

STOP THE VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF GUATEMALAN CHILDREN!

DCI-Netherlands has collected more than 3,000 signatures during the past six months or so. In collaboration with DCI Section in Belgium they presented the signatures to the Guatemalan ambassador in Brussels on 21 November 1994, and organised a press conference around the event to be sent to Guatemala to be shown on Guatemalan TV by 'Casa Alianza', an organisation for street children.

DCI-Guatemala held a conference on 20 November about the situation of Guatemalan children 5 years after the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. From this forum the President of Guatemala was urged to ensure that the terrible violations of children's rights be stopped.

DCI-Australia's National Convenor, Helen Bayes, has written to the Guatemalan High Commission in Sydney in support of these concerns.

CARPET CHILDREN

Figures for illegal child labour are notoriously inexact, but the best estimates from social action groups suggest up to 150,000 child workers in the Nepali carpet industry, up to 300,000 in India and similar numbers in Pakistan. Readers wanting to know more can obtain a copy of ASI's 1993 report on child labour in Nepal which included a section on the Kathmandu carpet factories.

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IMAGES OF CHILDREN AND TRENDS IN MODERN PARENTING

In August the Sydney Morning Herald (Spectrum 3/9/94) printed an article on books being published on effective parenting. In the article concern was expressed that there appeared to be a trend towards child management, as opposed to sensitivity or understanding of children.

There are certainly a spate of books available for anxious parents and it is time to question the approach gurus like Dr Christopher Greene and Steve Biddulph, and wonder just what it is they are telling us about human relationships within the family.

Steve Biddulph's best selling parents guide The Secret of Happy Children has just been revised and seems to be an excellent example of this "how to be top" approach.

