

# Global Concepts

G.A.M.E NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2007-08

The fifth biennial Kansas City conference on “Activism for Human Rights scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 18-19, 2008. The plans are to make this years conference to highlight G.A.M.E. and other participating organizations efforts on behalf of the U.N. conventions On WOMEN AND CHILDREN’S RIGHTS. The following who’s who is to bring to our reader’s attention the number and quality of our conference speakers for the past four biennial conferences.

## Who’s Who in G.A.M.E. Kansas City Biennial Conferences 2000 - 2008

Eight years since the millennium and in the midst of planning the fifth biennial conference on “Activism for Human Rights,” it is a good time to review the contributions of notable speakers who have participated in G.A.M.E. Biennial Kansas City conferences. The Global and Multicultural Education Center is proud of this accomplishment and its contribution to the Kansas City community. In the past year, sadly, we have received notice that two of these distinguished speakers--Anthony G. Freeman and Cynthia Price Cohen--have died.

### Jo Becker (2002 conference)

Jo Becker is the Children's Rights Advocacy Director for Human Rights Watch, an independent organization that conducts regular, systematic investigations of human rights abuses in some seventy countries around the world.

Ms. Becker represents Human Rights Watch before the press, government officials, and the general public, and works with other non-governmental and international organizations to stop abuses against children, including the use of children as soldiers, hazardous child labor, and ill-treatment during detention.

Ms. Becker was the founding chairperson of the international Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers and serves on the steering committee of the U.S. Campaign to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. She has testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the issue of child soldiers as well as conducted a three-week investigative mission along the Thai-Burma border to document child recruitment in Burma.

Her writing has appeared in the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Miami Herald* and numerous magazines. She is also author of Human Rights Watch reports on the detention of unaccompanied minors by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service and worldwide violence against children.



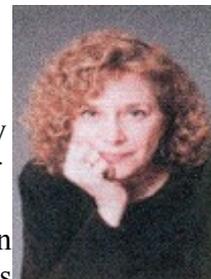
### Beverlee Bruce, Ph.D, ( 2000 conference)

Program Director, Social Science Research Council and Women and former chair, Board of Directors, Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

Dr. Bruce is an anthropologist and educator. She has traveled extensively in Africa and has served as Peace Corps Country Director in Liberia and technical advisor for the United Nations in Liberia. She has taught at the City University of New York, Howard, Harvard, Northwestern and Temple Universities. Country Director in Liberia and technical advisor for the United Nations in Liberia.

**Susan H. Bitensky, ( 2006 conference)**

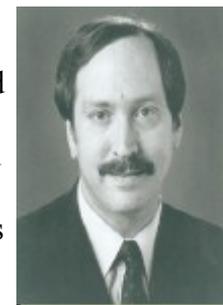
Professor of Law, Michigan State University. Upon graduation from law school Professor Bitensky served as assistant general counsel to the United Steelworkers of America for three years followed by four years of private practice with a Manhattan labor law firm. Before joining the College faculty in 1988, she was associate counsel to the New York City Board of Education for six years Professor Bitensky has published a book *Corporal Punishment of Children: A Human Rights Violation* (Transnational Publishers 2006), a chapter of an American as well as a host of law review articles in leading journals such as *Northwestern University Law Review* and *Notre Dame Law Review*. She has also presented papers at numerous international symposia. Her scholarship focuses on children's rights under the federal Constitution and international human rights law. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Before college, Professor Bitensky was an apprentice to the Robert Joffrey Ballet Company. She teaches Evidence, Constitutional Law, Jurisprudence, and International Human Rights Law.

**Cynthia Price Cohen, J. D., M.A., JSD., ( 2000 conference)**

Dr. Price Cohen was the Founder and Executive Director of Child Rights International Research Institute. As the representative of a non-governmental organization, Dr. Price Cohen participated in the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and she systematically followed international activities relating to the Rights of the Child. Dr. Cohen taught international child rights law at the American University of Washington College of Law and the University of Tulsa College of Law. She was a frequent contributor to scholarly journals.

**Howard Davidson, J.D, ( 2000 conference)**

Director, American Bar Association Center on Children and Law. Mr. Davidson has been involved 25 years with the legal aspects of child protection. He has served as chair of U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect and is founding board member of the National Center for missing and exploited children. His many books and published writings cover a wide range of legal issues affecting children involved in the court system, including *Legal Rights of Children*, and *Children's Rights in America*.

**Mr. Lewis Diuguid ( 2004 conference)**

Mr. Diuguid is vice president for community resources at *The Kansas City Star*. He serves on the editorial board and is responsible for *The Star's* philanthropic efforts in the community. Since the mid 1990's he has co-chaired the diversity initiative at *The Star*, is the founding member, of the National Association of Black journalists, the National Society of Newspaper Columnists, and serves on the Board of Directors of the University of Missouri Alumni Association. He has received several awards, including the 2000 Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism.

**Janice S. Ellis, Ph.D. ( 2004 conference)**

is president of the Partnership for Children. Prior to this position, she managed her own full service marketing firm and was director of marketing and development for Marion Merrell Dow. Dr. Ellis' experience includes eight years working with the Mayor of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Dr. Ellis has a long history of civic and community involvement. In 1985, she founded REACH FOR THE STARS, a nationally recognized teen pregnancy prevention program. Dr. Ellis has published numerous articles for national trade and professional publications. She has written a newspaper column during her career, including *The Kansas City Star*, *The Kansas City Call* and *The Kansas City Globe*.





