

CR news 12

Children's Rights Newsletter July

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EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MASTERS IN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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CONFERENCE: *CHILDREN HAVE RIGHTS*

20/09: www.kinder-haben-rechte.eu

1ST INTERNATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION CONFERENCE AND EURYLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

13/09 to 14/09:
<http://www.ie.uminho.pt/ModuleLeft.aspx?mdl=~/Modules/UMEventos/EventoView.aspx&ItemID=5632&Mid=171&lang=pt-PT&pageid=3&tabid=0>

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES

06/08 to 24/08: www.hr4dev.be

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Dear ENMCR network members and network interested,

In this issue of the CRnews, we would like to draw your attention to the debate that is currently going on in civil society in Germany regarding child circumcision. You will also find literature about the topic under publications.

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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General News Internal

ENMCR New Member: International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam

On July 13, 2012 the ENMCR Directive Committee approved the following new member: the International Institute of Social Studies' Children & Youth Studies specialization (ISS). The ISS is an international development studies institute based in The Hague, Netherlands. The Institute offers a master's program in Children & Youth Studies. The Master's program examines how young people are involved and represented in international development processes. It explores how poverty, equity, and social development shape childhood and youth from an interdisciplinary social science perspective, considering such topics as rights, participation, education, work, health, sexuality, media, new communications technologies and youth movements. Especially important for the ENMCR is the fact that a large component of the Master Program deals with children's rights and rights-based approaches to development projects targeting children and youth. On behalf of the European Network of Masters in Children's Rights we would like to warmly welcome the ISS to our network.



Second International Student Intensive Program in the Framework of the EU TEMPUS Project "Diploma in Public Policy and Child Rights (DPPCR)" with Egypt and Jordan

The DPPCR consortium organised an international student intensive program at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University Rotterdam, Campus The Hague, in cooperation with the Universities of Maastricht, Bristol, Cairo, Assiut, the Hashemite and the Jordan University

as well as the Free University and the International Academy in Berlin. The two-week intensive program on *Poverty and Exclusion of Children and Youth: An International Perspective* took place between June 25 and July 6, 2012. 22 students and 32 experts in the area of child rights from the EU and the Middle East participated in the program. During the course, students took part in lectures on topics around social exclusion of children and youth; child and youth poverty in the Middle East and in Europe; poverty and exclusion from children's perspectives, and multidimensional child poverty. The lectures and interactive sessions were accompanied by field visits to different child rights organizations, such as UNICEF, the children's rights house and the UNOY Peacebuilders in and around The Hague. One of the students also created a video of the last days of the program: <http://vimeo.com/45416496>

Student and lecturer exchanges at the Free University Berlin

In June and July 2012, the Free University Berlin had the pleasure to welcome Prof. Dr. Mohamed Maani from the University of Jordan in Amman as well as three DPPCR students from Cairo University. Prof. Maani gave a guest lecture on children born-out of wedlock in Jordan. The three students from Cairo participated in several seminars and tutorials in the framework of the European Master in Children's Rights. We're very glad that these exchanges took place and look forward to having more such exchanges in the upcoming semester.

Eurochild General Assembly

On June 27, 2012 the ENMCR participated in Eurochild General Assembly in Brussels. Eurochild is a network of organisations and individuals working in and across Europe to improve the quality of life of children and young people.

The General Assembly accepted 17 full and 5 associate new members and reflected on the strategic future of the organization.

The general assembly was preceded by a two day meeting in which discussions regarding the new Eurochild membership typology were conducted. At the same time Eurochild Thematic Working Groups gathered and the first meeting of the expert group on Children's Rights took place.

Further information about Eurochild at: <http://www.eurochild.org/> Photos of the Networking event and the general Assembly can be found at: http://www.flickr.com/photos/eurochild_org/

Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (MCR) at the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB)

The Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (MCR), an interdisciplinary part-time postgraduate program in children's rights, which is jointly organised by the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB) in Sion and the University of Fribourg, both in Switzerland is pleased to announce the Call for applications for the 2013-2014 cycle. The next cycle of this two-year program will begin on 4 February 2013 and the deadline for applications is 30 September 2012. Further information: <http://www.iukb.ch/?id=263>

Children's, human rights and migration: tensions and potential

On September 28, 2012 a closed dialogue seminar *Children's, human rights and migration: tensions and potential* will take place at the University of Antwerp (ENMCR member).

