

**AUSTRALIAN RIGHTS
CONGRESS, SYDNEY, 16 -18
FEBRUARY 1995**

The issue of covering children's rights was raised by several of the main speakers at the conference and will clearly need to be specified in any Bill of Rights. The question of an Australian Bill of Rights will receive a lot of public debate in the coming years. Conference speakers were optimistic about this as a positive process of raising community awareness of human rights issues. Children's rights will certainly be an important part of the agenda.

**DCI INTERNATIONAL
SECRETARIAT NEWS:**

1. Marc-Alain Berberat has resigned and Ricardo Dominice has been appointed as Secretary-General.
2. Montreal DCI Conference has been cancelled.
3. The I.S. is in the process of restructuring and decentralising activities.
4. New member of DCI include the Sections created in Burundi, Japan, Burkina, Faso, Uganda and Togo.

National Office

The National Office now has three regular volunteers, Joanne Conroy, Rina Chan and Joy Ellis. Joanne helps with correspondence and records, Rina does the accounts and is keen to be involved in projects and Joy does lots of photocopying.

**DCI - ASIA - PROJECT ON
THE NEEDS OF GIRL CHILDREN**

DCI Vice President for Asia, Ms Nelia Sancho (DCI Phillipines), has proposed that the Asia-Pacific DCI Sections work together to raise awareness of the needs of 'girl children in especially difficult circumstances' such as female street children, sexually abused and sexually exploited girls, working girls, and those affected by traditional and health practices.

DCI Sections are encouraged to lobby for international laws and special protection measures, and to monitor the implementation of existing UN standards for the protection of these children.

These issues will also be raised at the September 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing to alert the international women's movement to these concerns.

Acknowledgement

The production of this issue of ACRN has been supported by Canberra Parish of the Uniting Church of Australia.

**AUSTRALIAN
CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS
NEWS**

This newsletter was produced by the Wollongong Branch of DCI - Australia. It was prepared by Berenice Nyland, Rosie Wells, Joan Ausburn and Florence Rankin. Word processing was done by Florence Rankin. The views expressed in Australian Children's Rights News are not necessarily those of DCI.