



EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MASTERS IN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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What's new

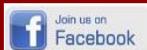
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¿DISCRIMINADOS POR SER NIÑOS?

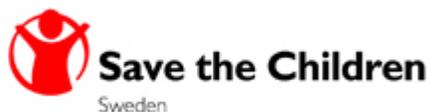
Una mirada a la realidad social de los niños y niñas en España

Further information [here](#)

ENMCR Website:
You will find all the information about ENMCR [here](#)



This newsletter is supported by:



ENMCR

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Dear ENMCR network members and network interested,
In this issue you will read about the new ENMCR member and upcoming and finished activities of our network members.

We would like to stress that we are looking for someone to take over the collecting and editing of the Alumni Notes for the ENMCR newsletter. If you have any suggestions, comments and / or ideas for improving the newsletter you can use our email address: info@enmcr.net

Sincerely,
Rita Nunes (Editor)

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Alumni Notes

ENMCR COORDINATOR

ALUMNI

NOTES

We are looking for someone to take over the collecting and editing of the Alumni Notes for the ENMCR newsletter.

We, Rita Nunes & I, started this project two years ago and have managed to include Alumni Notes, first by trimester, then quarterly, ever since.

You can find all Alumni Notes in the newsletter [archive](#) (2013-2014). From my experience, there is interest on behalf of ENMCR Alumni, not just to contribute to the Alumni Notes, but

also to start an alumni network.

In order for an alumni network to become a reality, the ENMCR directive committee would have to support the creation of the position of "Alumni Coordinator". An alumni network has many benefits, among them:

1. connecting alumni and sharing information about professional prospects in the field
2. providing potential & current students with ideas of where the studies can lead them
3. helping grow ENMCR network connections through alumni engagement

If anyone is interested to take over the collecting & editing of Alumni Notes for the ENMCR newsletter on a voluntary basis, they should contact [Rita Nunes](#), Newsletter editor. I hope that someone in the directive committee, the ENMCR members or the alumni, keep this project going.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Alumni Notes over the last two years!

Yours sincerely,

Elise Serbaroli (Berlin EMCR 2010-12)
- Formerly Alumni Notes Coordinator

Rita Nunes (Berlin EMCR 2010-12) -
CRNews Editor

General News Internal

ENMCR new member: The University of Central Lancashire

We would like to welcome our new members that have joined us recently: The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan).

We are happy to have the UCLan involved in the network and we look forward to learning from the activities, upcoming events, recent publications, and courses offered.

The University of Central Lancashire was founded in 1828 as the Institution for the Diffusion of Knowledge and has evolved over the years to become a university, being the first modern university in the UK to be recognised in the 2010 QS World Rankings. Its motto is 'Ex solo ad solem' (From the Earth to the Sun) reflecting the university's commitment to helping people from all walks of life to make the most of their potential. It is situated in Preston, in the [north west of England](#).

The UCLan School of Social Work is one of the biggest providers of social work education in Europe, with over 1000 students enrolled on courses at foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The MA in Contemporary Practice

with Children and Young People is one of a range of cross-professional undergraduate and post graduate courses delivered together with the Schools of Education and Social Science and Health, reflecting our emphasis on meeting the learning needs of social and health care professionals in a wide range of settings and contexts.

The course leader and most staff who teach on the MA are members of The [Centre for Children and Young People's Participation](#). The Centre is a forum for shared thinking, promoting seminars, workshops, conferences and publications and implementing a planned programme of research. We focus on building links between academics, policy makers, practitioners and young people, locally and internationally. Children and young people are involved in every part of the process – developing and carrying out their own research programme, attending some courses alongside students and delivering teaching, recruiting new members and advising on future directions for the Centre.

IoE: Participatory research with children and young people: How do we make it meaningful?

This one day course is ideal for new and experienced researchers and educators developing their research practice with children and young people, including early years practitioners, teachers, international NGO researchers, youth workers and social workers.

The course, led by Dr Rachel Rosen and Dr Kristin Liabo is designed to develop the skills you need to conduct meaningful participatory research with children and young people.

1. Learn the essentials of participatory research design and methods
2. Use participation and involvement to engage children and young people
3. Explore issues of power relations, tokenism and agenda-setting
4. Consider what approaches might be used when researching sensitive topics
5. Engage with verbal and non-verbal forms of expression.

Further information can be found [here](#).

