

Get
Ready
for
Change!

Get ready for change! project update December 2008

Our campaigns!

It's time for us to start campaigning for change now our 3 Get ready campaigns are under way! Thank you to everyone who has signed up to a campaign and helped us make all the decisions about what we're going to do.

- [Report right! Campaigning against the negative portrayal of children and young people in the media](#)
- [Counselling and confidentiality](#)
- [Education for refugee and asylum seeking children](#)

This week, you'll receive an info pack all about your campaign, telling you all about the law and policy that affects your issue, what job you have on your campaign, and exactly what we're going to be doing.

You'll also find a **task** enclosed – the first thing we need you to do to start campaigning on your human rights issue. So let's get started!

If you haven't already signed up to a campaign, e-mail us at info@getreadyforgeneva.org.uk to tell us what issue you'd like to campaign on!

The research report

We are very excited to announce that we have just published the report 'What do they know? Investigating the human rights concerns of children and young people in England'. The report was written by Ciara and edited by Sam and sets out the full findings from the Get ready for Geneva children's rights investigation. You will find a copy included with this update to say thank you for all your hard work on children's rights.



We will be using the evidence from the report to support our Get ready for change! campaigns. Happy reading!

CRAE annual conference

The CRAE annual conference was a huge success with Get ready campaigners involved throughout the day. Kalika did a great job chairing the conference. Daniel-Sean, Cory, Kirrun and Usman gave an excellent presentation about the findings from the children's rights investigation. Laura led a great workshop on the Young Equals campaign to end age discrimination against children and Adam gave a brilliant speech about children's human rights at the end of the day. There were also some Get ready campaigners in the audience, who asked some challenging questions and helped the day go with a bang!

Young people get active – a round up [Usman's event in Halifax](#)

On Wednesday 10th December, Usman Ali hosted an evening in Halifax celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Five speakers (including Ciara from CRAE) gave presentations and participated in a question and answer session about human rights. Usman did a fantastic job chairing the event and was an inspiring and passionate speaker.

[Dominic has just launched a new podcast](#)

Dominic King has just launched a new fortnightly podcast providing up-to-date news from the world of young people. The first episode covers the CRAE, Barnardo's recent report and how hundreds of young people are attending police workshops. Check out the podcast at www.domking.org/podcast now.

[Nathan is commended at People of the Year Awards](#)

A big congratulations to Get ready campaigner Nathan Giles who, on 1 December, was highly commended at the RADAR Human Rights People of the Year Awards for his work on children's rights. He was given his commendation by the Disability Minister, Jonathan Shaw MP. Find out more: http://www.getreadyforchange.org.uk/news/comments/get_ready_campaigner_highly_commended/



Nathan and Andy at the RADAR awards

[Laura Partoon receives Diana award](#)

CRAE trustee and Get ready for change! campaigner Laura Partoon has won a Diana Memorial Award for her community volunteering and campaigning work. Laura has recently set up a local campaign called 'Stress and strain of school' to promote and improve the mental health and wellbeing of students. Laura has been campaigning for support structure for students in her own school for over a year and now the school is bringing in a confidential counselling service. Now she wants to make sure other schools put in place the same kind of service.

Find out more about Laura's campaign: <http://battlefront.co.uk/campaign/stress-and-strain-of-school/>
Find out more about the Diana Award: <http://www.diana-award.org.uk/news/index.aspx>

Turn over to find out more...



Pledge month

Pledge month 2008 was a great success. Children and young people, and CRAE staff, encouraged lots of decision-makers to make promises to improve the lives of children.

You can have a look at the pledges made so far here:

http://www.getreadyforchange.org.uk/champions/pledge_archives/

Congratulations go to Jacob Wells (steering group) and Hanna Benney (ex-champion) who have encouraged 7 different decision-makers to make 7 different pledges! Great stuff!

Feeling inspired? Get your decision-maker to make a pledge today! We need everyone on the Get ready for change! project to encourage their decision-makers to make change happen for children.

Informed and Influential Rochdale

Saturday 29 November saw Carla and Krishna head to Rochdale in Greater Manchester to deliver the final Informed and Influential for 2008. Young people spoke about issues that affect them, such as the lack of sports facilities, litter and different communities not mixing with each other. They discussed how they could take action on these, before presenting their ideas to the Mayor of Rochdale. Champions Sana and Charlotte made great contributions to the day and talked about their work as Get ready campaigners.



Views on what needs to change for children in Rochdale



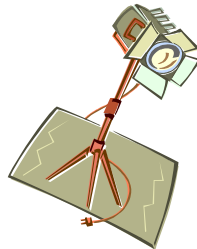
Outreach

Krishna has been really busy spreading the word about children's rights all over England! In the last two months, Krishna has travelled to Barking and Dagenham to work with young carers, ran a session at PeaceJam in Bradford (with help from Shamila), worked with looked after children in Essex, visited two children's homes in Stockport and delivered activities at an event at City Hall (where the Mayor of London works).

Get ready for change! also celebrated the 60th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights at an event at the British Library in London called 'Ours by right: A day for the human family'. We had an interactive stall with games, art and human rights activities for children and their families.



Children's rights activities at the British Library in London



Spotlight on the UNCRC

Article 13 says that every child has the right to express him or herself and to receive all kinds of information and ideas (this is called freedom of expression).

This means that you can express your views, thoughts and feelings in lots of different ways, including talking to other people, writing articles, blogs or newsletters or creating artwork. You can also get any information you need to help you think about issues too.

There are some laws that restrict your freedom of expression. If you are saying things that disrespect, are damaging or cause to harm other people, your freedom of expression may be limited.

Dates for your diary

Check out the Get ready for change! calendar attached to this project update. It has all the major dates until March 2010. Put the dates in your diary now!

You can also find all important dates on the Get ready for change! diary: <http://www.getreadyforchange.org.uk/news/diary>