

# GLOBAL CONCEPTS



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G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

Vol. 24 no. 3

FALL 2006

## MANNY'S CORNER

### ACTIVISM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

**Conference**, November 16 and 17, with its dual theme of children and women's rights, is occurring at the time that the global studies reports from the United Nations and human rights organizations points to the widespread human rights violations, particularly violations against both women and children around the globe.

**HUMAN RIGHTS** remains as one of the three major challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, together with **security** and **development**. Human rights are defined, in general, as those rights that most societies agree belong to every one. Internationally, the definition applies to recognition of the **International Bill of Rights** and a number of other universal core treaties, conventions, standards and recommendations that are legally binding and set practical guides for all nations to follow. The legal binding occurs when nations sign and ratify a treaty, convention or protocol. The universal treaties, conventions and protocols are diverse and include rights of indigenous peoples and minorities, such as the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, Elimination of Intolerance, Discrimination based on Religion or Belief. A number of other conventions and treaties are to enumerate children's and women's rights and rights of persons with disabilities and older persons, to name a few. In recent years, many people have become aware of the rights for protection of prisoners and administration of justice and basic principles for treatment of detainees and protection against cruel, inhumane and degrading punishments. The United Nations report paints a very grim picture of the human rights situation around the

world, particularly for women and children. Abuse of children in particular exists in every country around the globe cutting "**across culture, class, education, income and ethnic origin.**" The global studies report of human rights violations presented at the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly enumerates five areas of violence in home, family, schools and educational settings, violence in the community and on the street, and in the workplace. Secretary General Kofi Annan has stressed the need for a greater degree of universal action, coordinated through the United Nations, to reduce violence around the globe against women and children.

Children are at greater risk when there is separation of children from their families. Due to this separation of child and family, there are millions of children who live in foster homes, making them vulnerable to physical and psychological abuse and exploitation, child labor, sexual violence, HIV and trafficking. UNICEF and other UN agencies stress that there are some 1.2 million children trafficked every year, and 2 million children work in the commercial sex industry. The Convention on the Rights of the Child provides a minimum universal standard that needs to be taken seriously. Moreover, the Secretary General Kofi Annan is urging all countries to assist in the global study of violence against children and to set "detailed and comprehensive guidelines that would clarify good practices, prevent abuse and establish responsibilities and accountability for dealing with children separated from their parents around the world." Child Rights International Network, (CRINMAIL) in review of the outcomes of the nine regional consultations and statements

made by the independent expert leading the study, **violence in schools and other educational settings reported: violent and humiliating discipline, physical, emotional, and sexual violence and harassment, and bullying** in special schools (including military schools) and mainstream schools. In addition, children also “experience other types of violence on their way to schools such as gang violence, discrimination and content of their education which may promote violence. The study’s recommendation embodies:

- \* All children must be free from violence in their schools
- \* Schools should promote non-violence, gender equity, non-discrimination and participation in and beyond the schools as a specific educational goal.
- \* Corporal punishment must be prohibited
- \* Promote the meaningful participation of children in school decision-making process.
- \* Train teachers in non-violent disciplinary strategies.
- \* Forge closer school community links to address violence against children.

The fourth biennial conference is to bring awareness and urgency of this issue by focusing on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The participants have the opportunity to examine some of the issues and recommendation on November 16-17. We urge you to join us in discussing these significant issues of violence common between women and children and join others in stressing the need for ratification of both conventions by the United States Senate.

M.P

## Reviews – Reviews - Reviews

### Babelfish: A Translation Website

Matthew Westra

A handy website to have in your Bookmarks or Favorites is Alta Vista’s Babelfish. This little powerhouse provides translations for a variety of languages. This summer my family hosted Ippei, a young man from Japan. When we got into some difficulties with a family crisis, we used Babelfish to communicate more effectively. Ippei spoke little English, and even the best Japanese speaker in the family was hard pressed to clearly communicate abstract or sensitive ideas.

