

GLOBAL CONCEPTS



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G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

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MANNY'S CORNER

Countdown to the third Biennial Conference on "Building A World Fit for Children"

We are approaching September 17 and 18th with high speed and we anticipate the Kauffman auditorium, with its state of the art setting, will mark a huge success for our efforts in children's rights issues. Local children advocates, Janice Ellis, Lewis Diuguid, and national advocates



Marty Scherr and Martin Rendon will bring a wealth of knowledge and remind us that all children are our children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child has the same meaning for

people in all parts of the world. The Convention is laying down common standards, while taking into account the cultural, social, economic and political realities of individual states. As a result, each state may seek its own means to implement the rights common to all.

A unique attraction of the conference will be the Soka Gakkai International Exhibit titled: "Building a Culture of Peace." Also, as in the past conferences, we expect participation of many schools, teachers and students, a well-advertised essay contest with award of \$500 for the winning students and teachers.

The Global and Multicultural Education Center has taken the lead since 2000, to educate the American public about the importance of this international guideline for children and the problematic issue of ratification by the U.S.

Senate, making the United States the only nation among the community of 191 nations absent to influence the well being of children internationally.

To respond to children's needs and their progress, it is essential that we accept and use universal minimum standards to which every city, county, and state agree and measure their success and failures in approaching the children's agenda.

The Global and Multicultural Education Center's experience since 2000 has convinced many of us that the universally accepted and comprehensive 54 articles is an excellent measurement in evaluating local, regional and national laws, codes and legal acts and practices of various US agencies.

The Convention applies to all children, age 18 and under, and its fifty-four articles are very inclusive. It provides guidelines and protections for every agency and community that sets the agenda for improvement of



children's rights. The convention guidelines on children range from required minimum standard of living, to physical, moral, spiritual, educational and social development.

In my view, judging children's progress is a universal Task and it is time for Kansas City, Jackson County and State of Missouri to adopt, review and measure children's

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Local, National and International Upcoming Events

September 17-18, 2004 Kansas City 3rd Biennial Conference on "Building A World Fit for Children." See our web site for more information. Or call 816/753-2372 or 816/960-1546.

www.kcglobalconcepts.org.

September 22, 2004 CRC Steering Committee, Conference Evaluation Session, 5:30 pm. UMKC Administrative Center, Hyde Park Room.

October 2, 2004 UMKC Community Day, Volunteers at G.A.M.E.

October 14, 2004. The United Nations Day Event, 7:00 p.m., Adams Mark

October 24, 2004. The UU-UNO U.N. Sunday Services, 8:45 am & 11:15 am, All Souls Unitarian Church

November 5-7, 2004 Peace Colloquy 2004 in the Temple, River and Walnut Streets, Independence, MO. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jose' Ramos-Horta, Foreign Minister for East Timor. Rev. James Lawson. Civil rights leader and organizer of the first lunch counter sit-ins also will be honored on Saturday evening at 7:30 pm. Contact, 816/521-3077

November 7, 2004 G.A.M.E. Board of Directors meeting, 2:00 pm., at 4428 Harrison.



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progress and laws with this universal document. This universal convention not only lays down common standards for all nations to use in setting the agenda for

children's progress, it is a good document to be followed by the individual states.

Children of War and National Conflicts

The recent wars and national conflicts have exposed and have had direct effect on many children across the globe. UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy, in her recent three-day tour to Liberia stated:

"Children should never have been caught up in the conflict in the first place. They should never have seen murders and rapes, or the intentional destruction of their schools and hospitals," said Bellamy. "After 15 years of war, Liberia has a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to ensure that children never have to live through the terror of war again," she added.

During her visit, she met with children who had been forced to carry arms or serve as spies, porters, cooks and sex slaves. Of the almost 5,800 children demobilized so far, 1,175 were girls, 15 of whom were pregnant.

Human Rights Issues

In the light of much disturbing news about abuses in the international community and human injustice in the course of war, the following quotations should remind us that Peace and Justice issues are permanent issues that every nation has an obligation to consider.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Martin Luther King Jr

"Nations working together can make a difference. Nations upholding the rule of law can advance the cause of a fairer world.

"We should not see this as an age of threats, but as one of many new opportunities." Kofi Annan

Global Ills

The United Nations has served as the Foundation in promoting a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world through the support for international law and the United Nations and its Charter. The U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan proposed to see the year 2004 to reflect the year of "kept promises in the fight against global ill."

Decrying a lack of progress in tackling the many serious problems currently facing the world, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged that 2004 be the "year of kept promises" to resolve the pressing issues that afflict the lives of billions.

With all the focus on Iraq, "leaders, politicians, diplomats and journalists simply haven't paid enough attention to the many other pressing challenges that are facing us," he stressed.

Towards this end, he urged efforts to reach a set of time-bound targets - collectively called the Millennium Development Goals - that were adopted at a UN summit in 2000..

The Secretary-General called for richer States to increase levels of development aid, give poor nations free and fair access to global markets, and reduce the "crippling" external debt burden. To stem the HIV/AIDS pandemic, he urged providing anti-retroviral treatment to 3 million infected people by 2005 and fully financing a special fund set up to deal with AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

He noted that the AIDS epidemic kills 8,000 people each day. "When we talk about our concern for weapons of mass destruction and our determination to make sure that they don't get into the wrong hands, we are concerned because they can be used to kill thousands of people, and we don't want that to happen - but 8,000 are dying a day" of AIDS, he pointed out.

"The AIDS epidemic is a weapon of mass destruction," he said. "What is the world doing?"

He also called for increased investments in education, health, and water and sanitation, as well as stepped-up efforts to empower women and to fight corruption.

In the realm of peace and security, he pointed out that "there is plenty beyond Iraq that needs urgent attention," including the need for progress in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Latin America and Africa. He stressed that in order to address the world's "forgotten humanitarian emergencies" and to carry out its peacekeeping work, the UN would need troops as well as money.



PEACE PLAZA in

Independece, dedicated to those who lost their lives in the cause of peace, was recently the target of vandals. We want to believe that this was a regretful act by a few, rather than a deliberate act against a symbol of peace and international security.

Report on Childen Issues:

The United Nations recent report indicates up to ten million childen, mostly girls, are "trapped in low paid jobs as domestic servants, where they are at risk of abuse, physical exploitation and human trafficking" as reported by the Internaational Labor Organization (ILO). In addition, Carol Bellamy, the UNICEF executive director, affirmed that "these children are deprived of basic health and education needs and have to depend on the whims of their employers for their well-being."

Graduate credit (one hour at \$75.00 and 2.2 CEU'a at \$22.00 are avaiable through UMKC School of Education, Continuing Education, for those participating in September 17-18, 2004 Rights of the Child conference.

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