General News Internal

Queen's University Belfast: Consultation with children and young people - Public expenditure

The Centre for Children's Rights is supporting a group of international NGOs to conduct a global consultation with children and young people in advance of upcoming UN legal advice to governments on public expenditure for children's rights. Consultation tools (available [here](#)) include facilitated discussions and an online survey tool, each of which were designed by Centre members in consultation with a children's and a young person's advisory group. The deadline for consultation responses is the 31st January 2015. The full report for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Council is due March 2015.

ISS: New Executive Editor of the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights

As of September 2014, ISS professor Karin Arts serves as a new Executive Editor for the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights. Karin Arts is professor in International Law and Development at ISS.

The Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights is a peer-reviewed academic publication which contains scholarly articles on human rights issues and the promotion and protection of human rights through international human rights law from authors from around the world.

Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education: 9th UNESCO International Summer School

The 9th UNESCO International Summer School at the Academy of Special Education will be held in Warsaw from 14 to 24 September 2015.

The Summer School is entitled: *Readaptation and reintegration as problems of refugee children.*

This Summer School is organised by the UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair at the Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education in cooperation with the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and Bureau for Academic Recognition and International Exchange – CEEPUS Programme.

The 9th International Summer School is targeted at young researchers in the fields of psychology, education, sociology and interdisciplinary studies. The 9th International Summer School is funded by the Academy (classrooms, lecturers, staff, etc) and the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the CEEPUS Programme. Each of participants will receive a scholarship. The scholarship funds (1350 PLN) covers the costs for accommodation and food (specified in the program) and pocket money (for public transport, other meals, etc.). Candidates should apply by March 30st, 2015.

For further information please contact Ms. Krystyna Urbanska Secretary; UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair At The Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education 40, Szczesliwicka Str, 02-353 Warsaw, Poland. tel. +48 22 589 36 00 ext. 3222 and email: kurbanska@aps.edu.pl

The University of Edinburgh: Seminar series: Children's Rights, Social Justice and Social Identities in Scotland: Intersections in Research, Policy and Practice

The seminar series: *Children's Rights, Social Justice and Social Identities in Scotland: Intersections in Research, Policy and Practice*, funded by the Scottish Universities Insight Institute in 2013-14, is now completed, and we would like to draw your attention to our outputs and resources. We are keen to continue the network from our series and extend it further to anyone in research, policy and practice with an interest in children and young people's intersecting

identities and experiences of inequalities.

The key information about the seminar series were summarised in a Briefing as well as outcomes and implications. The Briefing on *Intersectional Childhoods and Inequalities* is available online.

Furthermore and in the framework of the seminar series a **video podcast** from Seminar 4 on 2nd October 2014 is available here: <http://vimeo.com/108952702>

All audio and video podcast, as well as presentation slides from each seminar, are available under <http://www.scottishinsight.ac.uk/Programmes/Programmes201314/ChildrensRights.aspx>

If you would like to **join the seminars mailing list** in order to receive and share information about Intersectional Childhoods and Youth please sign up here: <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=INTERSECTIONAL-CHILDHOODS-YOUTHS> (by clicking 'subscribe' on the left hand). It is free and you can unsubscribe any time.



FU Berlin: MA Childhood Studies and Children's Rights online application platform open for Winter Semester 2015/16 intake

Since January 20, 2015 the [online application portal](#) for the [MA Childhood Studies and Children's Rights](#) is open.

Here you can find information on the [MA at a glance](#).

The application deadline is April 30, 2015 to begin studying the 3 semester course in October 2015.

General News Internal

Queen's University Belfast: Guest lecture by UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education

The Centre for Children's Rights and the Improving Children's Lives initiative at Queen's University Belfast were honoured to jointly host a guest lecture by Dr. Kishore Singh, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, on the 25th November 2014. The lecture focused on 'State Responsibility for Provision of Quality Education to Every Child', drawing attention to his recent report 'Privatization and the Right to Education'.

Dr. Singh also used the opportunity to remind the audience of the need for quality education that focused on processes and skills. In particular he made reference to the Centre's report, 'Education Reform in Northern Ireland: a human rights review' (available [here](#)), as an exemplary framework for analysing state accountability in relation to education. Dr. Singh's lecture can be viewed [here](#).

IoE: Children's Rights in Practice

The week is co-ordinated by staff from the MA Sociology of Childhood and Children's Rights. The programme includes a range of speakers experts in the field.

Students will gain knowledge and understanding of:

- 1.Sociological, socio-legal and political theories and concepts of childhood, children's rights, and children's varied childhoods and citizenship
- 2.Critical analytical skills to help them to develop their own professional practice
- 3.The rights and responsibilities of people concerned with the care, education, health, welfare, advocacy or control of children and young people
- 4.The importance of taking account of children's own interests, views and rights in understanding their social status.

