

Get Ready for Geneva Project update May 2007



Project progress:

Sam has put together a work plan for the project until March 2008.

At the moment, the project team are sending out a survey to all Directors of Children's Services and to the lead councillors for children in England to find out how much they know about children's human rights. We'll be sending it out again at the end of the project to see if they are better informed.

Krishna has started travelling around England, spreading the word about the project and children's rights. She is off to Salford in Greater Manchester, to work with children's rights champion John O'Neill at an event he is hosting about children's rights. She will also be visiting the National Youth Advocacy Service Young Person's Advisory Group to run a session on the *Get ready for Geneva* project.

We've also been producing postcards to promote the website with the help of the website and communications team. These should be ready to send out to you all soon!

Website:

We've been working hard to get the *Get ready for Geneva* website finished, and it will be going live on June 11th. We will be sending out postcards to promote the website. We will make sure that you get some to hand out to your friends or at your school.

Children's rights investigation:

Ciara, the senior children's rights investigator, will be joining the *Get ready for Geneva* team on June 4th. The first thing that she will be working on is the investigators residential training weekend in Birmingham in July.

The steering group and the website team will be making some decisions about the topics we will be focusing on in the children's rights investigation over the summer. The main themes for the investigation are: education, family, freedom, respect, health, religion and culture, crime, safety, and play.

Spreading the word:

On May 16th, Kalika from the steering group spoke to 150 people about *Get ready for Geneva* at the launch of the Children's Commissioner's new brand at the Treasury in London. Eni from the steering group was also there to answer questions and talk to people about the project.

Here they are with the Minister for Children, Young People and Families Beverley Hughes:



One member of the steering group has been asked to run an assembly on children's rights and the *Get ready for Geneva* project. **Please let us know if you have been asked to do anything like this in your school or youth group.** We can send you information about the project and ideas for activities. If you do make any presentations about the project, or have any articles in local papers and newsletters, **please make sure you let us know about what you have done and try and send us pictures.**

Staying in touch with project staff:

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to stay in touch with project staff.

We are going to have specific times for groups to contact their lead member of staff. This does not mean that you can't email or call during the week but it means that during these set hours the staff member will be able to concentrate on speaking to you.

This also might be a time to have a group email discussion or telephone conference if a particular decision needs to be made.

Surgery time for the steering group and website team: 4 to 6pm every Wednesday (starting on June 6th).

The surgery time for investigators will be decided once Ciara starts.

We will not have a specific time for children's rights champions.

If you find that this does not work for you please let us know.

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

The Government has now produced its report for the UN Committee. CRAE thinks it is really important that children and young people who are involved in the *Get ready for Geneva* project get the chance to comment on the report, so we have produced a young people's version for you.

You will all be sent a copy of the young people's version of the Government report (in the same envelope as this update). Please send your comments back to Sam Dimmock at sdimmock@crae.org.uk by 12pm on Thursday May 31st.

CRAE membership:

We would really like all of you to become members of CRAE. It is free to join if you are under 18. As a CRAE member you'll get updates on changes in children's rights, a regular children's rights bulletin and invitations to events. Please send back the attached membership form if you would like to become a member.

Coming up...

- User testing for the website – over the **bank holiday weekend** we will be asking the website and communications team to look at the website and send us their comments before it finally goes live
- Ciara Davey – the senior children's rights investigator will be starting on **June 4th**
- The children's rights investigators residential will be held in Birmingham on **July 7 and 8th**
- Informed and Influential training for the children's rights champions will be in London on **August 15th**
- The next steering group meeting will be in London on **August 7th**.

If you would like to write something for the next monthly update, please send your information to Carla by Friday June 15th.

To find out more:

Phone: 020 7278 8222 ext. 25 (available until 5.30pm each weekday)

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