



European Network of Masters on Children's Rights
Red Europea de Maestrías en Derechos del Niño

Children's Rights Newsletter (crnews) 5/05

Dear Network Members and Network Interested,

We would like to invite you to read this year's fifth edition of crnews. As usual, for feedback, criticism and comments as well as any information input, please use the e-mail address: crnews@eufund.de or info@enmcr.net. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter any longer, please send a message with the subject "unsubscribe crnews" to either one of the above addresses.

Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Budde,
Günter Chodzinski,
Editors



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General News

Internal

ENMCR Statutes in Progress

In order to establish a more formal working basis, the ENMCR is at the moment in the process of giving itself a statute. It is foreseen to approve the document within the next two weeks. Once agreed on by the members of the Directive Committee of the network, the statute will be made available on the ENMCR website (www.enmcr.net)

External

BA Study programme „childhood sciences“

The university Magdeburg- Stendal, Germany, is offering the first German BA Study Programme in „applied childhood sciences“. It covers all disciplines „relevant to the development of children and youth“. It covers sociology, education, psychology and health sciences, but also family consultation and children's rights.

Duration of the course: 6 semesters. In the coming winter semester 30 students shall be enrolled in the course. The graduates (BA) shall be qualified for managing positions in Children's day care centres, youth health services, schools and hospitals.

Further information: <http://www.hs-magdeburg.de/studium/moegl/stgakw.html>

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: 39th Session (16 May-3 June and 40th session pre-sessional working group (6 - 10 June 2005)

Members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child met for three weeks, from 16 May to 3 June in Geneva, Switzerland. The Committee considered the following State reports: Ecuador, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nepal, Philippines, Norway, Nicaragua, Mongolia, Yemen, Saint Lucia, Costa Rica.

The reports can be searched by country, CRC session or by NGO on the CRIN website, at:

<http://www.crin.org/resources/treaties/CRC.asp?catName=International+Treaties&flag=legal&ID=6>

The pre-sessional working group of the Committee is drafting lists of issues and questions for States parties whose reports will be considered at the 40th session in September 2005.

For more information on the Committee, contact:

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Committee on the Rights of the Child

8-14 Avenue de la Paix, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Tel: + 41 22 917 9000; Fax: + 41 22 917 9022

Website: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/index.htm>

UNICEF discussion forum CRC: Children's Participation

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre has launched a discussion forum on Voices of Youth (VOY) at <http://www.unicef.org/voy>, on 7 June 2005 concerning children's participation in the implementation process of the Convention of the Rights of the Child at national level. The forum will be held in English and French. Main questions to be discussed are: How do children take action to make their human rights reality? To what extent do they participate in law reform, promoting awareness of the CRC and rights of the child, formulating national or local strategies on child rights, co-ordinating activities concerning the rights of the child, monitoring the situation of the rights of children, and the work of children's ombudsmen or similar institutions?

For more information contact:

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UNICEF New York, 3 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, US
Tel: + 1 212 326 7050; Fax: + 1 212 824 6470
Website: <http://www.unicef.org/voy>

PARTICIPATION: Consultation in Latin America

Prior to the Consultation, 2,000 children from 17 countries across Latin America participated in working to contribute their recommendations to the Study.

Children from Argentina reported that most violence takes place within the family, in schools and in the community. They said the main causes of violence within the family were the use of drugs and alcohol as well as parent's lack of education. In schools they said violence was a result of teachers' impatience, poor anger management and frustration. Commenting on violence in their communities, they mentioned the prevalence of gangs, drug and alcohol abuse, and the lack of places where young people could meet up. They said that the responsibility for this lay with the State because of the lack of opportunities, jobs and education.

Once more the world's children said to the world of adults: 'Listen up, we want you to listen to us, we need a space to participate'

For more information, visit: <http://www.crin.org/violence/search/closeup.asp?infoID=5646>

Participation: Children defend their right to work

During the regional consultation in East and Central Africa, 20 school and working children from 15 countries participated. Prior to the consultation, meetings were held to inform the children on the study and the regional consultation. During the reunions the children decided that they themselves wanted to engage in their own study in their respective countries in order to contribute to the consultation. They decided to focus on domestic and school violence. Some of the children had participated in the Children's World Summit in New York in 2002, and as they have witnessed the scarce follow-up on the recommendation they spelled out in the final document "A just world for children" they were rather sceptical as to the use of the consultation. They decided to demand that their recommendation be integrated in the action programmes of the organisations and associated NGOs. Save the Children, Sweden for example, who financed the project, has already developed its work plans according to the children's recommendations.

