

Tenth Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

CROC 10 - TO CELEBRATE OR NOT?

A group of NGOs convened by DCI is planning a variety of events to mark the 10th Anniversary of CROC. The "CROC10 Network", as it is called, first developed a logo which can be used by any organisation planning an event that celebrates CROC.

Then the Network put together a Calendar of Events, which will be available on the Websites of participating organisations. Events will include a Schools Competition, a report launch, a media awards launch and a new webpage on participation rights of children and young people. The Network is also inviting Local Governments to put on events involving children and expressing their support for the children of their area.

We can celebrate the Convention's anniversary repeatedly during 2000, remembering that it took just over a year for Australia to sign and ratify, and for it to come into force here. So the Network sees the 10th Anniversary as a series of opportunities to create some happy publicity around the promotion of children's rights. Events will also renew demands for a National Commissioner for Children, which the Network sees as a priority for improving the implementation of CROC in Australia. So much children's rights work is about confronting those that exploit, marginalise and violate children and young people. The "Celebrations" will inevitably be muted by acknowledgements of how little has changed for many children and how much needs to be done.

The CROC10 Network includes the Australian Youth Foundation, Bah'ai Community, Bairnsdale High School, Coalition for Australia's Children, DCI, ECPAT, HREOC, NAPCAN, NCYLC, UNICEF Australia, World Vision, UNAA, UNYAA.

**To join the CROC10 Network or to use the CROC10 logo, contact DCI.
To check out the CROC10 Calendar, look at the DCI or NAPCAN webpages.**

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In Geneva on 30 September - 1 October, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child will hold a public meeting, to assess the impact of the Convention and to develop recommendations to improve its implementation. Individual UN agency officials, experts and representatives of NGOs will give brief presentations in roundtable sessions. These will be followed by an open debate on recommendations on measures needed to improve implementation of the Convention. Discussion will focus on lessons learned from examples of best practice and from efforts to overcome constraints at the national level.

There will be three roundtables, each chaired by a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child:

Roundtable I: Translating Law into Reality - Chair: Mr. Doek

Reservations to CRC; Status of CRC in national legislation; Legislative review; Practice in courts.

Roundtable II: Putting Child Rights on the Agenda - Chair: Ms. Mboi

Dissemination and general awareness-raising; Training of professional groups; Resource mobilization; International cooperation and technical assistance.

Roundtable III: Building partnerships for the realization of rights - Chair: Ms. Sardenberg

The reporting process as a catalyst; Coordination and independent monitoring; Involvement of civil society; Child Participation

***DCI-Australia will be represented at this meeting by the National Co-ordinator, Helen Bayes.
Helen will give a report about meeting in the next issue of ACRN.***