



Get ready for change! project update October 2008

Reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

In September, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child examined the UK Government for the third time. Then, in October, it published **124 recommendations** setting out where the Government needs to do more to put children's human rights into practice in the UK. The recommendations covered all sorts of areas, from juvenile justice to the rights of disabled children, from the protection of young asylum seekers to children's right to privacy.



All the recommendations made by *Get ready for Geneva* were included in the UN Committee's concluding observations, proving that the Committee really does listen to children and young people!

You can download the 2008 concluding observations from http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/childrens_rights/committee_on_the_rights_of_the_child

In Geneva Kat and Imogen (two of our campaigners) watched the Government being examined, and interviewed Committee members, the Children's Commissioner for England, and the head of the Government delegation to find out what they think about children's rights in England. You can watch their interviews on the *Get ready* homepage at <http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk>

Of her time in Geneva, Imogen said:

My 3 days in Geneva were fantastic, if at times frustrating. The Committee's questions were so searching and the need for change in so many areas so stark, that I'm really excited about campaigning for those changes and hopefully seeing some adopted! What was even better was that the Committee really cared about participation and the Get ready for Geneva report.



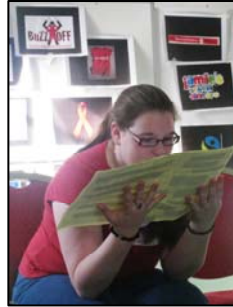
You can read more about Kat and Imogen's experiences at the UN on our news pages: <http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/news>

The *Get ready for change!* campaigns

Excited by our success in getting all the *Get ready* recommendations adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, it was very difficult to choose just 3 issues for the project to campaign on. However, with advice from the steering group and all our young campaigners, the 3 *Get ready for change!* campaigns are going to cover:

- Age discrimination and the media
- Access to confidential counselling services for all children and young people
- Access to high quality and wide-ranging education for young refugees and asylum seekers.

Campaign planning began at our residential in Birmingham at the end of October, but we've still got quite a few details to work out. So, keep your eye on your inbox over the next couple of weeks to help us make the final decisions.



More details about these campaigns will be available on the *Get ready for change!* website at the end of November.

If you haven't yet picked which campaign you want to work on, e-mail cgarnelas@crae.org.uk to let us know which campaign you're most interested in.

Spotlight on the UNCRC

Article 28 of the UNCRC says that every child has the right to



education.

During our investigation we found that this doesn't always happen - some children don't always have access to education. One group of children who raised this issue in the investigation were unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children. These children sometimes only have a few hours of education a week, often just English lessons.

Here is what one young person said to an interpreter about not having his right to education respected during our children's rights investigation:

[The interpreter]... I asked ... what changes he would make if he was head teacher. He said firstly he would increase the classes. He has less than he needs; only two days a week and it's only three hours every day. ... There are things that I am unhappy about at college. I don't like just to study English and computers, I'd like to study maths and physics and chemistry and geography.

Turn over to find out more ...

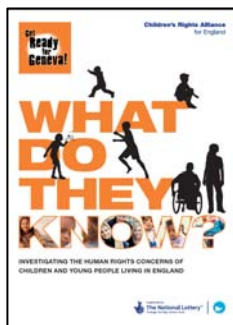


An asylum seeker is someone who leaves their home country for their own safety, for political reasons or because of war, and travels to another country hoping that the Government there will protect them and allow them to stay.

We want to make sure that all children have their right to a really good education respected. This is one of the issues that *Get ready for change!* is going to be campaigning on. Keep an eye on our website for more information.

The research report

Our children's rights investigation final report, called *What do they know? Investigating the human rights concerns of children and young people in England* will finally be published on 20 November! You'll all be sent a copy as soon as it's available. We're also going to make sure all the children and young people that took part in the investigation receive a copy. A special thank you goes out from the CRAE team to all our children's rights investigators, who worked so hard last year to gather all the evidence for the report.



Usman at the UN Day of General Discussion

In September, Usman (from the steering group) managed to persuade his youth service to support him to go to Geneva to take part in the UN

Committee on the Rights of the Child's Day of General Discussion. This is an event the Committee runs each year

where they focus on one particular article of the Convention. This year, it was the right to education in emergency situations. Find out more about what Usman told the UN at http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/news/article/taking_education_for_granted/



Pledge month

By the time this update reaches you, we'll be in our very first 'pledge month'! **Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to get a local decision-maker to make a pledge to improve children's rights in your local area.** The *Get ready for change!* pledge month pack is full of great ideas to help you do this, and has lots of examples of the kind of things a children's rights pledge might include.

Let's work together to get as many decision-makers as possible to make public promises to support children's rights! You can download your pledge month pack from http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/take_action

Informed and Influential

In October, the Informed and Influential training course visited the London borough of Camden. As well as learning about children's human rights and the *Get ready* project, the participants got a chance to put their questions to the Director and Assistant Director of Children's Services for the borough.



The next Informed and Influential is going to be in **Rochdale on Saturday 29 November**. If you are interesting in coming along, contact Krishna at kmaroo@crae.org.uk.

Outreach

Krishna is still very busy spreading the word about children's rights across the country!

She delivered a training session to 50 young people from the charity 'Young Advisors' at their training day in Birmingham. The group made lots of interesting points and had some very heated discussions about children's rights.

She also promoted the project at a Participation Works event, and two local democracy week events in London.

Have you been promoting children's rights where you live? Let us know what you have been doing!

Take action!

Have your say against the pesky mosquito device by adding your name to this new petition:

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/ANTITEENDEVICE/>

Dates for your diary

29 November –
Informed and Influential in
Rochdale

If you live in and around Greater Manchester, spread the word about this free training day.



Bebo

We have now joined the Bebo revolution! Search for us using the keyword 'CRAE' and 'Get ready for change', and add us as a friend!

