

Conferences

RAMATLHODI MEETS WITH UK LAWYERS ABOUT ASBESTOS CASE

Northern Province Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi accused British asbestos mining company Cape plc of leaving South Africa with a "legacy of death and suffering". He has sued the company on behalf of about 5 000 poisoned South Africans. "Cape plc made use of child labour, many of whom are among the claimants in the case, which will be heard in the House of Lords in England soon," Ramatlhodi informed. He said he was appalled by recent reports that Cape plc dumped bodies of unknown victims of asbestos related diseases in mineshafts during the late 1960s. Last year the British House of Lords judged in favour of the victims when it ruled that the case be heard in Britain, and not in South Africa, where Cape plc no longer has representation. The case is one of the firsts to hold First World countries accountable for abuses in the Third World. Ramatlhodi called for the quick finalisation of the settlement claims.

CHILD LABOUR DATABASE - CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Over the years, several commendable efforts have been made for the elimination of child labour and some have been highly effective involving innovative strategies. Global March Against Child Labour is in the process of organizing a database of successful initiatives by organizations targeted towards elimination of child labour. The database will prove helpful for other organizations to take lead from. We call upon all the organisations implementing/ supporting such initiatives to share with us the program details that they feel can act as model projects. For more information please contact Upasana Choudhry (Research Director) or Mamta Srivastava (Researcher) at yatra@del2.vsnl.net.in OR childlabournews@vsnl.net

Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa, which is the national child rights coalition in New Zealand, has launched its website at <http://www.acya.org.nz>. The site provides an overview of child and youth rights in New Zealand against the backdrop of various international treaties and declarations.

10-12 October 2001

Victorian Council of Social Service Social Policy Congress – 'Developing Visions for New Ways Forward', venue to be advised. This will be an annual event providing a forum for those in the social and community sector to identify innovative strategies that address key needs and issues. It will have a hearing style format calling for submissions, receiving verbal presentations before a panel and will include audience participation in panel led discussions.

For more information contact Carolyn Atkins on Tel: + 61 (0) 3 9654 7498; Fax: + 61 (0) 3 9654 5749;

E-mail: catkins@vcoss.org.au

11-12 October 2001

8th National Conference of the Association for the Welfare of Child Health 'Children on the Margin: addressing the health care needs of marginalised children and young people' The Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, Australia. Speakers include:

Dr John Yu AC, Chancellor of University of NSW

Linda Burney, Director General, NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs

Dr Sev Ozdowski, Human Rights and Disability Discrimination Commissioner

Ann Symonds, Patron of the Mother and Children's Program in Corrective Services

Amanda Adrian, NSW Health Care Complaints Commissioner

Julie McCrossin, Media Personality and Co-presenter of 'Life Matters' on ABC Radio National

Website: www.conferenceaction.com.au

Email: confact@conferenceaction.com.au

3 - 13 December 2001

The First Southeast Asia Regional School in Forced Migration

Bangkok at Chulalongkorn University

The Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, in collaboration with the Asian Research Centre for Migration, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, is pleased to advise that enquiries about the course and requests for application forms should be addressed to either:

The SEA Regional School Administrator, ARCM, Asian; Research Centre for Migration, Institute of Asian Studies, 7th Floor Prajadhipok-Rambhai; Barni Building, Bangkok, 10330, Thailand. Tel: +66 2 218; 7462; Fax: +66 2 255 1124; Direct Email: Ratchada.J@Chula.ac.th; or

The SEA Regional School Project Manager, RSC, Refugee; Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House, 21 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LA, UK. Tel: +44 1865 270723/270726; Fax: +44 1865 270721; Direct Email: sea.school@qeh.ox.ac.uk URL: <http://www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/rsc/sea>

6 - 9 December 2001

'The Refugee Convention, where to from here? An International Conference'

University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

The Centre for Refugee Research is hosting an international conference to mark the 50th anniversary of the Refugee Convention. A conference organising committee comprising academics from several faculties in the university, UNHCR, the Refugee Council of Australia, ANCORW, academics from other universities and community groups are planning a multi-media event. This will include:

- an academic stream delivering a refereed publication presenting major conference papers;
- a community stream with a community focused publication; and
- a conference outcomes document which will report the deliberations and recommendations from the conference workshops and plenaries and will be presented to UNHCR and the Federal Government.

