



Get ready for Geneva project update October 2007

Project progress

The project team has had two big meetings to look at how the project is going so far, and to make plans for things that are coming up. We've been thinking about how to make sure the website always has new information on it, and how to get lots of children and young people filling in our online surveys. Thank you to everyone who posted ideas about the competition to choose the young people to go to Geneva; we looked at all your ideas in our meeting and will be working with all of you over the next two months to come up with the final plans for the competition!

Over the last couple of months, we have been encouraging members of the steering group, website team and investigators to take on jobs to help us run the project. You will find a list of names and jobs attached to this update.

Children's rights investigation

It's all been about the children's rights investigation this month! Have you filled in the online survey on family and friends? www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/your_say/survey.

The team has been working hard to set up focus group interviews with children and young people, and over the next two months, Ciara and the team of investigators will be finding out what children and young people all over the country think about their rights.

Last week Alex and Cory spoke to a group of traveller children near Southampton and learned lots about how traveller children live. Dominic interviewed a group of children in care – you can find out more about this in Dominic's blog http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/your_say/investigation_comments/my_second_interview/.

Tom and Kamara have been in Salford talking to children in poverty, and over half-term, investigators travelled to Coventry, Nottingham, Durham and Liverpool to talk to young refugees and asylum seekers, disabled children, and children from Black and ethnic minority backgrounds. Keep an eye on the website for videos from the investigators talking about how they found the interviews.

The investigators have done a great job leading the interviews, and the young people we've been talking to have enjoyed sharing their experiences with someone their own age who wants to listen to what they have to say.

Visit the website at

www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/research_results to keep up to date with the investigation!

Spreading the word

Have you been taking action in your town to promote children's rights? Post a blog to the website, and tell us all about what you've been up to by e-mailing info@getreadyforgeneva.org.uk. Even better, if you want your ideas for campaigning to be included in the children's rights champions pack, e-mail them to info@getreadyforgeneva.org.uk by **5th November**.

Krishna attended a Young Movers (YOMO) event in October half-term, and was joined by West Midlands Champion Laura to promote the project! They had a great time, made some interesting contacts and told EVERYONE about *Get ready for Geneva!*



Laura and Krishna at YOMO

Informed and Influential

We ran a really successful Informed and Influential training session in October half-term, with 24 young people from all over England. Over 60 children and young people applied for the course! We hope those who didn't get a place this time round will be able to come to the next training session in December. A big thank you to Daniel-Sean and Kevin from the steering group who helped us run the day.



Lorely Burt MP talking to Informed and Influential participants.

The state of children's rights in England

The team at CRAE has been busy putting together our *State of children's rights* report, which we write every year to measure how well the Government has put the UN Committee's recommendations for improvement into action. In 2002, the UN Committee made 78 'concluding observations' about the UK, which showed where the Government wasn't doing enough to put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice.

Young advisers

The three young advisers met for the last time in October. They shared information about what they had been working on over the summer. They also came up with lots of excellent ideas about how we can improve the young adviser role in the future.

Time to Talk

Iqra and Kevin from the steering group co-ordinated a young people's response to the Government's *Time to Talk* consultation on their 10-year Children Plan. Click here to find out what they had to say:

http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/article/time_to_talk_young_people_tell_the_government_what_they_think/

Children's rights champions

In the last few weeks we have recruited **17** new children's rights champions! They will be spreading the word about children's rights and pushing for change in their local communities. If you know anyone who would be interested in becoming a champion, please pass on Krishna's details (kmaroo@crae.org.uk).



New children's rights champions!

We have now set up a new forum on the website for children's rights champions. This is a great way to stay in touch with the other champions and members of the Get ready for Geneva team. To find the forum, you will need to log on to the Get ready for Geneva website. Once you have logged on, you will see a button on the top right hand side of the home page that says 'forum'. Click on this button and then you can start posting private messages!

Focus on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

As you should all know by now the UNCRC has over 40 major rights, some of these are rights for all children and some are for children who need extra support – such as refugee children, or children in trouble with the law. Its aim is to make sure that all children and young people are treated with dignity and respect and get everything they need to have a really good life.

In every monthly update we will focus on a different article of the Convention and talk about what this article means for children and young people in England.

This month the focus is on article 31: the right to play.

Article 31 says:

- Every child has the right to rest, play and leisure.
- Governments must promote the rights of the child to get involved in the arts.

Last year CRAE and the National Children's Bureau carried out some research with over 3000 children in England.

Here's what they said about play and leisure:

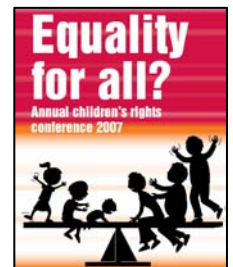
- ❖ Lots of children felt they didn't have many opportunities to play outside with their friends
- ❖ Lots of children said they often get told off by adults when they play outside
- ❖ Most of the children said there should be more parks and open spaces for children and young people to play in
- ❖ They said it is difficult to find cheap, fun things to do and places to go
- ❖ They said there are often lots of sports activities available but not as many arts and drama activities. Children would like a better range of things to do.

For more information on this research, please e-mail cgarnelas@crae.org.uk.

Next month the focus will be on article 17: '*Governments must make sure children get lots of different information. They should protect children from harmful information*'. 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 by November 20th.

Coming up

Have you booked your ticket for the CRAE annual conference on human rights and equality on **20th November**? If you'd like to come and need a letter for your headteacher (as it is on a school day), please e-mail Carla to let her know (you can also call her on 020 7278 8222 extension 24). There are a small number of free places for under-18s, so hurry, get your forms in soon!



Staying in touch

You can get hold of anyone on the project team by calling 020 7278 8222 or by e-mailing info@getreadyforgeneva.org.uk.