This module will help participants to develop:

- 1.Understanding of sociological, socio-legal and political theories and concepts of childhood and children's rights
- 2.Critical analytical skills to help them to reflect upon and improve their own professional practice
- 3.Knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of people concerned with the care, education, health, welfare advocacy or control of children and young people
- 4.Awareness of the importance of listening to and including children's own views and interests when planning and providing for them

The module is based on the assumptions that:

- 1.Children belong to a social group that is a permanent part of society
 - 2.Childhood is socially constructed in very different ways in various times and places
 - 3.Children belong to a 'minority' or disadvantaged social group
- These main points help us to understand why children's rights are both important and distinctive; and why their rights are questioned. The course will also examine how the growing interest in professional ethics fosters an understanding of the importance and value of children's rights.

The course will take place between 27th March 2015 – 31st March 2015 and will be led by Dr. Rachel Rosen. [Here](#) you will find further information about the course.

Queen's University Belfast: MSc Children's Rights

Queen's University Belfast offers an MSc Children's Rights which is currently recruiting for September 2015. The course equips participants with a thorough legal and philosophical grounding in the foundations of children's rights, and also provides options for students to explore implementation in a range of

contexts such as education, social work, disability, and youth justice. The course also trains participants to undertake research into children's rights using research processes which promote children's participation and understanding. Experts from the Centre for Children's Rights run core modules and a variety of interdisciplinary modules are offered by colleagues from a range of disciplinary backgrounds. The course is part on-line and part face to face to enable students from around the world to participate.

For more details about the course and international scholarships available through the university, contact: l.jerome@qub.ac.uk

¿DISCRIMINADOS POR SER NIÑOS? Una mirada a la realidad social de los niños y niñas en España

Un seminario enmarcado en el proyecto europeo CREAM (Children's Rights Erasmus Academic Network) y por la conmemoración del XXV aniversario de la CDN (Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño)

PROGRAMA:

1. ¿Discriminados por ser niños? La posición de los niños y las niñas en la sociedad.
2. Ciudad y ciudadanía: Los niños y el uso del espacio público.
3. El papel entrelazado de la escuela y la familia en el caso de los hijos de inmigrantes.
4. Los hijos de las trabajadoras domésticas extranjeras en España.
5. Discriminados por ser niños en los procesos judiciales.
6. Los 25 años de los niños y niñas del Internet de Tim Berners-Lee.

FECHAS de celebración:

4 de marzo, 11 de marzo y 18 de marzo de 2015. De 15:00 a 19:00 horas.

FORMULARIO de INSCRIPCIÓN:

Pinchar [AQUÍ](#)

General News Internal



Human Rights for Development (HR4DEV)

Advanced summer course on human rights, development and transitional justice.

The 2015 Advanced Summer Course - HR4DEV will take place from 16 August until 11 September 2015 in Leuven, Belgium.

HR4DEV maps the potential and limits of human rights in development and development cooperation, with a specific focus on transitional justice.

The main themes approached will be:

- Human rights, development and transitional justice
- Contextualization of human rights in the development debate
- Bottom-up and top-down paradigms of human rights and development
- Origins and mechanisms of transitional justice
- Dominant and alternative approaches to transitional justice

HR4DEV targets 'leaders of the future' in interdisciplinary human rights, development and transitional justice practice, policy and academia from the global South and North.

Deadlines:

30 January 2015 – Application open
15 March 2015 – Application deadline for VLIR scholarships (*only available to nationals of the countries mentioned [here](#)).

Further information available [here](#).

University of Bristol: New Study

Poorer parents are just as involved in education, leisure, and sports

activities with their children as better-off parents, a new study involving University of Bristol academics has found.

Dr Esther Dermott and Marco Pomati analysed survey data on 1,665 UK households and found that poorer parents were as likely to have helped with homework, attended parents' evenings, and played sports or games with their children in the previous week.

Dr Dermott and Mr Pomati say they found no evidence of a group of poor parents who failed their children.

The researchers note that the results indicate that poorer parents engaged in a wide range of good parenting practices despite their lack of resources. It might have been expected that those who are poor engage in good parenting practices less frequently because they lack the material resources to do so, they say.

ISS: the International Forum on Intercountry Adoption and Global Surrogacy

In August 2014, the [International Forum on Intercountry Adoption and Global Surrogacy](#) was held at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, Netherlands. The Forum invited experts from around the world to come together and engage in critical discourse about the legal, ethical and social protection dimensions of both intercountry adoption and global surrogacy.