In addition, the children were worried about their effective participation in the consultation, as they are very conscious about the often rather symbolic role of children's participation. One boy from the group of working children in Guinea said: "I do not agree that the only adequate place for children is school. It can be in school or in work- with all that happens in schools and the bad level of education- in order to prepare for life or to care for the family you have to learn something. I do not want to work all my life, but my work helps me, no one else does, I never received any funding from UNICEF or others, my work helps me pay for my education. Besides it is clear that those girls doing domestic work- if they didn't work there'd be more sex tourism,- last, if you tell me that the chores done domestically aren't work, how are those people called that do them?"

A member of a children's work movement said: "I want that all of us children have the opportunity to go to school, but it doesn't happen that way. But we do acknowledge the value of learning how to read, so that we established an organisation of working children in order to improve our situation. You have to also recognize alternative forms of learning, make bosses aware of your rights and about physical violence. But to simply say no to children working- that harms us!"

To read the recommendations of the children, go to:

<http://www.crin.org/violence/search/closeup.asp?infoID=5617>

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS: Children's Human Rights Caucus

The Children's Human Rights Caucus has just published a report on its activities during the last session of the CHR. The subgroup for the Commission on Human Rights of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child brings together NGOs willing to promote the rights of the child at the Commission on Human Rights (CHR). The subgroup addresses the specific rights and

situations of children worldwide by advocating for the resolutions and by hosting a special interest group called the Children's Human Rights Caucus that serves a range of participants to meet on children's issues throughout the CHR session.

To read the report, go to:

<http://www.crin.org/chr/CaucusReport2005.doc> [word] or

<http://www.crin.org/chr/CaucusReport2005.pdf> [pdf]

CHILDREN'S 'C8': Children Meet to Place their Issues on the G8 Agenda

Date: 3-5 July 2005, Location: Dunblane, Scotland

UNICEF Adolescent Development and Participation Unit, Programme Division, HQ and the UK Committee is organising a 'C8' children's summit due to take place just before the G8 meeting of leaders, from 3rd to 5th July 2005 in Dunblane, Scotland. Young people from eight of the world's least developed countries - Bhutan, Cambodia, Moldova, Yemen, Republic of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Bolivia and Lesotho will be joining young people from G8 countries to debate and place their issues on the agenda of the G8 leaders.

As part of C8, UNICEF is holding a web-chat

(<http://www.unicef.org/voy/discussions/forumdisplay.php?f=75>) for young people in association with UNICEF's Voices of Youth Website. It started on 1 June 2005 and will last for one month.

The views expressed in the chat will form part of a report which will be given to the G8 leaders.

For more information, contact:

Nina O'Farrell, C8 Project Manager

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Email: ninao@unicef.org.uk

Website: <http://www.c8forum.org>

News from the Members/Interested:

The Master of Social Work- Social Work as Human Rights profession at the Centre for Post Graduate Studies in Social work (ZPSA e.V.) in Berlin has been officially accredited by the accreditation institute in Hannover, Germany.

To Do's:

For all network members:

- Establish contacts to interested individuals and organisations, institutions who could possibly participate in the network (as members, sponsors, affiliated)
- Find out about national funding programmes

Upcoming Dates:

June 23-25, 2005: Marginality And Voice: Childhood In Sociology And Society 2005

In Wuppertal, Germany. URL: <http://www.kindheitssoziologie.org/marginalhome.htm>

June 29- July 3, 2005: Childhoods 2005 Conference in Oslo, Norway. URL: www.childhoods.org

July 1, 2005: Registration Deadline for Human Rights Education long distance course. URL:

<http://www.hrea.org/courses>

July 3-5, 2005: CHILDREN'S 'C8': Children Meet to Place their Issues on the G8 Agenda in

Dunblane, Scotland, UK. URL: <http://www.c8forum.org>

September 19-23, 2005: Child Welfare Leaders WorldForum 2005 in Tallinn, Estonia.

Deadline for submission of abstracts closed. URL: <http://www.lastekaitseliit.ee>

Impressum:

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