

# Get Ready for Geneva!

## Get ready for Geneva project update January 2008

**Project progress**  
*Happy new year everyone!*  
January has been another

really busy month for the Get ready for Geneva team! We have been working hard to make sure everything is in place for the *Get yourself to Geneva* competition launch, commenting on designs for the campaign pack and writing sessions for the research analysis meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Read on to find out more!

### Children's rights investigation

The children's rights investigation has now finished! We've run **48** focus group interviews with **350** children and young people, and have an amazing **2,500** pages of comments!

The last focus group for the children's rights investigation took place on January 30<sup>th</sup>, with Laura leading the interview with LGBT young people. The results of the investigation will be out in the next couple of months, so watch this space! All of the investigators should be very proud of themselves and the work they've done over the last few months!

Here are two short reports about what the investigators have learnt from the investigation:

### How the investigation has been going

by Chloe Barrowman

We have all been really busy since I last told you about what has been going on. So I will start from the 8<sup>th</sup> November. This interview was held in south London. Nicole interviewed 2 groups of children aged under 11 and she said *"I think it was very interesting as the young children had a lot of different ideas and were very open and able to talk about all different subjects"*. So again, like all the interviews before, it went really well. The next interview was in South Hove. Jules was the interviewer and he talked to disabled kids. He found it quite good but said *"It was hard for some interviewees to stay concentrated but otherwise it was good"*. The next interview was in Leicester with me and Laura. We interviewed 16-18 year olds. I found the interview a really good experience because I realised that there are all different kids facing different issues. After this a few more interviews were done.

Now I want to talk about the interviews on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November. Tom took this interview and he said *"Children's parents splitting up affects them more ways than I thought"*. The interview on the 1<sup>st</sup> December was

done by Laura and Cory. They interviewed children who were black or from an ethnic minority. Laura said *"I have learnt about some of the key issues that affect these young Muslims"*. So overall the interviews have gone really well. I can't wait until the next time.

### What some of the investigators said about their experiences of interviewing

by Dominic King

The overall impression I've received from the other interviewers by reading their feedback forms is that they found the interviews very enjoyable and informative. Cory and Tom described the interview as *"great"* and Cory went on to say that he learnt *"traveller children were treated like criminals for no reason"*. Tom also discovered that *"children's parents' splitting up affects them more than I thought"*. He also made the point that *"play time is important"*. Nicole thought *"it was very interesting as the young children had a lot of different ideas and were very open"*. She then went on to say she learnt that *"young children have got a very open mind"*. Jules thought the *"interview went well"* and *"enjoyed hearing everyone's point of view"*. He also learnt that *"while many people think of LAC (looked after children) to be at a disadvantage, they also get some advantages such as more opportunities to take part in projects and activities"*.

A key point that has been expressed by a number of people is what a great Senior Children's Rights Investigator Ciara is; she supports us really well and is very friendly!

On **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**, the steering group, web team and children's rights investigators will be analysing the evidence from the investigation and deciding how to present the evidence to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. **Will you be there?** Everything is heating up as the deadline for sending our report to the UN gets closer, so make sure you stay in touch to find out how you can get involved in the process.

**REMINDER:** If you haven't filled in the play, crime or health survey, please take 15 minutes to do this. It's your last chance to tell us your views before we start pulling together the evidence for the United Nations!  
[http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/article/last\\_chance\\_to\\_fill\\_in\\_the\\_surveys/](http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/article/last_chance_to_fill_in_the_surveys/)

Turn over for more news from the team!



## Get yourself to Geneva

This month, we've launched the Get yourself to Geneva competition to choose the children and young people that will be presenting our evidence to the UN Committee. **All entries to the competition must arrive at CRAE by midday, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Please pass on details about the competition to as many children and young people as you can!**

**For more information on the competition go to:**

[www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/article/competition-launch-get-yourself-to-geneva/](http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/article/competition-launch-get-yourself-to-geneva/)

We're looking for people who aren't entering the competition to join our selection panel to choose the winning entries. If you're interested in being part of the panel, e-mail Sam at [sdimmock@crae.org.uk](mailto:sdimmock@crae.org.uk) by **15<sup>th</sup> February** to let her know.

## Spreading the word

Krishna has been busy spreading the word about children's rights in Greater Manchester. Over two days, she worked with nearly 100 children and young people on children's rights and taking action in their local communities. She has also been busy planning lots of training sessions and workshops to run in different parts of the country!

If you would like Krishna to deliver a training session or workshop in your school, college or group, please email her – [kmaroo@crae.org.uk](mailto:kmaroo@crae.org.uk)

## Reporting to the UN

Ten young people from the steering group, website team and investigators have volunteered to be part of the Get ready for Geneva 'drafting committee'. The drafting committee will be responsible for writing the report we're going to send to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The first meeting of the drafting committee will be on Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup>. For more information, e-mail Carla at [cgarnelas@crae.org.uk](mailto:cgarnelas@crae.org.uk) or call her on 020 7278 8222 extension 25.

## 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, email [info@getreadyforgeneva.org.uk](mailto:info@getreadyforgeneva.org.uk).

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

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



**Article 13** of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child says:

***'Every child has the right to freedom of expression, including the right to all kinds of information and ideas (unless there are legal restrictions).'***

This means that you should be able to express your ideas and thoughts on different issues, as long as you aren't breaking the law. You should also have access to lots of different information to help you think about issues and help make your mind up on what you believe.

This right can also be found in the Human Rights Act (HRA). Article 10 of the HRA gives everyone the right to the freedom of expression.

In 1998, the UK Parliament passed Human Rights Act. This Act brings into UK law all of the rights and freedoms in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). It applies to all citizens of the UK, including children and young people. This means that you can bring human rights cases to UK courts, as well as to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Any law passed by Parliament must be in line with the rights in the ECHR.

Shabina Begum, a teenager from Luton, used the HRA to challenge her school over whether she could wear a jilbab (a long flowing baggy robe worn by Muslim women over their clothes). Follow this link to find out more about this story:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/4832072.stm>

For more information on the Human Rights Act go to:

[http://www.crae.org.uk/cms/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=105](http://www.crae.org.uk/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=105)

Next month we will focus on article 16: *'The law must protect the child's right to privacy'*. If you have any thoughts about what this means for children and young people in England for the next monthly update please e-mail [cgarnelas@crae.org.uk](mailto:cgarnelas@crae.org.uk) by February 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Coming up...

- **28<sup>th</sup> January** ... launch of the Get yourself to Geneva competition
- **23<sup>rd</sup> February** ... research analysis meeting in London
- **24<sup>th</sup> February** ... children and young people's drafting committee in London
- **10<sup>th</sup> March** ... deadline for competition entries
- **5<sup>th</sup> April** ... drafting committee meeting in London