



European Network of Masters in Children's Rights

CRnews 2

Children's Rights Newsletter
March 2007

European Network of Masters in Children's Rights
c/o Internationale Akademie an der Freien Universität Berlin
Königin-Luise-Strasse 24-26, D- 14195 Berlin
info@enmcr.net/www.enmcr.net/Fon:+49-(0)30-838-53968

Dear Network Members and Network Interested,

In this edition we report on a panel discussion held on March 1, 2007 in Berlin on "Making Children's Rights constitutional", we present two new publications from our network members and associates and have as usual collected some news on children's rights topic from various sources.

For comments and feedback on our newsletter, and/or our forum suggestions for improvement, or news you would like to have included please write to info@enmcr.net

Sincerely,

Rebecca Budde (Editor)



The new logo for the joint
European Master
in
Children's Rights

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General News Internal

Report on Panel discussion: Making Children's Rights constitutional (in Germany) and presentation of the European Master in Children's Rights

On March 1, 2007 ENMCR, in cooperation with the Free University, Berlin, faculty of educational sciences and psychology, the Joint Conference Church and Development (GKKE) and Kompaxx Youth aid e.V. invited experts and the interested public to discuss the issue of including Children's Rights in the German constitution. Initiatives were started years ago, but with the increasing reports on neglected and abused children as well as the low ranking of Germany by the recently released UNICEF Report on the situation of children and young people in industrialized countries (see below), the subject of giving children a stronger status as subjects of rights by including children's rights in the constitution has become upwind again.

The panel was filled with outstanding experts in the field of children's rights from different disciplines. Marlene Rupprecht, head of the children's commission of the German Parliament, Prof. Dr. Lothar Krappmann as member of the UN committee on the rights of the child as two representatives of politics, Morag J. Grant, amnesty international, and Patricia Sanches-Lima as representatives for the practical work with children and youngsters, Prof. Dr. Peter Merk, German child help association and lawyer, as well as Dorothee Belz, director Law and corporate affairs, Microsoft Germany and Prof. Dr. Manfred Liebel as academic and ENMCR representative.

In a first discussion round everybody gave their opinions about including CR in the constitution. Even though all are in favour of including children's rights, opposing positions were mentioned also. The argument most heard against including CR in the constitution is that children, being human beings are included in the general human rights. It is surprising that after 17 years of the UNCRC this is still the only (weak) argument that is brought forth, as this was exactly the argument used against the UNCRC.

Fears of parents that their rights are cut and their children will have power over them, i.e. they would lose control is also an argument, which needs to be further dismantled. Parents have to understand that their position can be strengthened by giving their children the possibility to claim their right (to democratic education, to participation etc.).

It was mentioned that it is important to ensure the realization of CR when they are included in the Constitution as there is a strong feeling that often, written documents do not have practical effects. Surely this will require time and well developed instruments and tools, which yet need to be developed.

It was also mentioned that it is important to not relativize children's rights, but find strong formulations which underline the status of children as subjects, without limitations due to age. The subject of including CR in the German constitution has been discussed along the line of including them in Art. 6 / (concerning family and parents). A participant of the event raised the issue that it be important to not only include CR in this article but give mention to children in all article that touch children.

Emphasis was put on active and effective participation of young people and children, to demonstrate initiatives from young people themselves, Marc Ludwig, initiator of the campaign, shout for your right, presented his work and gave a great example of what young people do concerning Human rights and children's rights.

After the panel discussion the floor was opened to present ENMCR's joint European Master program, which is to be offered for the first time starting in October this year. There was time for the audience to ask concrete practical questions, which were answered as detailed as possible. For more information on ten campaign shout for your right please visit: www.schrei-für-dein-recht.de or contact Marc Ludwig at: marc.ludwig@gmx.de. For more information on the European Master in children's rights please visit www.enmcr.net or contact Rebecca budde at rbudde@enmcr.net.

Open Day for CEE universities: „Thanks to theory I know, thanks to practice I feel. Theory enhances the intellect, practice deepens the feeling and trains the will.“ (Janusz Korczak)

Date: March 21, 2007, 15:30h-20:30h; Location: Hotel Lord, Al. Krakowska 218, 02-219 Warszawa, Poland

The Open Day, which will take place following the international conference “Focus on Children in Migration” that ENMCR is organizing in cooperation with Save the Children’s Sweden. In order to get an insight into the work and thinking of Janusz Korczak, the “father” of the UNCRC, we will gather at the hotel first to go on a documentary tour to the centre of Warsaw, walking in Korczak’s footsteps. After having gotten an idea of Korczak’s work we will return to the hotel where ENMCR will present the joint European Master in Children’s Rights which is to be launched in autumn 07. There will be time in a plenary session for questions, discussion and networking between the participants. The day will end with an open buffet dinner at the hotel.