The Forum and resulting reports were partially developed in an effort to provide documentary support in anticipation of the 2015 Special Commission on the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (HCIA).

“The Forum was to our knowledge the first time that so many international scholars, activists, and policymakers came together to discuss the myriad concerns about international

adoption and international surrogacy in the same space,” said Kristen Cheney, Forum organizer and Senior Lecturer in Children & Youth Studies at ISS. “The conversations centered on ways to improve international standards around the evolving practices of cross-border adoption and surrogacy, in which children typically move from poorer to wealthier countries.”

Scholars, activists, and government officials representing nearly 30 countries – including Australia, Canada, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Mexico, Uganda, the United States and several European countries – participated in the Forum. It was comprised of five thematic areas: (1) HCIA Implementation and the Best Interests of the Child (2) Intercountry Adoption, Countries of Origin, and Biological Families, (3) Intercountry Adoption Agencies and the HCIA, (4) Force, Fraud and Coercion, and (5) Global Surrogacy Practices.

The reports – each authored by a thematic area chair, along with an executive summary by the organizer – document their discussions, including research evidence and practical insights related to the application of international private law to intercountry adoption and the potential of international law to regulate global surrogacy.

Themes that emerge in the reports include the influence of poverty on intercountry adoption and surrogacy practices; the power dynamics at play in defining ‘best interests’ of children and women; and issues of identity, openness, and the importance of preserving information in cases of intercountry adoption and surrogacy, as well as the effects of commercialisation on both practices.

The reports, published as ISS Working Papers no. 596-601, are available [HERE](#).

For more information, please contact Forum organizer Kristen Cheney at cheney@iss.nl.

General News Internal



Manfred Liebel, Rebecca Budde and Jonas Geßner from the Freie Universität Berlin wrote this article. Thank you very much for your input!



FU Berlin: News from the MA Childhood Studies and Children's Rights at Freie Universität Berlin

In December 2014, the Deanery of the faculty of Education and Psychology at Freie Universität Berlin filed a short notice application to the faculty council to shut down the MA Childhood Studies and Children's Rights. After the first vote on the application on December 11, 2014 was vetoed by the student status group the application was set on the agenda again for January 15, 2015. Between December 11 and January 15, a group of students organized an online petition to save the MACR (we informed you in the last CRnews edition) which was signed by nearly 2.000 supporters from re-known institutions in over 75 countries worldwide. Our partners in ENMCR and members of the advisory committee wrote letters of support to the presidency and deanery to reconsider the application. Nonetheless, the (preliminary) decision to shut down the MA Childhood Studies and Children's Rights was taken. This did not come as a surprise, as a disappointment nonetheless.

Advanced Master programs, directed to interested participants with some professional experience, so-called 'Weiterbildung' or further education are to be offered by public universities, so the mandate of the Berlin Law on Higher Education Institutions (BerlHhg).

At the same time, this model of education shall not cost the University anything, i.e. it must be financed by the participant fees. Due to the fact that the full time professors, on top of their regular tasks in basic higher education are to invest time and dedication to the respective programs, without receiving extra remuneration, the study program, in its main parts, had to be based on the work of experts from outside the University (Lehrbeauftragte).

Now, the faculty council, currently dominated by a centre-right wing group of professors (the so-called "united centre"/Vereinte Mitte) refuses to continue the program on this basis. Behind this attitude, there is a rather different idea of the aims and tasks of the social and educational sciences. Furthermore, they are against study programs as the MACR, centred on an interdisciplinary conception.

Save the only Children's Rights MA in Germany!

A supporter of the online petition to save the MACR a group of students organized, states:

"I can understand justification to have a full time professor responsible for the MACR, but how difficult it is to have one appointed?" Prof. Dr. Nevena Vuckovic-Sahovic (director MA Child Rights, Union University Belgrade and former member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child).

With the decision to shut down the MACR, the majority of the professors in the faculty council puts in danger a University, which traditionally stands for critical democracy, freedom of speech and thought. It has been

choosing to act in a political act of cowardice not standing up for socially important themes such as children's human rights but hiding behind apparently unsolvable obstacles of human resource capacities. At the same time, in a hypocritical way, they simulate to find these themes very important.

There is still one hope to remain at the traditionally most open-minded, just and free higher education institution by allowing the possibility for more flexibility in the working structures-

if there is no flexibility, stagnation is prone to rise, which will hinder the so important change of our societies- not only for children and their rights but for all our well-being.

Notwithstanding a great lack of flexibility in general, the faculty council showed responsibility in allowing another intake of students this Winter (2015/16) with a guarantee of them completing the course and establishing a commission to discuss on one hand how further education can be offered under the given circumstances and the other the possibility to abolish the abolishment of the MACR....

