

GLOBAL CONCEPTS



www.kcglobalconcepts.org

G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

Vol. 26 no.1

SPRING 2008

Director's Comment

The Fifth Biennial CRC/CEDAW Kansas City Conference on April 18-19, 2008

As these lines are written, we are approaching the 5th biennial G.A.M.E. Kansas City conference. The idea took shape in 1999 in one of the G.A.M.E. board meetings and the 2000 conference took the torch of UN Children's Rights treaty, known as CRC. Adopted in 1989 at the United Nations General Assembly, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was to bring the international community who are signatories to the Convention, to recognize the minimum agreed human rights elements for children under the age of 18. Today, every country except the United States and Somalia have signed, endorsed and ratified this international treaty. Moreover, with the efforts of the UN monitoring committee, there are changes and recognition of children's rights. However, with all these changes and universal efforts, the 2007 UNICEF report states that "an estimated 300 million children are victims of violence, abuse and exploitation." Boys as young as ten are forced to become child soldiers and many girls before the age of puberty become brides or are forced into prostitution rings, and both boys and girls are forced to the child labor force instead of going to school.

All the three topics of abuse, child soldiers and child labor are topics of discussion in the panel series in the conference.

Beginning with the 2006 conference, the GAME steering committee agreed the women and children conventions (CEDAW) are interrelated, both advancing and guaranteeing minimum rights universally. CEDAW, or Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, was adopted in 1979. The convention defines clearly what constitutes discrimination, mainly any exclusion and/or restriction based on sex. The Convention addresses such fundamental rights as social, political, and economic rights, and embodies all elements of education, property and marriage laws as well as health care, employment and family relations. CEDAW is a binding human rights mechanism to eliminate discrimination against women and obligates states to end discrimination in all areas affecting women. Once again, the United States has not ratified this convention and has not met the fulfillment of CEDAW obligations. As in previous conferences, the 2008 conference concludes with resolutions to support the participants' emphasis on ratification on both CRC and CEDAW.

Sara and Manny Pedram



Meet the G.A.M.E. Office Manager

Our EPA grant for the Summer Climate Change Institute narrowed our search for our new office manager, **Mariah Chrans**. She and her three children, ages 4-10, have brought a new life to the GAME office, a degree of stability, and an opportunity for growth. During her short time in our office, Mariah has exhibited a genuine interest in GAME's project activities and future direction. Indeed, her performance truly has surpassed our expectations! She has been a wonderful assistant for the Climate Change Project as well as a valuable member of the CRC/CEDAW conference steering committee. Please be supportive if she calls you (as her time permits) to inquire about your area of interest and views about GAME's future direction. However, as she indicated in her own words, don't hesitate to call and visit with her at the office (816-960-1546). She is interested in your views, ideas and suggestions and I assure you that you will be pleased to know a person who goes beyond her few paid hours and diligently works on her tasks, not only in the office but also at home if she believes there is an urgent need. Let us welcome Mariah as a partner in our organization.

Manny Pedram

Hello,

My name is Mariah Chrans, and I have been working with G.A.M.E. for about 3 months. There are some wonderful things we are working on, such as the 5th Biennial Conference on the CRC and CEDAW, and the Teachers' workshop in June. I know G.A.M.E. has done some wonderful things in the past with the local schools and educating students on other cultures and global warming. I would like to see these programs offered once again.

There are several hurdles we face with this, such as funding, creating new programs and updating the current ones, and of course the people to run them. With Manny leaving this year, we really need one or two strong, supportive leaders. I can help to get us there; however, I do not have the experience to do it alone. I look forward to meeting all of the G.A.M.E. members at upcoming conferences. Please feel free to call the office and talk with me anytime.

Mariah Chrans



**G.A.M.E. Exhibit at the Peace Festival,
March 15, 2008. Exhibit volunteers:
Mary Bean and Sara Pedram**

Secretary-General Ban hails entry into force of treaty on disability rights.

3 April 2008 – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has welcomed the entry into force of the first international treaty on the human rights of persons with disabilities, after the required twentieth country ratified the landmark convention today.

