

Get Ready for Geneva!

Get ready for Geneva project update February 2008

Get yourself to Geneva
Have you entered the Get yourself to Geneva competition yet? The winners will be part of the children and young people's delegation that will go to Geneva in Switzerland to present our evidence to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

All you have to do to enter is tell us what the right to express your views means to you, and why you should represent children and young people in England.

You've got until Monday 10th March at midday to send us your entry!

You can find out more at www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/article/competition_launch_get_yourself_to_geneva/.

The competition will be judged by the Get ready for Geneva team and a panel of young people. We'll let you know who is going to be on the delegation in the next update.

Children's rights investigation

A really big "thank you" to all of you who filled in our online surveys. 1582 surveys were completed online. We have also got over 2,500 pages of notes from the interviews we carried out. That's an amazing amount of information which we can use to write our report to the United Nations!

The steering group, website team and children's right investigators met on **Saturday 23rd February** to look at all the answers to our surveys. Their mission was to work out which human rights issues were most important to children and young people in England.

To do this, we looked at the most popular, interesting and surprising answers to all the survey questions (on education, respect, freedom, family, crime, health and safety, and play) to decide what things the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child really needed to hear about. We used quotes from the young people who answered the surveys, and drawings done by younger children, to illustrate the different things we found out

Reporting to the UN

17 young people from the project have joined the Get ready for Geneva drafting committee! They are using all the research analysis we did on Saturday 23rd February to write the report we're going to send to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. This report will tell the Committee about the main findings of the children's rights investigation. Children and young people will also be making recommendations to the UN Committee about what the Government needs to do to improve the lives of children and young people in England.

We will be sending you a copy of the report before we send it to the UN, so that you can have your say!



The drafting committee hard at work!



A quick refresher on what's in the UNCRIC

Turn over for more news from the team!



Get ready for Geneva in the papers

On 5th February 2008, the Guardian newspaper published a full page story about Get ready for Geneva, and how children and young people are getting involved in campaigning for children's rights to be better respected. Check it out at www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news.

Spreading the word

Become a fan of the project on Facebook, where Get ready for Geneva has its very own fan page!



Type 'Get ready for Geneva' into the search box, and become a fan. This will appear on your profile. Remember to invite your friends too!

If you have any questions, e-mail Krishna – kmaroo@crae.org.uk

Staying in touch

This is just a quick reminder to use the forums on the Get ready for Geneva website. We post all important messages on the forums, so please check them regularly. If you aren't sure how to access them, e-mail info@getreadyforgeneva.org.uk.

We also need you to keep writing your blogs and comments on the Get ready for Geneva website. Tell us what you have been up to and help us spread the word about children's rights!

Coming up...

10th March ... deadline for entering the competition!

17th March ... we send our draft report to the UN Committee

5th April ... meeting for the Get ready for Geneva drafting committee

25th April ... we send our final report to the UN

Spotlight on...the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 16 says: 'The law must protect the child's right to privacy'.

The issue of 'naming and shaming' children who get ASBOs is one example

of where the law in England does not protect children's rights to privacy.



Naming and shaming:

Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) are civil orders that can be applied to anyone from the age of 10. They set out things that a person cannot do, restrict where a person can go and who they can spend time with. 44% percent of ASBOs are issued to children (but children only make up 23% of the population).

Under current law children who are given ASBOs can be 'named and shamed'. This means that personal information about a young person can be made public. This information can include:

- **Name**
- **Address**
- **Map of where the young person cannot go**
- **What the young person is not allowed to do**

In 1933 a law was introduced that gave children privacy in the courts. The Children & Young Persons Act 1933 said that there should be restrictions on giving out personal information about a young person. For over 70 years this law protected children and young people's rights to privacy. Changes to the law in 2003 and 2005 allowed children who received ASBOs to have their personal information given out in public.

A child's right to privacy is protected in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (article 16) and the Human Rights Act 1998.

Article 40 of the Convention also talks about the child's right to privacy:

Every child accused of committing a crime, and every child found to have committed a crime, must be treated with respect. The child's right to privacy must be respected at all times.

Article 8 of the Human Rights Act gives everyone the right to respect for private and family life.

Find out more about the Human Rights Act in the January Get ready for Geneva monthly update, or go to: http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/childrens_rights/human_rights_act/

Find out more about 'naming and shaming':

<http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/news-and-events/1-press-releases/2006/making-our-kids-criminals.shtml>