The letters and comments in the petition were impressive, it would be fantastic to keep up this presence in the coming months.

Thank you to all supporters and partners, it is great knowing that others are in the same boat, not sailing to the world of only giving lip service to important themes, but remaining where needed.

Authors: Manfred Liebel, Rebecca Budde and Jonas Geßner.

General News Internal – CREAN Conference Student Review



Nina Kren, MA Student in Vienna is conducting a traineeship at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France and wrote a student's review of the CREAN Conference on Children's Rights to Non-Discrimination. Thank you very much for your input Nina!



The 2nd CREAN Conference, entitled "Children's Rights to Non-Discrimination" took place in Vilnius, Lithuania on 4th and 5th December 2014. It was organised by the Siauliai University and the Mykolas Romeris University, two partners of the Children's Rights Erasmus Academic Network (CREAN), and was held at the Lithuanian Parliament in Vilnius.

As it has always been one of the objectives of the CREAN network to include students and young researchers in their activities, it offered scholarships and actively invited students to contribute to the conference. After having taken part in the two-week CREAN Summer Workshop in Braga, Portugal already, I was happy for the opportunity to attend this conference as well. Since the workshop in summer had dealt with the same topic (but focusing more on practical skills), I expected the conference to be a valuable completion in providing the scientific input to the issue of discrimination against children.

Following a brief opening ceremony, the first part of the plenary session of the conference gave an overview of the situation in Lithuania regarding children's rights and their implementation. Whilst Ms. Rimantė Šalaševičiūtė (Minister of Health) and Dr. Natalja Istomina (Vice-Minister of Ministry of Education and Science) informed us about their efforts to strengthen the rights and well-being of children in the health and education sector respectively, the Ombudsperson for Children's Rights (Dr. Edita Žiobienė) reminded us that the perception of children as rights-holders and full members of society has still not found its way into the mindsets of far too many people in Lithuania.

After a short coffee break, the plenary session was continued with a lecture

by Prof. Dr. Wouter Vandenhoele examining the theme of the conference from a legal point of view. Being a lawyer myself and thus sharing a similar perspective (or at least starting point) in how to approach issues of non-discrimination, the presentation provided me with an interesting update on the latest developments and case-law by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) on age-based discrimination. Finally, the session was concluded by a lecture from Prof. Dr. Maria Roth on the issue of discrimination against Roma children in Romania.

In the afternoon, the conference participants were spoilt for choice as one could choose between six different workshops to attend. I opted for the session "Research" and was looking forward to gaining valuable insights into the works of fellow young researchers, as well as renowned experts in the field. However, due to miscalculations in the organisational set-up and the ensuing time constraints, most of the speakers were prevented from giving their presentations as planned. The limited time frame for each presentation made a fruitful discussion impossible, and led to some frustration amongst the lecturers as well as the attendants. Nonetheless, one of the presentations that I found particularly interesting was given by Ms. Yousra Benfquih, an early stage Ph.D. candidate. Her speech explored religious diversity at educational institutions. Ms. Benfquih drew our attention to the everyday struggles experienced by schools and other educational institutions which are called upon to respect the religious rights of increasingly diverse groups of children. In order to ensure substantive equality, legislators will

be challenged to draft a legal framework that takes into account these developments, and thus helps to create a non-discriminatory environment for each and every child. The second day of the conference started with the launch and distribution of "Children and Non-Discrimination", an interdisciplinary textbook published by CREAN as one of their projects. Following this, the speakers of Friday's plenary session mainly focused on highlighting the major challenges in the fields of legislation and implementation of children's rights. Prof. Dr. Manfred Liebel additionally raised the topic of "adulthood" and drew our attention to the difficulties in finding a non-discriminatory approach to involve children in decision-making processes. Following the rather disappointing research session the day before, I decided to attend a "Specialty Workshop" on Friday, with only two presentations scheduled. The first presentation was given by Ms. Merit Lage, member of the Estonian Union of Child Welfare, who introduced a toolkit suitcase used in kindergartens and primary schools in order to prevent bullying. After having explained the core concepts and approaches underlying the toolkit, Ms. Lage presented us the suitcase and showed us how the tools can be used in practice. The idea is to create a culture of tolerance amongst children themselves, but also in relation to the teachers and parents involved. Although statistics of the impact of the project were not shown at the conference, it seems to be a very promising tool in order to combat bullying from an early age. Therefore it can only be hoped that this or similar projects will be taken up by more states in the near future. (...)