This seminar seeks to engage in a dialogue among experts on some of the challenging questions in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights, children's rights, and human rights and migration, and at the intersection of these fields. For further information please send an email to: julie.ryngaert@ua.ac.be

General News External

Germany: The circumcision debate

Circumcision is in the spotlight again after a German court ruling has pitted those who support it for religious and health reasons against those who say boys should have the right to decide for themselves.

The Cologne case originated in November 2010, when a four-year old Muslim boy was circumcised at a clinic in the city, on the request of his parents.

After two days, because the child was bleeding, the parents took him to the emergency room at the University Hospital of Cologne.

The public prosecutor in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia filed a complaint against the doctor who performed the procedure.

The lower, district court determined in June 2012 that the doctor was blameless.

The district court held that circumcision was a form of "bodily injury," but was justified by the approval of the parents, the cultural prevalence of circumcision among Muslims, and evidence of medical advantages among circumcised males.

The public prosecutor in North Rhine-Westphalia appealed and the case was moved up to a regional court. The regional court also rejected the charge against the doctor in the matter, ruling that the "grey area" of legal uncertainty about male circumcision left the practitioner innocent.

The judges, however, reaffirmed that, as a precedent for the future, circumcision was a form of "bodily injury" that was not justified by the parents' wishes, and was unnecessary for the health of the child.

The court ruled that "the fundamental right of the child to bodily integrity outweighs the fundamental rights of the parents."

The court also added that "the religious freedom of the parents and their right to educate their child would not be unacceptably compromised, if they were obliged to wait until the child could himself decide to be circumcised".

The court concluded that "a child's

right to self-determination should come first."

The German court ruling applies only to the city of Cologne and its environs but Jewish and Muslim groups fear it could set a precedent and the ban could spread to other parts of Germany.

The case opened many areas for debate, including the child "right to self-determination," what the limits of such "self-determination" involves, and whether parents have a right to raise their children in the religious traditions parents choose.

Switzerland: criminal code amendment

The Swiss government has amended the criminal code to make it illegal to pay for sex with 16 and 17-year-old prostitutes. The minor will not be subject to prosecution. Since they had already reached the age of sexual consent, the law did not previously make any allowances for 16 and 17-year-old prostitutes. Promoting the prostitution of minors will now also become an offence. The Swiss criminal code states that anyone who facilitates the prostitution of minors with the aim of making money will be liable for ten years in prison.

Bolivia: Juvenile justice

A new publication on juveniles in conflict with the law in Bolivia, produced by a children's rights organisation, has highlighted important inadequacies of the country's current penal system when it comes to juveniles, and has led to a draft law that seeks reform in the justice system, including in the areas of sentencing of juveniles and the media's coverage of court cases involving children.

The draft law proposes the creation of a specialised juvenile justice police unit, which will be responsible for the identification and apprehension of suspected offenders, the identification of and assistance for victims.

Albania: new law on the protection of the Rights of the Child

In Albania all corporal punishment of children are now considered unlawful. The new Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child states that children are legally protected from all forms of corporal punishment in all settings.

The Law, which came into force in May 2011, shall be implemented through structures at central and local levels working with non-profit organisations in line with rules determined by the Council of Ministers.

Bangladesh: Child Marriage

The Bangladeshi government is attempting to register birth data online to combat high levels of child marriage.

The government launched a campaign to reach the estimated 90 per cent of the population that did not have birth documentation in 2006.

Today, an estimated 114 million of the country's 150 million inhabitants have birth certificates. Experts note that birth certificates are only one tool for preventing such marriages.

Since 1982 the Female Secondary School Assistance Programme has used cash incentives paid to families to keep girls in secondary school and out of marriage.

Antidepressants and Children

A pharmaceutical company will pay more than 2.0 b euros after admitting a multi-year criminal scheme to hide unhelpful scientific evidence, manipulate articles in medical journals and lavish gifts on sympathetic doctors.

The antidepressant was never approved for use by children but because doctors were free to use their discretion, the company had a strong incentive to steer the medical profession to scientific studies that suggested it might be helpful to under-18s diagnosed with depression.

