

In Brief:

CRC Theme Day on Violence Against Children

The Committee on the Rights of the Child will devote one day of general discussion in September 2000 and another in September 2001 to the theme of Violence Against Children. The first discussion, on Friday 22 September, will focus on State violence suffered by children living in institutions managed, licensed or supervised by the State, and in the context of "law and order" concerns. In 2001, the focus will be on the problems of violence suffered by children in schools and within the family.

In its background paper for this meeting, the Committee says:

"...Violence committed against children living in institutions because of separation from parents for the protection of their best interests (CRC art. 9) - or placed in institutions by their own families because of disability (CRC art. 23) - is ...particularly unacceptable. Children are entitled to live in institutions that meet minimum standards of safety, health, number and suitability of staff and competent supervision (CRC art.3.3). They have the right to be protected from high and unjustified mortality rates (CRC art. 6). They are entitled to State protection from all forms of abuse by those who have them in their care (CRC art. 19.1) and to live in conditions which ensure their dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate active participation in the community (CRC art. 23.1).

...At all stages of the juvenile justice process, children who are alleged to have committed offences are entitled to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth (CRC art. 40.1). Children have the right to be protected from all forms of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (CRC art. 37.a) and any other form of abuse (CRC art. 19). Protection from violence should also cover violent treatment allowed under domestic law (e.g. flogging as a penalty, violent disciplinary measures, etc). The right of children to be protected from such violence must extend to their contacts with police officers, as well as to custodial institutions and any other place of detention, or to children

participating in any diversionary programme or subject to alternative measures. "

DCI Council Meets in Geneva

DCI-Australia's National Co-ordinator, Helen Bayes will attend the CRC Theme Day, along with other members of DCI's International Executive Council. The IEC is meeting in Geneva on 20-21 September, to discuss the work of the International Secretariat, plan the next International General Assembly of DCI and develop plans for the DCI movement as a whole.

Complaints Hotline to fight child sexual exploitation on the Web

See Page 28, Websites, for the web address provided by the Australian Broadcasting Authority, to which you can report child pornography and other offensive material and sites.

Australia launches National Plan of Action for "Tomorrow's Children"

The World Forum for Children in Sydney was the venue for the Federal Minister of Family Services, the Honourable Larry Anthony to launch Australia's National Plan of Action to Combat on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).

The Plan has been developed through consultation between State and Federal Governments and NGOs. DCI was represented on the Steering Committee and Working Party by past President, Yulia Onsmann. The Plan includes a monitoring process to ensure its implementation.

THE 2001 CABLE & WIRELESS CHILDNET AWARDS

This global contest rewards children, and those working with them, for outstanding Internet sites and activities. Four categories (individuals, schools, non-profit organisations & government) The judges are particularly keen to receive entries from those working with limited resources. Closing date: 31 Oct 2000.

Contact: <Awards@childnet-int.org>

Website: <http://www.childnet-int.org/awards/>