

# Get Ready for Geneva!

## Get ready for Geneva project update March 2008

### Reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

This month, 13 Get ready for Geneva volunteers have been working hard to write our report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the state of children's rights in England. On 17<sup>th</sup> March, we sent our 30 page draft report to the UN Committee. You should have received a copy of the report by post or e-mail – we want to hear what you think!

The drafting committee is now working on the final version of the report. It will include a set of recommendations to tell the UN Committee what the Government needs to do to improve children's rights in England. These recommendations will be based on the evidence from the children's rights investigation. The final report will be sent to the UN Committee at the end of April.

The Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) has also been working with all its members to write a report for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The report makes 152 recommendations to the UN Committee about where the Government could better protect children's rights.

### **Kat from the website and communications team wrote an article about the evidence analysis meeting in February:**

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008, members of the Get ready for Geneva project met in the CRAE office in London. They were looking at the surveys filled in on the Get ready for Geneva website and helping put them together into a draft report which will be presented at Geneva in June.

The next day the drafting committee, (some members of the different teams who had been at the meeting the day before) worked very hard in a group to help put the report together. They each had a section, e.g. play, family & friends. They used the analysis from the meeting the day before and more information from the surveys

to create a few pages of great information, quotes and answers from focus groups.

Laura, part of the website and communications team and the children's rights champion team said:

*I think the evidence analysis meeting on Saturday and the drafting committee on Sunday was great! I really enjoyed getting to meet lots of other young people who are part of different teams and the web team. Everybody got on well, and did great to get so much work done over the weekend to such a high standard!*

I think everyone would like to say a BIG well done to all the CRAE members who worked there, especially Carla and Sam who worked very hard over the weekend!! Thank you!!

### **Children's rights investigation**

As you all know, we are sending in our report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in April. We are only allowed to send a 30 page report to the UN, this means that we won't be able to include everything that we found out in the children's rights investigation. Because of this, we'd like to write a second, much longer report, where we can really show everyone what children and young people in England think and know about their rights.

Since January, Ciara has been busy analysing the results of the investigation for this bigger report. There are thousands and thousands of pages to be analysed and she hopes to have finished the analysis in May.



Turn over to find out who is going to Geneva in June!



## The children and young people's delegation

We had an amazing 60 entries to the Get yourself to Geneva competition – all of them were great. A selection panel of 5 young people and 2 adults judged all the entries, and we've now selected the 12 people that will make up the children and young people's delegation to Geneva. These are:

Adam Roberts  
Alex White  
Dominic King  
Imogen Walsh  
Jackson Powell  
Jessica Timperley  
Laura Partoon  
Lucy Mace  
Nathan Giles  
Parham Aslani  
Shamila Arif  
Usman Ali

All the members of the delegation will go to a meeting at the end of April to prepare for presenting the evidence from our children's rights investigation to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva.

## Spreading the word:

### Get ready for change

The Get ready for Geneva campaigning pack is finally here! *Get ready for change* will give you lots of information about children's human rights, help you spread the word and encourage decision-makers to listen to what you have to say, and give you lots of lots of tips for taking action in your local area. Your copy of *Get ready for change* should arrive in the post soon!

### Get ready for Geneva in Essex!

On 29 March, Paul (a children's rights champion) organised a whole day about children's rights in Southend. Carla went along to run sessions about Get ready for Geneva and children's human rights. The afternoon was all about the rights of young carers. It was a great day and lots of young people have signed up to get involved in the project – well done Paul!

## A lecture on children's rights

On 6 March, Lauren from the steering group and Rick from the website team joined Sam (the programme director) in giving a lecture about Get ready for Geneva at Edge Hill University in Lancashire. The audience asked lots of interesting questions about how children and young people could run their own children's rights campaigns, and how they could make a difference.

## Unlock Democracy Day

The Get ready for Geneva team were out in full force for the People in Politics day in Westminster this month. The day was for children and young people from all over the country to talk about politics and hear from some of the country's big decision-makers. Our stall attracted lots of people throughout the day. Over 50 children and young people signed up to become children's rights champions! We even got Bridget Prentice MP interested in the project!



**Bridget Prentice MP is getting ready for Geneva!**



**CRAE staff at the Get ready stand**

## Coming up...

**5 April** ... drafting committee meeting in London

**17 April** ... drafting committee members meet with the Department for Children, Schools and Families

**25 April** ... the final Get ready for Geneva report is sent to the UN Committee

**26 and 27 April** ... residential for members of the delegation to Geneva