

## Get ready for Geneva project update May 2008

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

On 11 June, the Get ready for Geneva delegation will be presenting the evidence from our children's rights investigation to the UN! Our delegation will join children's charities and the Children's Commissioners to tell the UN what needs to be done to improve children's rights in England.

You will be able to download the Get ready for Geneva report to the UN from the website on Monday 9 June.



**The Get ready for Geneva delegation**

### Children's rights investigation

Ciara has been busy analysing the results of our children's rights investigation. Here's a sneak preview of some of the findings about education:

- Many children said they weren't properly involved in decision-making in their schools
- Bullying was a top issue for most children and young people
- Many refugee and asylum seeking children were not able to spend much time in school, and their lessons focused mainly on learning English. They wanted the chance to learn other subjects too
- Children from black and ethnic minorities, disabled children, traveller children and children living in poverty told us that more help should be given to children who don't do well in school
- There were lots of comments about teachers bullying students and sharing personal information about students without consent

- Some children said that all students should be asked for their views during school inspections
- Some said that the curriculum should include lessons on how to manage money.

The main report from the children's rights investigation will be published in November 2008. Until then, watch this space to find out what children have been saying about their rights!

### Spreading the word

Send out a press release to your local papers about all this exciting news! Contact Sam for a template to use: [sdimmock@crae.org.uk](mailto:sdimmock@crae.org.uk)

Our delegation members have been really busy promoting the project too.

- Read Adam's article: [http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/article/hitting\\_rights\\_on\\_the\\_head/](http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/article/hitting_rights_on_the_head/)
- See Shamila's interview in her local paper: [http://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/search/display.var.2219921.0.shamila\\_to\\_address\\_un.php](http://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/search/display.var.2219921.0.shamila_to_address_un.php)
- Check out what Usman said: <http://www.halifaxcourier.co.uk/news/Usman-to-stand-up-for.4079037.jp>

Krishna travelled to Dowdales School in Cumbria this month to work with 80 year 7 students on human rights. They talked about issues that affect them in their local area and how they could make change happen for children. She has also been visiting young people in Essex to help them think about how to spread the words about children's rights throughout the county!

### Recognising all your hard work

The Get ready for Geneva team really appreciates the hard work you all put into the project. To make sure you get the most out of your volunteering, we've put together an information pack about schemes and awards that can help you get your activities recognised nationally. Download the pack: [http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/images/uploads/Get\\_your\\_work\\_recognised\\_formally\\_-\\_GRFG.pdf](http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/images/uploads/Get_your_work_recognised_formally_-_GRFG.pdf)

Let us know how you get on!

## Get ready for Geneva advisers

We are looking for three Get ready for Geneva advisers to work with us over the summer. The Get ready for Geneva advisers will support the participation of children and young people in CRAE's campaigning and legal work. They will get new skills in research, writing and developing campaigns on children's rights.

Find out more about these jobs: [http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/article/get\\_ready\\_for\\_geneva\\_advisers/](http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/article/get_ready_for_geneva_advisers/)

**If you are interested in being involved in the selection process for the Get ready for Geneva advisers, please contact Carla [cgarnelas@crae.org.uk](mailto:cgarnelas@crae.org.uk) by June 12.**

## Tell the government what you think!

We are always looking out for opportunities for children and young people to tell the government what they think. Here are details of two consultations that you can respond to.

## Have your say about play!

The government is putting millions of pounds into play facilities and play services over the next few years and they need YOUR help and ideas. It wants to know what you think about its plans to make it easier and safer for children to play where they live. It has put together a short questionnaire for you to fill in – check out:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1546>. You have until **August 18** to send in your views.

If you're aged 8 to 13, you can even get creative and design your own playground. Check out the government's interactive game at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/playspace/>. Share your views and help to make sure that all children have the right to play!



## How does the media affect you?

The government is asking children and young people for their views about how the media (including magazines, television, radio and internet) affects their lives. They want to know:

- If having adverts especially for children is a good idea
  - How adverts change how you shop, what you buy and how you feel about yourself
- If the media has an effect on how you behave and what you believe.

Visit <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1547> to tell the government what you think. The deadline is **June 30**

## The dates you don't want to miss in 2008

- **11 June** ... Get ready for Geneva delegation meet the UN Committee
- **17 June** ... Children talk to Parliament about children's rights
- **19 and 20 July** ... steering group meeting in Nottingham
- **7 August** ... meeting for the web team and children's rights investigators in London
- **20 August** ... Informed and Influential in Cornwall
- **3-6 September** ... UN rapporteur visits the UK
- **27 and 28 October** ... Get ready for Geneva residential for the steering group, web team, investigators and champions!
- **30 October** ... Informed and Influential in North London
- **20 November** ... CRAE's annual conference – launching the Get ready for Geneva research report
- **29 November** ... Informed and Influential in Rochdale