As with any Beta version software, there are potential problems and errors. Further, software such as Babelfish has the weaknesses of translating according to a heuristic that most certainly lacks nuance and idiom as well as being unaware of context or setting. I surely would not use a program such as this to translate sensitive documents. However, for an occasional use in the absence of a genuine human translator who is fluent in both languages, Babelfish can serve as a functional patch.

<http://babelfish.altavista.com/>

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### Decisions & Directions

On August 19, 2006, the Board met with concerned members of G.A.M.E. to consider significant changes in the organization and what they mean for G.A.M.E. Manny Pedram, the founder and Director since 1982, has announced his intent to step down and turn the reins over to others. Manny and G.A.M.E. have been extensions of each other for 24 years.

In the coming months, the Board will revisit the Mission, Vision, Brochure, By-Laws, and the Activities that make G.A.M.E. a dynamic and valuable organization. There was general consensus that fine tuning rather than drastic repositioning is the proper way to move forward.

General Membership and Board Membership will continue to provide ways for concerned citizens to foster the educational awareness which is the sustaining value of our organization. All hats off to Manny Pedram, for his vision, labors, and for setting the course.

## Upcoming Events Local and National



**November 9, 2006, 5:00 -6:00p.m.** CRC/ CEDAW Steering Committee Meeting, UMKC Women's and Gender Studies Conference Room.

**November 14, 2006, 7:00 -9:00p.m.**G.A.M.E. Great Decisions: Pandemics & National Security, All Souls Unitarian Church. Moderator, Richard Dawson.

**November 16-17<sup>th</sup>, 2006, G.A.M.E** Biennial Conference on the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Kauffman Foundation Conference Center.

**November 19, 2006, 2:00 p.m,** G.A.M.E. Board of Director's meeting

**December 14, 2006, 11:45 a.m.** Urban League of G.KC, Difference Maker's Award Luncheon, Hyatt Regency Hotel

**June 8, July 13, 2007,** University of Kansas, Argentine Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad. Application deadline, December 1, 2006. For more information contact Adriana Natali-Summerville. [Adriana@ku.edu](mailto:Adriana@ku.edu).

### The United Nations Events and Declaration for November and December Calendar

November 7 - UN Convention for the protection of the Ozone Layer adopted in Vienna 1985, ratified by 176 nations 2001.

November 15 UN General Assembly approved formation of World Bank and international Monetary Fund (IMF) 1947.

November 16 - Signing of UNESCO Charter 1945

— International Day of Tolerance adopted 1995

— The Law of the Sea in force 1994

November 20 - Universal Children Day

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child unanimously adopted by General Assembly 1989

November 23 - UNESCO World Heritage Treaty to preserve major natural and cultural world sites signed 1872.

November 25 - International Day for Elimination of Violence against women adopted by General Assembly 1981.

November 29 - International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

November 30 - Antarctic Treaty, requiring the continent to be used for peaceful purposes only, adopted by General Assembly, 1959.

December 3 - International Day of Disabled Persons

December 6 - U.N. University (UNU) in Tokyo established 1973.

December 10 - Human Rights Day: Universal Declaration of Human Rights led by Eleanor Roosevelt adopted in Paris 1948.

December 15 - Declaration of the Right to life in peace by General Assembly 1978

General Assembly's Establishment of University of Peace in Costa Rica 1979.

December 17 - The Seas were declared global common heritage by General Assembly 1970.

December 18 International Migrant Day

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979.

December 20 - Declaration of the Rights of the Child (CRC) adopted by General Assembly 1965.

December 22 - Eighteen -Acre site in New York City donated by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. for United Nations Headquarter 1946.

December 26 - UN Convention to combat Desertification in force 1997.

December 29 - International Day for Biodiversity

### Quotes of the Issue

“No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive.”

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

It has been said that arguing against globalization is like arguing against the laws of gravity.  
Kofi Anna

**GLOBAL CONCEPTS**

Newsletter of the Global  
And Multicultural Education  
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**Mission Statement:** G.A.M.E. assists in the enhancement of knowledge of global interdependence and awareness and appreciation of our common humanity.