

Get Ready for Geneva!

Get ready for Geneva project update July 2007

Website

The Get ready for Geneva website needs **your** input to make it look brilliant. We need all of you to log on at least once a week to

comment on the various blogs and tell us what you have been doing to promote children's rights and Get ready for Geneva. You can also write comments on the 'have your say' section, complete the online survey and send us your PM swaps.

The website won't work properly without you! So please log on and share your views. If you are having trouble with the site, email Carla: cgarnelas@crae.org.uk.

Children's rights investigation

On the 7th and 8th July 2007 the children's rights investigators met for a two day residential in Birmingham to hear more about the Get ready for Geneva project and to learn the research skills they'll need to lead our children's rights investigation. The residential was packed with activities and games. Over the weekend we looked at topics including:

- What is research?
- The advantages and disadvantages of different research methods
- The aims and objectives of the Geneva project
- How do you design a survey and conduct an interview?

We used graffiti walls to look at issues the investigators thought were important to explore. The investigators also posted lots of great comments on the website (you can read these online!).



The investigators at play in Birmingham!

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the residential! Everyone worked incredibly hard, and we're really looking forward to working with you all over the next few months! For more information on the investigation, email Ciara: cdavey@crae.org.uk

Project update

Sam, the programme director, has sent the project's first report to the Big Lottery Fund. This laid out how we're going to track the project's progress, and measure how successful it has been. Sam and Carla will be working with the steering group in August to look in more detail at the best ways for young people to get involved in this work. **To help us out, please email us and tell us about where you've been promoting children's rights** – this could be in citizenship lessons or assemblies, or even at bigger events taking place near where you live!

Spreading the word

Remind your friends, classmates and any other children and young people you know to visit the Get ready for Geneva website and join the project! They'll receive regular emails from us when there are new surveys or campaigns going on, **and** get the chance to tell the UN and the Government what they think about children's rights in England.

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

The final Government report has now been sent to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. We will be working on a version of the report for children and young people over the next few weeks.

Informed and Influential

CRAE's FREE Informed and Influential training course is back! The training day will equip our children's rights champions with everything they need to get spread the word about children's rights. Champions can email Margaret at mmakena@crae.org.uk for more info!

Young advisers

We had 53 applications from young people all over England for our young adviser roles. With the help of four Get ready for Geneva young volunteers, we'll be selecting the young advisers over the next few days. They will be starting work with us very soon.

Turn the page to find out what two members of the website and communication team have been up to!



Rakee and Parit's visit to the Youth Summit, by Rakee

On Tuesday 26th June, my brother Parit and I went to the Youth Summit in Holborn, London. We were there for Radiowaves, a project that gets young people to create websites, blogs and podcasts to investigate, report or campaign on important issues. It is an opportunity for students to get their voices heard by the people who can really make a difference including local councillors, MPs and ministers.

We were also able to use our time to spread the word about the Get Ready for Geneva Project and lots of people picked up the postcards - we ran out at 11am! Bridget Prentice MP, Caroline Flint MP, people from government, youth organisations and over 100 young people came to the event.



Get ready for Geneva postcards on display!

After arriving and registering, we had a meeting with children from another school to decide what questions we would ask the people at the Summit. Then during breaks and lunch time, we went round with microphones and recorders to interview people. Between us, Parit and I interviewed 22 people - from bishops to people working in councils, charities and young people's organisations. We asked them questions like 'why aren't young people interested in politics?', 'what do you think about graffiti and litter?', 'what do you think the Government is doing to respect human rights?', 'do rights make a difference to young people?'



Rakhee and Parit with Bridget Prentice MP

It really felt like we were reporters for TV news and Parit and I enjoyed ourselves a lot. Maybe in future you will see us on TV as news readers!!

At the end of the day, we had to go on stage and do a presentation about what we'd been doing and what we'd found out - that was a bit scary! You can hear our interviews at <http://www.radiowaves.co.uk/station.aspx?lngSiteID=710> I also met with the mum of one of the children's rights investigators which was good! And quite a few people wanted to know more about the Geneva project so we spoke to them about what we'd been doing and told them to visit the website too!

Rakhee

Training for the website and communications team

An exciting opportunity has come up with a new project called Radiowaves. Radiowaves supports children and young people to shout about issues that they really care about on the internet. You can find out more at www.radiowaves.co.uk. Radiowaves has offered to train members of the website and communications team at their HQ in Leeds, so that we can get the word out about the project far and wide!

We have been having trouble finding a date that all of you can do for the Radiowaves training! The date that we have now set aside is **Saturday 22nd September**. Please let Carla know if you can make this date by **August 3rd 2007**.

Coming up...

- Steering group meeting **August 7th London**
- Informed & Influential for children's rights champions **August 15th London**
- Website and communications team Radiowaves training **September 22nd Leeds**

If you want to write an article or have any information to include in the next monthly update, please email cgarnelas@crae.org.uk by August 15th.

