

# Get Ready for Geneva!

## Get ready for Geneva project update August 2007

### Project progress

Over the summer holidays, the Get ready for Geneva team has been working hard to run events for children and young people all over the country. We've also

started to put together the campaigning pack for children's rights champions, and are working on plans to make sure all the hard work you've been doing to promote the project is recognised!

### Website

The website got off to a bit of a slow start, but lots more people have been writing blogs and telling us what they've been up to. But...the site will only be as good as it can be if all of you are running it. So, visit the website every week and post your comments! If you've been doing things to promote the project where you live, tell us! Write a blog! Upload your pictures! Comment on our news articles! Take part in an online debate! **We need everyone on the project to get involved!**

We've also been spreading the word about Get ready for Geneva online! We have a **myspace account** [www.myspace.com/getreadyforgeneva](http://www.myspace.com/getreadyforgeneva), and a **Facebook group** (search for the project in 'groups'). It would be great if you could add us as a friend, or join the group, and invite your friends to do the same! Then get them to invite their friends, and their friends and their friends.....

**Having trouble using the website? E-mail Krishna for help at [kmaroo@crae.org.uk](mailto:kmaroo@crae.org.uk)**

### Children's rights investigation

If you haven't already filled in our respect survey, visit [www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/your\\_say/survey](http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/your_say/survey). Take your chance to tell the UN whether **you** feel respected. **The survey will be online until September 9.**

Preparations for the children's rights investigation are now well under way. There has been lots of activity in the last few weeks!

- All of the online surveys for the investigation have been written and sent to the children's rights investigators, the website team and the steering group for comments. Ciara is now rewriting the surveys so that they will can go online over the next few months. A really BIG thank you to all those who took the time to comment on the questionnaires!
- Letters have been sent to children's organisations asking them to help us set up focus group interviews with the children they work with. The CRAE team has been busy writing briefing papers to give the children's rights investigators important information on what life is like for the children and young people they will be interviewing.

- A training day has been organised for the investigators who missed the children's rights investigation residential, to give them the skills they need to conduct the research. This took place on August 30 at the CRAE office in London.

**Ciara will soon be contacting all the investigators to find out when they can help run the research focus groups. Watch this space for more details!**

### Spreading the word

There's been loads going on over the summer to make sure people know about Get ready for Geneva. Kevin (from the steering group) has helped us to write an article for a magazine run by the Children's Legal Centre, and Laura (one of our children's rights champions) is helping to write an article for a magazine for citizenship teachers. In Brighton, Kevin and Sharon have been designing posters about the project to go on all the local buses, and have written an article for the local newspaper.

Our young advisers have been working at events to get other children and young people involved in the project! Krishna worked with Grace, one of our young advisers, at a Playday event in London (see Grace posing with our Graffiti wall!) and went to the British Youth Council convention on August 29 with Rosalyn (another one of our young advisers!) to run a session about the project.



**Grace at a Playday event in east London**

**Tell us what you've been up to by writing your own blog on the website!**

Turn over to see what other young people on the project have been doing...



## Natalie and Imogen (from the steering group) have been searching the website to find out what you have all been up to...

It seems everyone involved in the project has been promoting it, so in this article we thought it'd be a good idea if we looked across the board at some of the activities everyone has been doing...

- **Rakhee**, a member of the web team, has been busily handing out leaflets in school and has even managed to show her class mates the Get ready for Geneva website
- **Sharon and Iqra**, members of the steering group, have managed to get themselves a slot to talk about the project at a conference they will be attending shortly
- **Chasecat**, a children's rights champion, has been delivering classes to younger students teaching them about children's rights and telling them how to get involved in the project.

A great way to let people know what's been going on is to comment on the website or even post blogs. So if you're out there promoting the project be sure to let everyone know. The new school year is fast approaching, and is a great place to let all your friends and teachers know about Get ready for Geneva. If you're stuck for ideas, why not hold an assembly for younger students? Or speak to your citizenship teachers and try and get children's rights into one of your lessons? If you're still stuck for ideas, be sure to check out the website, there are plenty to choose from. Thank you to everyone who has been telling us what they've been up to.

Here's one extra special message from a children's right investigator about why he got involved with the Get ready for Geneva project; *"I'm REALLY REALLY passionate about children's rights. Being brought up in care I never used to have any rights, and feel it's a duty to help and advise other people about rights and how important they are. That's why I decided to join CRAE."*

## Steering group meeting

On August 7, 14 members of the steering group met in London.



**The steering group hard at work!**

The meeting was a chance for the steering group to meet up again and start getting really involved in the project. We talked about the project targets, how to promote the project and ways of communicating with each other. It was agreed that all of the members of the steering group would take on different roles on the project including:

- Leading on the 'Get yourself to Geneva' competition and thinking of ways to promote the project
- Making contact with investigators, website team and champions to make sure they are getting on with their roles
- Making sure that young people involved in the project write articles for this monthly update

It was agreed that the steering group would log on to the website at least once a week and write a blog or post a comment at least every two weeks.

## Staying in touch – the forums

On the Get ready for Geneva website there are three forums (steering group, website team, investigators). These can be accessed by logging on to the website with your username and password. You will then see a forum button on the top right hand side.

**We would really like the steering group, website team and investigators to use the forums to stay in touch with each other, and with us.**

If you have forgotten your user name and password please let Carla know. You will not be able to access the forums without them.

## Government report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

The Government is writing a young people's version of its report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. We will let you know when this is ready. Visit the Get ready for Geneva website for more information at [www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news](http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news)

## Informed & Influential

Carla, Krishna, Kevin and Grace (two of our young advisers) ran the Informed & Influential training course on August 15. Over 20 young people attended from all over the country. Evan Harris MP came along to talk about why he became an MP and answered questions from the group. The day also covered children's rights, the reporting process, communication skills, and what an MP does. Lots of the participants signed up to become **children's rights champions**.

**The next Informed & Influential course is October 25 in London.**

## Children's rights champions

Krishna has been busy working on plans for the resource pack, thinking about ways to stay in touch with and support the champions, and coming up with ideas about how to spread the word! If you are planning on giving an assembly or a presentation about the project, please let her know. She will be able to lend a hand with ideas and resources.

## Coming up...

- Children's rights investigation focus groups – from **September to December 2007**
- **6 September** – Kevin and Daniel-Sean from the steering group will be giving a presentation about children's rights at a national conference
- **10 September** – the survey about freedom goes live on the website
- **22 September** – training for the website and communications team in Leeds
- **25 October** – Informed & influential – if you are want to learn more about campaigning for children's rights, this is the event for you!

**Check out our events calendar to keep up to date with what's going on.**

[www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/coming\\_up](http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/coming_up)