



Get ready for Geneva project update September 2007

Project progress

Over the last two months we have been working to make sure that members of the steering group, website team and investigators are taking on responsibility for different aspects of the project. This will help us to keep the project on track and help us meet all of our targets.

In the next monthly update there will be a full list of all of the key contacts and their roles.

Website

This month, nearly 600 people have visited the Get ready for Geneva website. We want more! So, tell your friends about the website. Tell your classmates. Tell your brothers and sisters. Tell your teachers and your youth workers to tell other young people. Get every child and young person you know to join up!

Website and communication team

The website and communication team had a meeting in Leeds on September 22nd. As well as finding out about Radiowaves and setting up a Get ready for Geneva radio station, they all took on roles on the project. To find out what they got up to in Leeds read Kirrun's blog on the Get ready for Geneva website:

http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/about/web_team_comments/meeting_with_radiowaves/

This is the link to the Geneva radio station:

www.radiowaves.co.uk/geneva

Children's rights investigation

In our freedom survey this month, we're trying to find out if children and young people think their rights to freedom and a private life are respected by adults and other children. **Only 37** people have filled it in so far...this means at least half of the young volunteers on the project have forgotten to do it! If you're one of them, it'd be great if you could take five minutes to fill it in – you can find the survey online at

www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/your_say/survey.

And once you've filled it in, try to get at least five of your friends or family (as long as they're aged 17 or under!) to do the same!

Ciara has been very busy setting up focus group interviews all over England. Our target is to interview 450 vulnerable children about their experiences of growing up in England. She has also been working on some information sheets for the investigators. These will help to make sure everyone has some background knowledge

about the group/s they will interview. They will be posted on the investigators forum soon. Ciara will also send all of the children's rights investigators a list of top tips for interviewing. Please make sure you read these top tips! If you have any questions email Ciara: cdavey@crae.org.uk

Steering group

Members of the steering group have been getting used to using the forum on the website. If you haven't had a chance to log-on yet, please give it a go!

Two members of the steering group spoke at a conference called *Children's Rights, children's lives*. Read Kevin's blog about the conference here: http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/about/steering_group_comments/cumberland_extended_write_up/

The steering group have also been starting to think about ideas for the *Get yourself to Geneva* competition that we will be running next year.

Spreading the word

Kevin and Daniel-Sean from the steering group spoke at a national conference for children's rights this month. They told the delegates all about the project, and sat on a panel to answer questions about how children's rights are respected.

We're writing a campaigning pack to help children's rights champions promote children's rights in their area. We'd like to include ideas for action from young people already involved in the project, so would like to know:

- Your top tips for campaigning
- How you've got in touch with your local paper
- If you've given a lesson or assembly in your school about children's rights, what did you do?
- Adults working for the local council and other organisations that have been able to help you promote children's rights
- What would help you learn more about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child?

E-mail your ideas to Sam at sdimmock@crae.org.uk by **Sunday 14th October**.

Members of the steering group, website team, investigators and champions have all been really busy getting the word out about the project. Make sure you read the blogs to see what everyone has been up to. You can also comment on what people have been doing and add your own ideas and suggestions. (To write blogs and comments you need to make sure that you are logged onto the website). Here are the links to the blogs:

- *Children's rights champions*
http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/take_action/near_where_you_live
- *Investigators*
http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/your_say/investigator_blog
- *Steering group*
http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/about/steering_group_blog
- *Website team*
http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/about/web_team_blog

CRAE's annual conference

On 20 November, CRAE will be holding its annual conference in London. Children and young people are welcome to come along, so keep your eyes on your e-mail as we'll be sending out the invitation soon!

Staying in touch with project staff

We would like the steering group, website team and investigators to communicate with the project staff and each other through the secret forums on the website. To access the forum you must log-in to the website. Once you have done this a forum button will appear on the top right hand side of the home page. You can only have access to the forum that is linked to the group you are a member of. If you need to leave personal messages for members of the team please email them directly. If you need an up to date email list for your team please email the office, or put a message on the forum.

Children's rights champions can write blogs on the 'take action' of the website. If you want to pass messages on to the champions you can also email Krishna kmaroo@crae.org.uk.

Young advisers

We had three young advisers working with the Get ready for Geneva team over the summer. Here is an article from one of them about she got up to...

My name is Rosalyn I am 14 and I'm a young adviser for CRAE. The first thing I did was I gave my opinion on the layout of the monthly bulletin and how it could be improved and what should stay the same I felt that was the easiest task for me because I love being creative and giving new coming up with new ideas. The first event I went to was the age discrimination event which was really fun to go to because I got to meet other young people like myself and express my views and ideas. We split up into groups and I felt like it was a really good group to be involved in I felt that I could say anything without being judged or looked down upon by other people it really was a good experience. The next event I went to was the BYC event with Krishna. I have really enjoyed working with CRAE over the summer and I hope that I will get the chance to work with them in the future as well.

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

We are still waiting for a children's version of the UK Government's report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Watch this space for more information.

Time to Talk

There is a big Government consultation taking place at the moment called 'Time to Talk'. This consultation wants to get the views of parents, young people and those that work with children and young people on how to make sure that every child has the opportunities and support they need to be happy and successful.

Time to Talk, will feed into the recommendations for the new Children's Plan, which will set out Government's priorities for children, families and young people. The questions include:

- How can we make sure children have a positive childhood
- How can families help children to be the best they can be, and what support do they need?
- What is the best way to make sure that children get the right support and services that they need?

It would be great if children and young people involved in Get ready for Geneva could respond to the consultation. There are a few things you can do to get your voices heard:

- Organise your own *Time to Talk* consultation
- Feed into a Get ready for Geneva response
- Encourage young people to fill in the online questionnaire on the Time to Talk website.

Kevin, one of the members of the steering group is coordinating a joint response from the Get ready for Geneva project. If you want to be part of this please email kevthemyp@hotmail.com. The deadline for the consultation is October 19th.

For more information go to:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/timetotalk/?gclid=Cj_yy87q1I4CFQcUEAodA0ou8w

Local Children's Right's Champions

Krishna has been busy setting up workshops and training sessions all over the country in schools, and with different groups of children and young people. If you would like her to come and give a presentation or run a workshop, please let her know! Email Krishna for more information: kmaroo@crae.org.uk.

Jacob and Lauren are the steering group links to the children's rights champions. Here is their monthly report:

Over the last few months, Local Children's Rights Champions across England have been incredibly busy. Most have now contacted local important adults in organisations, such as Councillors and MPs, with a fairly positive response. This effort needs to continue, as support from these adults are crucial to the campaign. Many have held workshops in their areas and visited schools holding assemblies, raising awareness on our rights and increasing the number of young people involved in the project.

The Get ready for Geneva postcards have been a great success, we ask that you carry on handing them out.

The draft report about age discrimination and equality has been discussed with ministers and has received positive feedback. More champions need to raise this issue as it affects children everywhere.

One matter arising is the lack of blogs from regions, these are important as they inform other children what the Children's Rights Champions are doing. Please ensure that you get blogging as soon as possible!!!!

Coming up

- **8th October** ... the family and friends survey goes live on the website
- **9th October** ... the first focus group interview takes place
- **9th October** ... youth democracy event for young people at the Ministry of Justice (Get ready for Geneva has its own stall!)
- **24th October** ... Informed and Influential training course

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