“It is a historic moment in our quest for realization of the universal human rights for ALL persons, creating a fully inclusive society for all,” Mr. Ban’s spokesperson Marie Okabe said in a statement celebrating the rapid progress of the Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted in December 2006.

“The Convention will be a powerful tool to eradicate the obstacle faced by persons with disabilities,” she said, pointing to discrimination, segregation from society, economic marginalization, and lack of opportunities for participation in social, political and economic decision-making processes.

Today’s ratification by Ecuador means that the Convention, along with an optional protocol that will allow individuals and groups to petition for relief, will be legally binding as of 3 May. Tunisia and Jordan also ratified the treaty earlier this week.

Through today’s statement, the Secretary-General also congratulated the States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention. Some 126 countries have signed the Convention since 30 March 2007, and 71 have signed the optional protocol.

“It is estimated that there are at least 650 million persons with disabilities worldwide, of whom approximately 80 percent live in less developed countries,” Ms. Okabe noted.

As many as two-thirds of United Nations Member States do not have any legal protection for people with disabilities, according to the UN Focal Point on Disability Akiko Ito, even though they comprise one in 10 of the global population.

“The Convention, together with its Optional Protocol, is deeply rooted in the firm commitment of the international community to rectifying the egregious neglect and dehumanizing practices that violate the human rights of persons with disabilities,” Ms. Okabe concluded, calling on all States that have not yet done so to accede or ratify it without delay.

The newly-formed Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention said that support will focus on six main areas: policies to support the purpose and objectives of the Convention; programmes including international cooperation; capacity-building of Member States, civil society, and the UN system; research and access to knowledge on disabilities; accessibility; and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

(Source: UN News Centre)

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

April 20 - Andrew Carnegie donated funds to build peace palace at the Hague 1903.

April 21 - World Day for cultural diversity and World Health Organization (WHO) unanimously adopted a treaty against smoking, 2003.

May 11 - Mother’s Day

May 31 - WORLD NO-TOBACCO DAY

May 31 - UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat 1), Vancouver, Canada 1976

UPCOMING Local Events

April 17-18 - GAME Kansas City 5th Biennial Conference, All Souls Unitarian Church, 4501 Walnut, Kansas City, MO

April 25 - Barstow World Fest, 5:00 -8:30 p.m. at Barstow High School, 11511 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO

April 27 - G.A.M.E. Annual Meeting and Election of Board and Officers, 2:00 p.m.,

June 2-6 - Summer Institute on Climate Change and Professional Development, Discovery Center. *Please see the schedule of activities in this newsletter.*

GLOBAL CONCEPTS

Newsletter of the Global And Multicultural Education Center (G.A.M.E.)

A non-profit organization.

3009 Holmes

Kansas City, Missouri, USA 64109

(816) 960-1546 (816) 753-2372

www.kcglobalconcepts.org

Board of Directors:

Sara Pedram, Director

Manny Pedram, Director Emeritus

State Senator, Charles B. Wheeler, M.D.

President: Gregory Brown, Ph.D.

Vice President: Haumana Johannsen

V.P. Programs: Doris R. Stout

Treasurer: Norman Burkart

Secretary: Haumana Johannsen

V.P. Membership: Hattie Williams

Nancy Brooks

Teri Chu

Joyce Cox

Richard Dawson

Gene Foster

Arthea Saller

George Saller

Bambi Shen

Bill Thebo

Matthew Westra, Newsletter Editor

Mariah Chrans, Office Manager

Join the World: Become a member of G.A.M.E.

The strength of any organization depends upon the level of support and financial resources provided by its members and friends. G.A.M.E. is no exception. Please use this form to join us today.

Membership Form:

Date: _____

Patron..... \$ 30.00 _____

Family \$ 15.00 _____

Individual..... \$ 10.00 _____

Organization/School.. \$ 15.00 _____

Name _____

Address: _____ City, State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: _____ e-mail: _____

I would like to contribute an additional \$ _____ for educational use of the organization.

Your membership and contributions are tax exempt.

We thank you for your support.

Mission Statement: G.A.M.E. assists in the enhancement of knowledge of global interdependence and awareness and appreciation of our common humanity.