The aim of this conference is to stimulate vigorous debate between major players in the Refugee Arena and to exchange experience, knowledge and ideas in order to produce a set of sound

recommendations to Government and to UNHCR. Special events will include:

- A "Hypothetical" facilitated by Julie McCrossin, a well known Australian television and radio presenter, exploring community attitudes to refugees and asylum seekers; and
- A Moot Court, to be held in the Legislative Assembly, NSW Parliament House, Sydney, will explore Australia's response to aspects of the refugee convention. The Moot Court will be followed by the official conference dinner in the Parliamentary dining room.

In conjunction with, but separate to the conference, there will be a "Human Rights" Tribunal focusing on testimonies from refugee women and Australian indigenous women, posing the question "Do current Human Rights Conventions address the needs of minority and marginalised women's groups?". A panel of celebrated human rights experts will deliberate on the experiences of the testifiers in light of current human rights law.

For copies of the registration form or further information see the CRR website: www.crr.unsw.edu.au or contact CRR on +61 2 9385 1961. If you are interested in participating in any other capacity please contact: Linda Bartolomei on +61 2 9385 1961 or on e-mail centrefre@unsw.edu.au The Conference Committee Centre for Refugee Research School of Social Work University of New South Wales, NSW 2052.

13 May - 15 May 2002

3rd International Conference on Drugs and Young People, to be held in Sydney in 2002. AJC Convention Centre, Randwick Sydney NSW Australia

This conference is organised by The Australian Drug Foundation and the Centre for Youth Drug Studies, in conjunction with the Ted Noffs Foundation. It will focus on youth drug policy and practice in: Prevention, Education, Treatment, Law Enforcement, and Legal and justice issues.

The Call for Abstracts and Registration Brochure will be distributed in August 2001. Submission of abstracts will close on 15 November 2001. To express your interest in attending the conference or submitting an abstract, please contact: Conference Secretariat Australian Drug Foundation PO Box 818 North Melbourne VIC 3051

Australia

Email: events@adf.org.au

Internet: <http://www.adf.org.au>

Facsimile: +61 (0) 3 9328 3008

Publications

Development - Volume 44, 2 June 2001: Women's Rights and Child Rights

This edition of Development aims to explore how the women's rights and child rights movements could best tackle income inequalities, poor access to resources and ingrained gender biases in development by looking at what these two movements can offer each other. For more information, contact: Wendy Harcourt, Editor, Development, SID, 207 Panisperna, 00184, Rome, Italy.

Email: Wendy@sidint.org or see:

<http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=1841>

Failing the World's Children

The debt burden of the poorest countries helps keep children out of school. School fees make education an unaffordable luxury for the world's poor. The G8 has failed to tackle this crisis, despite the commitment made at the Okinawa Summit in 2000 to ensuring that developing countries achieve the target of universal primary education by 2015. Debt relief is not deep enough and aid levels are falling. This report argues that the world's richest nations should launch a global initiative to abolish school fees and get all children into school. For more information, contact: Martin Brodetsky, Oxfam, 274 Banbury Road, Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7DZ, UK. Email:

mbrodetsky@oxfam.org.uk. To view the report online go to:

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/policy/papers/g8b.html>

Disability and NESB- August 2001

A newsletter for people interested in issues relevant to people from NESB with disabilities and their families produced by the Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association (MDAA) of NSW. For queries, questions, comments and any other contributions please email us:

mdaa@healey.com.au or phone + 61 (0) 2 9891 6400.

Making the Choice for a Better Life - Promoting the Protection and Capacity of Kosovo's Youth

This report, presents the results of a participatory research study conducted by the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children and Kosovar adolescents of all ethnic backgrounds in Kosovo and Albania into the protection and care situation of Kosovar adolescents in Albania and Kosovo. Despite substantial international investments in programming for youth in the first year following the war, the report finds that reconstruction efforts have failed to adequately address the situation of the majority of Kosovo's population - young people under 24. And while many young people benefited from much-needed psychosocial efforts, thousands of others with critical needs continue to fall through the cracks of international and local responses. This document is available on their website at:

<http://www.theirc.org/wcrwc/reports/womenscommission-kosovo-adol-01.01.pdf>

For further information, contact: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, 122 East 42nd Street, 12th Floor, New York N.Y. 10168 - 1289, USA. Tel: + 1 212 551 3111; Fax: + 1 212 551 3180;

Email: Allison@womenscommission.org; Website: www.womenscommission.org or see: <http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=1887>