Funding / Prizes / Research Opportunities

Manuscript submissions for the International Childhood Journal

The Association for Childhood Education (ACEI) is seeking Manuscript submissions for the International Childhood Journal. The International Childhood Journal is seeking for articles on timely topics of interest that stimulate thinking, rather than advocate fixed practice. Authors should:

- Address education and child well-being issues of global relevance, or indicate how the topic under discussion can be relevant to communities around the world
 - Discuss connections to early childhood theories and concepts, along with recommended practices
 - Include innovative research-to-practice teaching strategies
 - Explore effective methods in primary (elementary) school teaching practices
 - Provide relevant examples and author vignettes
 - Describe how culture, ethnicity, and/or social, political, and economic conditions affect the issues.
- Articles that are accepted generally devote about one-third of the text to practical strategies for implementing the recommendations offered. In addition, successful articles:
- Reflect the most current knowledge in the related field, citing recent research findings
 - Recognize the importance of family and community involvement in education and child care
 - Show respect for and support inclusion of all children, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, or ability.

Authors should use clear, direct language, using the active voice as much as possible. Authors also may provide visuals when available (high-resolution photographs, children's work samples, charts and graphs) to enhance clarity and promote understanding.

Childhood Education receives all manuscript submissions electronically via the ScholarOne Manuscripts website located at: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/uced> If you have any other requests, please contact Anne Bauer, the

journal's editor, at abauer@acei.org.

Call for submissions on the rights of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has issued a call for submissions for its report on the rights of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health.

This report will inform the Human Rights Council's annual day of discussion on child rights in March 2013.

The OHCHR encourages organisations to contribute information on any issue relevant for the study. In particular:

- 1) Information on the main health challenges related to children;
 - 2) Examples of good practices undertaken to protect and promote children's right to health, particularly in relation to children in especially difficult circumstances;
 - 3) Information which indicates the existing barriers when trying to implement children's rights to health.
- Please be aware that the information provided should not exceed 5 pages. The deadline for submissions is September 7, 2012.

Send any information to Imma Guerras-Delgado (email: registry@ohchr.org; cc: iguerras-delgado@ohchr.org).

Postgraduate Fellowship

Children's Rights seeks law students graduating in 2013 and current law clerks to sponsor as Postgraduate Fellows for a fellowship to begin in September 2013. We plan to sponsor one or more fellows through the Equal Justice Works, Skadden, Liman, Holmes, or other similar public interest fellowship programs. Qualifications: Excellent writing skills, an outstanding academic record and demonstrated commitment to public interest.

Knowledge of children's issues or social service systems is a plus. The position requires excellent legal research and writing skills and the ability and interest to address policy

issues as well as traditional litigation. Interested applicants should submit: cover letter, resume, law school transcript, one or more writing samples discussing a complex legal issue.

Completed applications are due by August 10, 2012, and may be sent by email to Edward Wixler at gro.sthgirsnerdlihc@relxiwe.

Selected applicants must be ready to prepare a competitive application, under our guidance, in a short period of time.

Please type "Fellowship Application" in the subject line of your email or fax.

Any preliminary questions should be addressed by e-mail to Edward Wixler at gro.sthgirsnerdlihc@relxiwe.

Call for papers: Children and Fame

As a result of the successful call for papers for an upcoming conference panel on fame in adolescent and children's literature, we are accepting abstracts of 500 words for a proposed anthology on the topic. Essays devoted to one of the following themes will be considered:

- The dangers of fame
- The child as celebrity (whether wanted or unwanted fame)
- The child and infamy
- The YA author and celebrity
- Fame as the new "normal" (what is "normal" when fame becomes the norm-sexting, YouTube, viral videos, Facebook, etc.? Is there such thing as celebrity when everyone has it?)
- Mediums of fame (how does fame, and the famous, perpetuate itself or themselves?)
- Metafame (fame-perpetuating books like Hunger Games/Harry Potter/Gossip Girl that are, themselves, treatises on fame, media, etc.)
- Is celebrity inherently "bad"?
- Authorial intent, message, and the child reader

Emailed submissions should be original in scope and not previously published or under review for publication. Submit proposals to both editors at jguillard@vcu.edu and n.wilson@wayne.edu.

Deadline: September 1, 2012.

Publications

Handbook of Children and Young People's participation

Handbook of Children and Young People's participation is a 2010 publication which is now available online:

<http://www.fairplayforchildren.org/pdf/1289572182.pdf>.

This book brings together key thinkers and practitioners from diverse contexts across the globe to provide an authoritative overview of contemporary theory and practice around children's participation. It introduces key concepts and debates, and presents a rich collection of accounts of the diverse ways in which children's participation is understood and enacted around the world, interspersed with reflective commentaries from adults and young people. It concludes with a number of substantial theoretical contributions that aim to take forward our understanding of children's participation. The emphasis throughout the text is on learning from the complexity of children's participation in practice to improve our theoretical understanding, and on using those theoretical insights to challenge practice, with the aim of realising children's rights and citizenship more fully.