(...) continue on page 8

General News Internal – CREAN Conference Student Review

The second part of the afternoon session was led by Mr. Andrey Makhanko, who dealt with the issue of boys as victims of sexual abuse. Being from Belarus himself, he depicted a case of child sexual abuse in his country with over 10,000 boy victims, unveiled in 2013. Besides presenting one specific case, Mr. Makhanko highlighted that boys do not suffer from sexual abuse less than girls, and that they often struggle even more with issues of stigmatisation and access to psychological support, especially in patriarchal countries. Apart from the seriousness of the topic per se, we were also reminded that the Belarusian society is deeply affected by the isolation of its country from

the rest of Europe, which is why Mr. Makhanko was very grateful for the opportunity to have his case heard at the conference.

After the intensive round of workshops, the participants gathered once more in the conference hall of the Parliament in order to listen to the conclusions drawn from the respective workshops, followed by the closing ceremony conducted by Prof. Dr. Karl Hanson.

Overall, I experienced the conference as a great opportunity to exchange ideas and to learn about the issue of children and non-discrimination in a very diverse and interdisciplinary manner. Despite some organisational shortcomings, the conference was both an inspiration and a motivation

to work in the field of children's rights and to continue efforts in order to ensure that children are perceived as active agents within society, who should be duly informed about their rights and be included in decision-making processes whenever their rights are affected. Moreover, the intercultural exchange and the insights given in how other countries approach the issue of non-discrimination against children once again widened my perspective and encouraged me to reflect on my own perceptions.



General News External

Somalia: UN CRC Ratification

Somalia has ratified the UN CRC, becoming the 195th State to do so. Although the country's children face ongoing challenges posed by conflict, displacement, disease, malnutrition and child mortality, Somalia's ratification has been unanimously welcomed by UN agencies and NGOs alike as an important step towards improving respect for children's rights.

This latest ratification leaves conflict-torn South Sudan and the United States as the only States in the world yet to ratify the CRC. In November 2013, the South Sudan National Legislative Assembly passed a bill agreeing to ratify the treaty, but official ratification has since been pending as the country deals with ongoing armed conflict. Progress has been significantly slower in the US - even though the State signed the treaty in 1995.

Nigeria: attack on civilians

In Nigeria in the first week of January,

Islamist fighters of the insurgent movement Boko Haram attacked the northern town of Baga, killing around 2,000 people. District head Baba Abba Hassan said most victims in the attack were children, women or elderly people who were not able to escape when insurgents forced their way into the town by firing rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles. Some 7,000 others fled into neighboring Chad.

Scotland: Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill

A new Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill was introduced in the Scottish Parliament last month. It will clarify and strengthen criminal law by introducing a new single human trafficking offence and increasing the maximum penalty for offenders to life imprisonment. Most notably, a Child Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the first time for a Scottish Parliament Bill in line with recommendations by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in its 2008 Concluding Observations on the report for the United Kingdom.

Canada: Sexual education

Two students in Toronto, Canada have started a Change.org petition calling for the topic of consent to be included in sex education classes in schools in their province.

Turkey: ECHR decision

Turkey breached the ECHR in a case concerning the right of single adoptive parents to be registered as a child's parent. The applicant in the case complained over the Turkish authorities' refusal to enter her name as parent of her adoptive child in the civil register instead of the child's biological mother. At the time the applicant first made her request, there was a gap in the law, however, in 2009, Turkey passed legislation allowing the names of single persons adopting a child to be included. The Court's decision finds that there has been a violation of the woman's right to family life under Article 8 of the ECHR.

Funding / Prizes / Research Opportunities

Call for Papers: Theory and Method in Child and Youth Research

We are pleased to announce the 3rd international conference of the International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet) which is organized by the Center for the Study of Childhood and Adolescence and the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, European University Cyprus. The conference will take place in June from 10 to 12, 2015.

Confirmed keynote speakers: Jo Boyden, Professor and Director of Young Lives, Oxford University and Dan Cook, Professor of Childhood Studies, Rutgers University.

The Network's mission is to promote, internationally, the inter-disciplinary study of children and young people in order to further raise awareness and understanding of issues that affect their well-being. The Network which was established in 2008 has a global membership of both organizations and individuals and has so far organized two international conferences. The first conference of the Network was also organized in Nicosia and was attended by over 250 delegates from around the globe. The 2nd conference, organized in Preston, UK at the University of Central Lancashire, was similarly successful – and also notable in that we had a parallel conference planned and organised by children and young people. In this 3rd international conference of the ICYRNet, we focus more explicitly on theory and method in child and youth research using a critical lens to examine the epistemological frameworks which have guided so far the production of knowledge about children and youth and to reflect on the new, emerging possibilities for producing knowledge in the future.

