

A World Fit for Children

Final Report

September 13, 2002

Introduction

Children are entitled to all rights guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, since children are the most neglected and vulnerable segment of population they also need special protection.

The International community has long recognized the need to protect children from various abuses. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, known as CRC is the only international treaty that covers “full spectrum of civil, political, social and cultural rights” for all under the age of 18.

One of the basic principles of CRC is “the best interest of the child.”

Implementation of the CRC is given to the committee of ten on the Rights of the Child elected by secret ballots and governments are to report to this committee

The United States remains the only nation that has not ratified this universal convention.

Steering Committee

The Global and Multicultural Education Center with the leadership of Dr. Charles B. Wheeler has taken the lead in advancing the Rights of the Child Convention through two conferences. The United Nations Association has been a cooperating sponsor with a number of individuals from various groups with an interest in children’s health, education and well being providing the needed support. For the second Kansas City conference, a members of the following organizations constituted the steering committee:

Charles B. Wheeler, M. D. Chairman

Manny Pedram, G.A.M.E. Director, Conference Coordinator

United Nations Association of Greater Kansas City

Director, University of Missouri-KC International Academic Programs

Children’s Mercy Hospital

Physician’s for Social Responsibility

Kansas City Interfaith Peace Alliance

American Association of University Women

Evaluation:

Conference was well organized. It provided for both presentations by speakers and question/answer sessions as well as small group discussion,

Participants evaluation reflects high mark for speaker’s knowledge and presentation.

The conference was well attended by students and teachers who actively participated during the day.

Final sessions provided a culminating result by producing a positive resolution in support of the human rights and particularly children's rights. The resolution encourages the United States government at all levels (city, state and national) to support the CRC. It emphasizes education and the role of teachers and students to study and become better informed citizens.

Financial Support

The success of the conference was partially due to the following institutions, organizations and a number of individuals generous financial support.

Global and Multicultural Education Center
Bank of America
Sosland Foundation
Irwin and Rita Blitt
Citibank, NA
Yolanda Huet-Vaughn (Physician for Social Responsibility)
Kansas City Interfaith Peace Alliance
William and Jane Thebo
Karen Herman foundation

Resolution:

- As a final strategy, a resolution provided an excellent avenue for us to continue our support for the U.N. Rights of the Child Convention.