Male Circumcision and the Rights of the Child

In this article, Jacqueline Smith addresses the issue of male circumcision relating to the rights of the child. In most countries the issue is hardly discussed or even ignored. In the Netherlands, only rarely male circumcision is the subject of debate. Fourteen years after the author published this article, the problematic of circumcision is a highly debated topic in Germany. This article is available online:

<http://www.nocirc.org/legal/smith.php>

Separated Children in Europe

This paper represents the position of the Separated Children in Europe Programme (SCEP) on age assessment in the context of separated children. In particular, it

aims to provide concrete recommendations to States and other relevant stakeholders on how to ensure full respect of the rights that separated children are entitled to, when doubts concerning their age may arise. SCEP's positions presented in this Paper are based on the current situation concerning laws, policies and practices related to age assessment in Europe, primarily as it resulted from a review undertaken by SCEP in 16 European countries.

Available online:

http://www.savethechildren.net/separated_children/publications/reports/index.html

Young People Leaving Care

The journey to adulthood is a big step for all young people. However, for young people leaving care it may be far more difficult, coping with major changes in their lives and at a younger age, especially if they lack preparation and support. *Young People Leaving Care* explores the journey from care to adulthood through the main challenges these young people face: in being in settled accommodation, in fulfilling their potential in education, employment or training, and in achieving and maintaining good health and a positive sense of wellbeing. The book provides a comprehensive review of relevant research, how young people might be best supported, and how the services they receive have the potential to increase resilience. ISBN: 978-1-84905-244-3

Child Protection: The role of safeguarding in child protection systems – is your house in order?

Many child focused organisations are supporting countries to strengthen their child protection systems, while in parallel NGOs have increasingly realised the need to safeguard children. To date there has been limited recognition of the need for all agencies working within child protection systems to be clear on their safeguarding responsibilities. This paper outlines why those working to strengthen child protection

systems must ensure that the system also includes mechanisms to ensure that government and non-government organisations working within it meet their safeguarding responsibilities.

Available online:

http://www.keepingchildrensafe.org.uk/sites/default/files/The%20role%20of%20safeguarding%20in%20child%20protection%20systems%20-%20is%20your%20house%20in%20order_0.pdf

A war on Childhood

This report looks into the devastating toll the Syrian conflict has taken on its children and young people. The paper explores how children have not only been left unprotected from the violence - in many cases they have deliberately been targets of it. The report also explores the International Community's failure to provide sanctuary and security for children caught up in the fighting, and looks at the legal instruments that are in place to supposedly ensure that children and young people are spared from the brutal effects of conflict. Available online:

<http://www.warchild.org.uk/sites/default/files/Syria%20-%20War%20on%20Children%28final%29.pdf>

Boat Ride to Detention: Adult and Child Migrants in Malta

Human Rights Watch's new report *Boat Ride to Detention: Adult and Child Migrants in Malta* documents Malta's routine detention of unaccompanied migrant children – who are often fleeing violence or conflict in countries such as Somalia and Eritrea – pending the outcome of a lengthy age determination procedure. Unaccompanied migrant children are children traveling without parents or other guardians; typically they travel in dangerous conditions for many months before reaching Malta.

Available online:

<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/malta0712ForUpload.pdf>

Upcoming Dates

AUGUST 2012

01/08 to 03/08: Breaking the Mould. Humanitarian Aid and Empowering Local Communities, Durham, UK.

06/08 to 24/08: Children's Rights in a Globalized World: Critical Perspectives, University of Antwerp, Belgium

22/08 to 06/11: E-course: Monitoring Children's Rights, internet (e-learning course)

SEPTEMBER 2012

03/09 to 14/09: Child-to-Child and Disaster Risk Reduction International Training Course, Malawi Institute of Management (MIM), Lilongwe, Malawi

04/09 to 07/09: 12th International EUSARF Conference, Glasgow, Scotland.

05/09: Global Conversations: An International Gathering of Children and Young People, Preston, UK

05/09 to 07/09: Children, Young People and Adults: Extending the Conversation, University of Central Lancashire, UK.

13/09 to 14/09: Twenty-first Century Childhood and Youth: Interdisciplinary Debates and Challenges. Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK.

13/09 to 14/09: 1st International Early Childhood Intervention Conference and Euryland Annual Conference 2012, Universidade do Minho, Portugal.