Registration for the Open Day:

Please indicate on your registration to the conference whether you will attend the Open Day and whether you require an extra night at the hotel for 21-22. March 2007. There are no extra fees for the Open Day.

If you wish to attend the Open Day but are not planning on participating in the conference please send an e-mail to Rebecca Budde at rbudde@ina-fu.org indicating name(s) and institution/organisation as well as the number of participants.

You can download the program and registration form for the conference as well as the invitation for the Open Day from our website: www.enmcr.net.

News from members and associated members:

International Day Conference GENERATIONS AND CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

Date: Wednesday, 28th March 2007, Place: Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London WC1

The Institute of Education and the Open University, London are organizing an International Day Conference on the topic of generations and children’s rights. Amongst the questions to be discussed are:

- How do children relate to older generations within their families, given that those older people will have had different experiences of childhood from those of the children?
- How do childhood experiences within in a society differ for those born at different times?
- How do national policies favour younger or older people?
- How far are children’s participation rights respected by all generations?

Speakers include:

Huda Jawad, UK Programme Director of Forward Thinking

Second and Third Generation British Muslims: Where they Stand

Chit Chong, Speaker for Future Generations for the Green Party

The future bites back

Afua Twum-Danso, Birmingham University, Centre of West African Studies *Reciprocity, Respect and Responsibility, The 3Rs Underlying Parent-Child Relationships: The Implications for Children’s Rights in Ghana.*

Karen Winter, Northern Ireland Guardian Ad Litem Agency

The legacy of ideologies and policies for younger Looked After Children in the UK

Berry Mayall, Institute of Education, University of London

Childhood in Generational Perspective

Timing: 10.00 am-4:30 pm. Lunch 1.00pm-2.00 pm.

Please contact Sue Grant for booking form and further information: s.grant@ioe.ac.uk

Publications

Upcoming: Liebel, Manfred: "Wozu Kinderrechte" – "Children's rights what for?"

Children have rights too. But what is the benefit for them? What rights are they entitled to? How did they evolve? Where are they anchored? Who is responsible for their implementation? Can children themselves dispose of their rights? What is done and what has to be done in order to make children's rights a reality – in the world, in Europe, in Germany?

The book is conceptualized as an introduction and offers a systematic basis for a better understanding of and dealing critically with children's rights and their differing meaning, rationale, limitations and references to reality.

After an introduction to the history of children's rights and the emergence process of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, these are discussed considering their universal validity, their inner logic, implementation and possible further development. A second part gives an impression of the efforts and difficulties to implement children's rights all over the world considering aspects of exclusion, violence, work and education. The third part depicts processes and problems of reception and implementation of children's rights in the European Union with a special focus on Germany. Finally, a subject-oriented approach to children's policies is outlined which comes closest to doing justice to the meaning and claim of children's rights.

The book will be published in Germany in March 2007 at Juventa.

For further information, please contact Manfred Liebel: mliebel@ina-fu.org or Juventa's homepage: <http://www.juventa.de>

Building Partnerships with Academia to further Child Rights in Higher Education in South Asia - Reflections and Lessons Learned so far from experience in Bangladesh, India and Nepal

Save the Children Sweden, Regional Office for South and Central Asia, released this publication on child rights and academia: The document captures Save the Children Sweden's work with the academia in South Asia, capturing the experiences and processes followed in the last two and half years. It highlights Save the Children Sweden's achievements and future plan of action. The document aims to encourage similar efforts in other organisations.

A pdf copy can be downloaded from ENMCR's website at www.enmcr.net. To order a hard copy, write to:

Neha Bhandari, Regional Communications Officer, Save the Children Sweden, Regional Office for South and Central Asia, nehab@sca.savethechildren.se, nehabhandari65@yahoo.com

The material is free of cost. Kindly pay for postage.

General News External

UNICEF calls for entries for one-minute video contest

UNICEF is calling for submissions to its Media Magic Make a Difference! one-minute video contest under the theme: "A world fit for children". Youth under age 25 are invited to submit a one-minute video on the contest's theme, telling the world what young people think about the world they live in and how they're making a difference. The contest is sponsored by UNICEF's International Children's Day of Broadcasting (ICDB), Voices of Youth (VOY) and PROMAX/BDA.

All entries must be received by 30 March 2007. For information on acceptable formats and how to submit, please visit www.unicef.org/voy 1.