Though the conference focuses on theory and method and will clearly appeal to academics, the organizers are also interested in how

epistemological issues impact policy-making and practice and how in turn the work of policy-makers and practitioners impacts the development of theory and method in child and youth research. In this light, the conference organizers welcome proposals for presentations from academics/researchers, policy makers, practitioners and others who work in childhood and youth studies locally, nationally and globally.

Although there is no parallel conference on this occasion, we do want to encourage contributions from children and young people (with or without adult collaboration) and will extend a friendly welcome to any children and young people who wish to attend all or part of the conference. We are also hoping to arrange a keynote presentation by children and young people from Cyprus.

The conference welcomes paper proposals on any theoretical and methodological topics of interest to child and youth research (including but not limited to: agency and structure; voice; participation; citizenship; children's identities; children's rights; space and place; generation/inter-generational relations; consumption; representation; reflexivity; child/youth-led research; ethnography; visual methodologies; and ethics). Though purely theoretical and methodological papers are welcome, the conference also encourages the submission of abstracts which illustrate and critique particular theoretical and methodological approaches through the use of empirical data and case studies.

The conference envisions to provide a platform for childhood and youth scholars to engage in critical discussions of theory and method and to debate productive and innovative directions for future research through interdisciplinary inquiry. The conference organizers welcome

proposals in any of the following formats:

1. Individual Papers: Please provide an abstract of no more than 250 words and up to three keywords to help organizers assign accepted papers to thematic groups.

2. Panels: Please provide a panel abstract of no more than 400 words and individual abstracts of no more than 250 words. Each panel may have up to a maximum of four (4) papers.

3. Poster Presentations: Authors are requested to submit a 250 word abstract clearly indicating their interest in a poster presentation.

4. Post-graduate Student Workshop Sessions: Post-graduate students who are at any stage of their studies and are working on a research project may submit an abstract (of no more than 250 words) of their work clearly indicating their interest to participate in a workshop session. In workshop sessions the audience provides feedback and constructive criticism to students to help them with their work. Post-graduate students should focus on presenting their work in progress as well as the challenges and areas where help is needed.

Paper presentations should not exceed 20 minutes.

The language of the conference will be English.

Selected papers may be published in special issues of journals and/or edited books.

For more information about the conference and to submit an abstract please go to

<http://www.icyrnet.net/icyrnet2015>

All abstracts should be submitted to s.spyrou@euc.ac.cy. Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by February 28th, 2015.

Registration for the conference opens on December 20, 2014.

For any questions, please contact Spyros Spyrou at s.spyrou@euc.ac.cy

Funding / Prizes / Research Opportunities

Call for Papers: None of Europe's Children should be Stateless

The European Network on Statelessness (ENS) is campaigning for an end to childhood statelessness in Europe. This goal is also central to the #ibelong campaign, spearheaded by UNHCR, to end all statelessness globally by 2024. To realise children's right to a nationality in Europe, the phenomenon and the challenges need to be better understood. Different stakeholders must also unite to identify and share good practices so that these challenges can be addressed.

This conference is a central activity of the ENS campaign "None of Europe's Children should be Stateless". It will provide a platform for sharing new research on the causes and impact of childhood statelessness in Europe. It will also provide a forum for the sharing of knowledge on legal, policy and programming interventions that can help to realise children's right to a nationality. It is a venue for scholars,

practitioners and policy makers to come together and discuss how to ensure that no more of Europe's children suffer statelessness. The conference will last a day and a half, commencing in the morning of June 2nd and running until lunchtime on June 3rd. The first day will focus on sharing information on challenges, opportunities and good practices through presentations and panel discussions. The second day will be more forward-looking and encourage participants, on the basis of the lessons learned, to jointly identify potential areas for further action and collaboration to end childhood statelessness in Europe.

We welcome submissions for presentations by scholars and practitioners, dealing with research, policy or projects that relate to childhood statelessness in Europe. Presentations may focus on a specific country or group of countries, or consider a particular theme. We are particularly interested in presentations that identify good

practices with respect to the prevention of childhood statelessness and those which provide a further insight into the impact of statelessness on children in Europe. We also welcome presentations that explore the role of different stakeholders in addressing the issue, including actors such as child rights organisations, legal aid providers, ombudspersons and National Human Rights Institutions, EU and Council of Europe bodies and journalists.

