

Get Ready for Geneva!

Get ready for Geneva project update November 2007

Project progress

Sam (the programme director) has written a report for the Big Lottery Fund (who pay for the project) about how the project is going. The report says that we are doing well in meeting our targets, and that the young people involved in the project (that's you!) are really working hard to spread the word and campaign for children's rights.

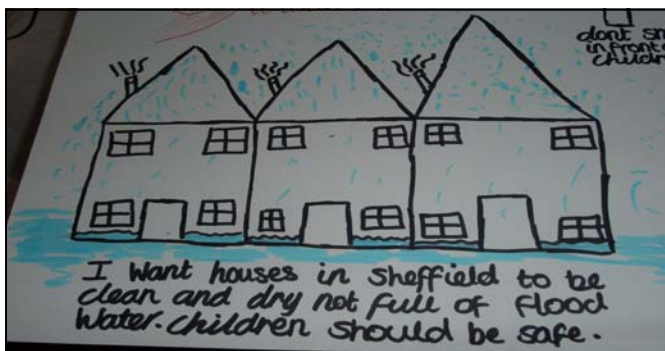
The steering group and the website and communications team are now helping to design the Get yourself to Geneva competition, which we hope will be launched in January! This is to choose the young people that will be representing England at the UN Committee meeting next year.

Update on the children's rights investigation By Chloe Barrowman, investigator, 12

The investigation has been very busy lately interviewing vulnerable children and here's how we have got on so far.

Alex and Cory interviewed travellers in London. Alex said, "I found the interview quite good and enjoyed it" and Cory added "It went really well".

Dominic led the next interview with children in care in the south and wrote, "The interview experience was an experience that is going to stay with me for the rest of my life. The young people I met were incredibly lively ... they were self-motivated and incredibly fun to work with".



Evidence from an 11 year old in Sheffield

Tom and Kamara then interviewed children living in poverty in Salford and after that we did a number of interviews in Coventry.

Nathan, me, Brian, Alex and Rose helped interview groups such as children under 11, children in care,

16-18 year olds and disabled children, refugee children and children living in poverty.

The investigators learned lots of interesting things from these interviews. For example, Nathan found that the children he spoke to were "very anti-gang crime" and I learned about "how other people really feel in living in particular situations".

When Alex interviewed refugee children he said "I found it a very emotional experience because none of them had seen their parents or have much going on for them."

So overall the interviews have gone really well and we look forward to reading more about them in the website blogs. I can't wait for the next one!!!!

Website

Lots of you have been writing blogs on the website to tell us and the world how you've been promoting children's rights where you live!

This month, Laura (a children's rights champions in the West Midlands) has been helping out with the children's rights investigation. Here's what she had to say in her blog:

"This investigation was in London and with two groups of young people from ethnic minorities... I learned about some of the many issues that affect ethnic minority children and young people. Some were quite surprising. Also, the group leader taught me how to put on the hijab."

Check out the blogs on the website to find out more:

Steering group: www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/about/steering_group_blog

Website team: www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/about/web_team_blog

Investigators: www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/your_say/investigator_blog

Champions: www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/take_action



Spreading the word

On Takeover Day on 23rd November, Sehreen and Charlie-Maud from the website team came to CRAE to work on a legal research project with CRAE's legal director, Katy Swaine. Laura, who's also part of the web team, helped Carla to run a training session on campaigning for year 7 students in east London.

Richard (a children's rights champion) and Amanda took our national co-ordinator's place at an important meeting at the Department for Children, Schools and Families where they spoke to Ministers and senior civil servants about what young people need. You can find out more about the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day at www.1million.org.uk.

Krishna has been working with Kids Krew in East London, testing out the resource pack and playing games about children's rights. She also delivered two workshops at the English Secondary Student's Association's (ESSA) annual conference, and worked with children and young people in Croydon as part of 11 Million's Take Over Day. She has been recruiting champions along the way!

Krishna, Carla, Laura (a champion) and Dominic (an investigator) ran a session and a Get ready for Geneva stall at the GLA children's rights event on November 24th. Lots of young people signed up to get involved in the project. Rakee and Parit did an excellent job interviewing people for the Get ready for Geneva Radiowaves site. We will have the interviews online very soon!



Rakee and Parit at the Freedom: breaking the chains event

Children's rights champions

Laura has been tirelessly spreading the word about children's rights, and has already started planning some events to get children and young people in the West Midlands involved in the project. Clare has been planning a 'mini informed and influential' training session at her old secondary school in Watford. This should be taking place in January 2008! If you are a champion, and have a good idea for the project, or would like some help spreading the word about the project, drop Krishna an email!

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

Iqra Bilal from the steering group and Alex White from the investigators team will be visit the United Nations in New York in December as part of the UK's delegation for the United Nations World Fit for Children + 5 conference.



United Nations building in New York

They'll be writing blogs and recording podcasts while they're there, so you'll be able to find out how they got in later in December on the Get ready for Geneva website.

CRAE conference

Imogen and Sharon from the steering group did an excellent job of chairing CRAE's annual conference on 20th November. We showed the Get ready for Geneva short video, 'Why I'm involved', at the conference – you can see this on the home page of our website.

Jacob and Iqra (also from the steering group) were in charge of the microphones and also helped spread the word about the project by working on the Get ready for Geneva stall.

Coming up...

- 3 December** ... health and safety survey goes live!
- 4 December** ... focus group interviews in Leicester
- 11 December** ... focus group interview in Brighton
- 15 December** ... focus group interviews in Newcastle
- 20 December** ... focus group interview in Stockport

Check out our events calendar to keep up to date with what's going on.

www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/coming_up

Staying in touch with the project team

You can get in touch with all the Get ready for Geneva team on 020 7278 8222 (our extension numbers are written below).

- Sam, programme director – extension 23
- Ciara, senior investigator – extension 24
- Carla, senior policy and change officer – extension 25
- Krishna, policy and change assistant – extension 26
- Sabeena, project administrator – extension 29

You can also e-mail the project team at info@getreadyforgeneva.org.uk.