For more information, please contact:

Karen Cirillo, UNICEF IBIS: Tel + 212.326.7506, email kcirillo@unicef.org

Jeannette Gonzalez, Voices of Youth: Tel + 212.326.7278, email jgonzalez@unicef.org

Source: UNICEF newsletter

World Conference on Children without Parental Care

Date: 21- 24 May 2007 Place: The Netherlands

A key goal for World Initiative for Orphans is initiating a knowledge sharing network of best practices and scientific research for all persons concerned about children without parental care. One of the means to achieve this is the establishment of the largest conference on this subject ever held, where government representatives, scientists and NGO's can meet and share information and experiences and where problem-solving can be worked on.

For further information please contact: Sandra Knuiman, Regional Representative Europe, World Initiative for Orphans (WIO), Prinsessegracht 3, 2514 AN The Hague, The Netherlands, Tel: +31 70 345 3491; Fax: +31 70 345 3134, s.knuiman@wiorphans.org, www.wiorphans.org

Source: e-mail from Sandra Knuiman

Knowing Children launches new website:

I am delighted to tell you that the new Knowing Children website is almost complete. Please check it out at www.knowingchildren.org and let us know what you think of it so far. Next step will be translations into Thai, Japanese, Spanish and French.

Source: e-mail from Judith Ennew

YOU and the EU: Having your say on the European Union and Children's Rights

Save the Children would like to support children and young people to say what they think about the plans and the paper "Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child", how you think it should be put into action and how you would like to participate in activities to make the European Commission's plan and ideas a reality. Therefore, we have prepared a questionnaire that we hope you will respond to and send to us, so that we can better understand what your views are, and present them to decision-makers in the European Parliament, the European Commission and the EU Member States. The questionnaire can be downloaded from www.savethechildren.net/alliance/ It has been translated into as many EU languages as possible replies are needed by 26 March 2007!

For more information please contact Olivia Lind Haldorsson, info@savethechildren.be

Source: www.savethechildren.net/alliance/

Infos from CRIN:

European Children's Network launches New Website [news]

The European Children's Network (EURONET) is pleased to announce the launch of its new website: www.europeanchildrensnetwork.eu.

The European Children's Network is a coalition of networks and organisations campaigning for the interests and rights of children. They share a common concern that children's rights should be taken into account in all EU legislation, policies and programmes which have an impact on children's rights. The website aims to keep individuals and organisations working for children's rights up to date and informed on all of EURONET's work in this field. This includes, but is not limited to, important child rights-related news, events and legislative proposals taking place in the EU.

On the new website, you will find information about the European Children's Network as an organisation, how to become a member, and who its current Member Organisations are, with information and links to their work at national level.

EURONET contributed positively towards the inclusion of references to children's rights in the European Constitutional Treaty. EURONET and its German Member organisation are currently in contact with the German EU Presidency on the freshly started debate on the Constitutional Treaty and will keep on campaigning for the safeguarding of children's rights in any new EU Treaty text.

The EURONET report "What about us? Children's Rights in the European Union: Next Steps" develops a coherent children's rights policy focusing on all aspects of EU internal actions affecting children's rights. One of the website's many new features is that it offers immediate access to all of EURONET's newsletters, reports, policy documents and other publications since 1997. The website

also has web pages devoted to providing the latest EURONET and child rights-related news, upcoming events, and additional links for more information on the European Union, the United Nations, the EU Presidencies, and non-EURONET publications.

The website has a child-friendly page, which aims to involve children and young people.

The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) is hosting the website of the European Children's Network.

For more information, contact: European Children's Network, Rue Montoyer 39, 1000 Brussels, Belgium, Tel: 00 32 2 5124500 ; Fax: 00 32 2 513 4903, Email: europeanchildrenetwork@skynet.be
Website: www.europeanchildrensnetwork.org

Funding

Socrates calls:

Intensive programmes (new and renewal):

Short (2 week programs on a specific subject not incl. in the regular curricula of universities),

Curriculum development projects (new and renewal):

Development of BA and MA programmes in a European Consortium

Deadline: 30 March 2007, further information: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index.htm>, on this website you will find a lot of information on all different kinds of EU funding programmes in the area of education and culture.

Upcoming Dates

March 15th, 2007: Deadline applications Program Jean Monnet

March 15th, 2007: Deadline submission of abstracts for International Conference: The Migration of Unaccompanied Minors in Europe

March 20th-21st, 2007: European Conference: Focus on Children in Migration, Warsaw, Poland

March 21st, 2007: Open Day for CEE HEI's

March 28th, 2007: International Day Conference: Generations and Children's Rights, London, UK

March 30th, 2007: Deadline applications: Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig

May 21st- 24th, 2007: World Conference on Children without Parental Care

June 2nd, 2007: First world day for a responsible and respectful tourism