To submit a proposal to present at this conference, please send the following information to info@statelessness.eu before 15 February 2015: your name, affiliation, country of work and email address, an abstract of your proposed presentation (max. 250 words) and 5-8 accompanying keywords.

Further information about the conference will be issued in March through the ENS website www.Statelessness.eu

Publications

The Legal Needs of Children and Young People in Northern Ireland: the views of young people and adult stakeholders



A study assessing the legal needs of children and young people in Northern Ireland, with a specific focus on barriers and unmet need, has been published.

The overall aim of this research was to enable the Department of Justice to inform itself about the need for legal services for children and young people in Northern Ireland.

One of the conclusions of the study was that children and young people's legal needs are as varied and diverse as children and young people themselves and are affected by their age, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic

status, family circumstances and sexual orientation etc.

The study is available online [here](#).

In Emerson, L., Lloyd, K., Lundy, L., Orr, .K., and Weaver, E. (2014) *The Legal Needs of Children and Young People in Northern Ireland; the views of young people and adult stakeholders*. Belfast: Centre for Children's Rights, School of Education, Queen's University Belfast.

What next? Ways forward for children's and young people's participation



This research study presents a review of the key theoretical perspectives and practice in relation to children's and young people's participation. The purpose of this study is to review

key theoretical perspectives and practice in relation to children's and young people's participation. This review is being undertaken in order to enhance World Vision's understanding and practice in the field of participation. Our desire is that the findings from this study will contribute to the development and implementation of World Vision's Strategic Direction for Child and Youth Participation. This will be one among other vehicles that will enable our staff to tap into the largest demographic force in the world today as we rally behind our vision of life in all its fullness for every girl and boy. The study is available [here](#).

Events and membership

MARCH 2015

- 04/03: Online safety: Protecting children on the internet, London, UK.
 18/03: Health & well-being: Eradicating Child Poverty in the UK, London, UK.
 24/03 to 31/03: Children's Rights in Practice, London, UK.

MAY 2015

- 15/05: Participatory research with children and young people: How do we make it meaningful?, London, UK.
 20/05 to 17/06: Deaf Children in International Development, Sint-Michielsgestel, The Netherlands.

AUGUST 2015

- 16/08 to 11/09: Advanced course human rights for development (HR4DEV), Leuven, Belgium.

SEPTEMBER 2015

- 27/09 to 30/09: Children's Rights in Practice, London, UK.

OCTOBER 2015

- 14/10 to 15/10: Children's Rights PhD Symposium, Antwerp, Belgium.

HOW TO JOIN THE ENMCR NETWORK?

Dear Network Members,

Please send us your agendas for the coming months as well as publications, funding and prizes or any other topic so we can include them in our newsletter (info@enmcr.net).



Save the Children, thank you for making this newsletter possible!



It is possible to join the European Network of Masters in Children's Rights as a member at any time. ENMCR was established in 2004 by five European Universities with the support of Save the Children Sweden (SCS). In the meantime 31 universities are members of ENMCR. ENMCR is collaborating with the Latin American Network of Masters in Children's Rights, which currently comprises nine universities in eight Latin American countries and is also supported by SCS. Furthermore, ENMCR is in contact with academic study programmes on children's rights in other parts of the world, e.g. in the MENA region.

Why is it worthwhile joining our network?

In becoming a member you will work with children's rights experts from all over Europe (and Latin America). We have been cooperating as a network for almost ten years and you will be able to build on the longstanding experience of our members. You will get an insight into children's rights from a variety of perspectives and disciplines. The member universities offer higher education in childhood studies and children's rights, at undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels. Some members offer full study programmes in children's rights, others offer modules, seminars or intensive courses. You will have access to knowledge in establishing study programmes, as well as to teaching materials developed in the network. We have implemented several European Union funded projects on children's rights themes and organize conferences, workshops and short intensive programmes in the same field. You will have access to all materials published in the frame of ENMCR, such as the monthly electronic newsletter Children's Rights news (CRnews), reports from projects, materials from conferences and workshops, etc.

To become a member of ENMCR, simply send us a letter of intent, in which you name what you believe you and your institution can contribute to and gain from our network. In addition, please include an outline of your child rights related programme and/or courses. It is important that you name a contact person at your institution for correspondence purposes. Our members contribute to ENMCR's work with an annual membership fee of 300€ which covers the daily expenses of the network.

Please send the letter to:
 European Network of Masters in Children's Rights (ENMCR)
 c/o European Master in Childhood Studies and Children's Rights
 Freie Universität Berlin
 Habelschwerdter Allee 45
 D- 14195 Berlin, Germany

