2010**: International multidisciplinary conference: Children and War: Past and Present, Salzburg, Austria
- **October 20-22, 2010**: 6° NGO Forum for National Child Rights Coalitions
- **October 27-29, 2010**: 5th Child in the City Conference, Florence, Italy
- **November 3-5, 2010**: Eurochild’s 7th Annual Conference: Brighter futures - Building effective partnerships to end child poverty, Örebro, Sweden
- **November 9-10, 2010**: 4th IJJO International Conference: Building integrative juvenile justice systems: Approaches and methodologies regarding mental disorders and drugs misuse, Rome, Italy
- **November 15-18, 2010**: IV World Congress on Child and Adolescent Rights - The best interest of children and adolescents: Well-being and development in the new world economic order, Puerto Rico
- **December 2-4, 2010**: International Conference: Children and Youth in Changing Societies, Thessaloniki, Greece