18/09: Nature Kindergartens - Making a Start, Edinburgh, Scotland

20/09: Children have rights, Potsdam, Germany

25/09: SPEAK UP! Giving a voice to European children in vulnerable situations, Brussels, Belgium

26/09 to 29/09: Families in a Changing Europe: Challenges, Conflict and Intervention, Lillehammer, Norway

26/09 to 29/09: Child in the City 2012, Zagreb, Croatia

27/09 to 28/09: International conference: Men in Early Childhood Education and Care: Strategies, experiences and perspectives, Berlin, Germany.

27/09 to 29/09: European Sociology: New Challenges and Opportunities, Oradea, Romania

28/09: Children's, human rights and migration: tensions and potential, University of Antwerp, Belgium

30/09 to 02/10: Law, Genital Autonomy and Children's Rights, Helsinki, Finland

OCTOBER 2012

01/10 to 05/10: Child labour: Training course on Achieving education for all and eliminating child labour, Turin, Italy

08/10 to 19/10: Child-to-Child and Disaster Risk Reduction: What Children Can Do to Keep Themselves and Others Safe, Kisumu, Kenya.

10/10 to 12/10: Think Parents! - European conference on parenting support, The Hague, Netherlands.

10/10 to 12/10: Juvenile Delinquency-Child Friendly Justice Structures and Processes for the Prevention and Rehabilitation, Nicosia, Cyprus.

14/10 to 17/10: Social Work: Towards inclusion, social justice and human rights, White River, South Africa.

15/10 to 19/10: Child participation in child safeguarding, Delhi, India

15/10 to 19/10: 5th World Congress on Children's and Adolescents' Rights, San Juan, Argentine.

21/10 to 24/10: IFCO regional training Conference, Sofia, Bulgaria

24/10 to 26/10: Promoting the rights of children in alternative care across Europe, Sofia, Bulgaria

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

An international training programme on human rights in development with a focus on children's rights

30 JULY-24 AUGUST 2012
ANTWERP, BELGIUM
www.hr4dev.be

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HUMAN RIGHTS
FOR DEVELOPMENT

International course
Human Rights for Development (HR4DEV).
From July 30 to August 24,
2012. University of
Antwerp, Belgium.



1st International Early Childhood Intervention Conference and EURLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012.
September 13 and 14,
2012, University of Minho,
Braga, Portugal.

Upcoming Dates & ENMCR

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).

NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER:

- International Korczak-Symposium

CONTACT US

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NOVEMBER 2012

- 05/11 to 07/11: Criminality or Social Exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World, London, UK.
09/11: Eradicating Child Maltreatment Interventions with Children and Families - Policy and Practice, London, UK.
16/11 to 17/11: Honoring the Child, Honoring Equity: 12 Troubling truths - bridging divides for equity, Victoria, Australia
26/11 to 30/11: IUAES 2012 Inter-congress – Children and Youth in a Changing World, Bhubaneswar, India.
27/11 to 29/11: Policy Round Table on Early Childhood Education and Care, Leiden, Netherlands

DECEMBER 2012

- 06/12 to 10/12: Third International Conference on Human Rights Education: Promoting Change in Times of Transition and Crisis, Poland.
12/12 to 14/12: Child and Teen Consumption 2012: "Food Consumption, Communication, Life Styles and Fashion". 5th International Conference on Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Child and Teen Consumption. IULM University, Milan, Italy.
17/12 to 18/12: Knowing and Not Knowing: Thinking psychosocially about learning and resistance to learning, London, UK.

How to join ENMCR

It is possible to join ENMCR as a member at any time.

The European Network of Masters in Children's Rights was established with the support of Save the Children Sweden (SCS). SCS has also been actively supporting and fostering the Latin American Network of Masters in Children's Rights, which currently comprises nine universities in eight Latin American countries.

Why is it worthwhile joining our network?

We have been cooperating as a network for more than six years and have longstanding experience of loosely cooperating - you will work with children's rights experts from all over Europe (and Latin America). You will get an insight into children's rights from a variety of perspectives and will be able to build on longstanding experience of the members.

We offer a joint European Master in Children's Rights at leading universities in Europe - you will have access to knowledge on how to build up and offer a joint European Master study programme and will have access to training. We organize conferences and workshops on children's rights themes in Europe and in the world; you will have the chance to meet other children's rights experts, activists, share ideas and thoughts and gain new perspectives. You will receive copies of 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 should name what you believe you or 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.

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



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