**Anthony G. Freeman** ( 2000 conference)

was Director of the Washington Branch office of International Labor Organization (ILO). The ILO office maintains relations with regional, bilateral and multilateral organizations, research and human rights organizations and others that deal with social and labor issues in the United States. A career U.S. Foreign Service Officer for 33 years, Deputy Assistant to three Secretaries of State, he coordinated the International Labor Affairs for the Department of State. In this capacity, he coordinated U.S. relations with the American and International Labor movement and supervised the Foreign Service's labor attaché program in U.S. embassies abroad. Mr. Freeman received his B.A. from Rutgers University and Masters from Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs.

**Margot Kidder** ( 2006 conference)

Ms Kidder is an actress and writer, born in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories of Canada. She is known for her various movie roles, particularly as Lois Lane in the 1978 movie Superman. She is a political activist and is recognized for advocating participatory democracy and supporting human rights, peace and justice issues.

As an American citizen since 2005 and also as a Canadian citizen, she advocated peace over war, human rights vs. violation of individual rights and tirelessly campaigned for the California Nuclear Freeze initiative in that state. She has supported many candidates and actively supports Amnesty International, MADRE, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and is a member of board of directors of Montana Women for Peace, Justice and Equality. In addition, she also advocates for a sane national mental health policy and for the mentally ill and for orthomolecular medicine, a natural way to cure mental illness.



**Joseph Mettimano,** ( 2000 conference, no picture was provided.)

Deputy Director, Public Policy and Advocacy with the U.S. Committee for UNICEF. For five years he has managed the Committee's policies and activities in support of the rights of children. He currently serves as chair of the U.S. campaign to ban land mines and is chair of the Washington working group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

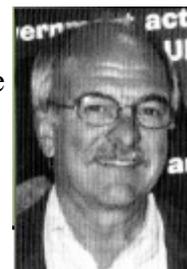


**Mr. Martin Rendón** ( 2004 conference)

has been Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF since He joined the organization in 1993. He previously worked for over two decades as a Congressional aide on the staffs of Rep. Tony P. Hall (D-OH) and Rep. Bill Green (R- NY). He served for eight years on the Associate Staff of the House Rules Committee and was Staff Director of the House Select Committee on Hunger from 1989 to 1993. Rendón's first job on Capitol Hill was as an intern for Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D) Director of the House Select Committee on Hunger from 1989 to 1993. Rendón's first job on Capitol Hill was as an intern for Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D).

**Mr. Martin Scherr,** ( 2002 & 2004 conferences)

Mr. Scherr was senior Associate of Child Rights and Protection, International Social Service - USA Branch. Prior to joining International Social Service Mr. Scherr directed the international office of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) since 1997, consisting of member agencies on international issues, representing CWLA with United Nations Agencies, USAID, Child Rights Caucus, Council of NGO and other international organizations. Mr. Scherr was a Peace Corps volunteer leader in the Philippines where he coordinated the work of more than 30 Peace Corps volunteers. He was Associate Peace Corps Director in Honduras where he supervised volunteers and was liaison with Honduras government social and welfare agencies.



**Victor W. Sidel, M.D.,** ( 2000 conference)

Dr. Sidel is Distinguished University Professor of Social Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Sidel is a graduate of Princeton University with honors in physics and of Harvard Medical School. In addition to many academic experiences, in 1984 he was appointed Distinguished University Professor of Medicine at Montefiore and Einstein. Dr. Sidel is deeply involved in international health work, has studied health care in a dozen other countries, and has been a consultant for the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

**Ruth Sidel, Ph.D.,** ( 2000 conference)

Dr. Sidel is professor of sociology at Hunter College of the City University of New York. She has worked in the care of emotionally disturbed children in Boston and as director of social work in a community health center in the Bronx. Professor Sidel has studied the role of women, the care of preschool children and provision of human services of urban areas in the U.S. and several other countries. She has made seven study visits to China and has lectured widely on the impact of poverty on women and children. She is also author of a number of books, including *Women and Child Care in China*; *Growing in the Shadow of the American Dream* and her most recent book, *Keeping Women and Children Last: America's War on the Poor*.

**Vivian Stromberg,** ( 2006 conference)

Executive Director, MADRE. Since co-founding MADRE, Vivian has worked extensively with women in conflict zones on issues of: armed conflict and forced displacement; women's health and reproductive rights; economic justice and community development; Indigenous Peoples' rights and resources, food security and sustainable development; human rights advocacy; youth; and US foreign policy. She is an internationally recognized popular educator and human rights trainer, with particular expertise on sexual violence, armed conflict and trauma, human rights, and child development. Vivian has worked extensively in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Cuba, Haiti, Africa, Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and led dozens of educational and fact-finding delegations in the countries where MADRE works. As a MADRE representative to the United Nations, Ms. Stromberg has extensive experience in international conferences, including the 1993 United Nations Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women and NGO Women's Forum in Beijing, China, the 2000 Beijing + 5 Review Process and the 2005 Beijing + 10 Review Process, and the 2001 World Conference on Racism.




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## TRANSITIONS

**It is with sadness we announce the death of two of our previous conference speakers. The following messages are about Cynthia Cohen from the CRC Coalition and a news release about Mr. Anthony Freeman.**

**Cynthia Price Cohen:** On October 11, 2007 the world lost an outstanding woman who was a wife, mother, friend, actress, legal scholar and life-long advocate for global children's issues. Cynthia Price Cohen was a remarkable, intelligent, and creative woman whose lively spirit touched all who were blessed to know her. Cynthia was also an entrepreneur and together with her beloved husband Joseph Cohen, invented the Liftvest, a transfer aid for persons with mobility problems. Cynthia has left an enduring legacy in the arts, advocacy, and legal scholarship. While she will be sorely missed, her life's journey has left an indelible impression on all of us.

**Anthony G. Freeman,** 72, who coordinated international labor affairs at the State Department, died of cancer May 5 at his home in Bethesda. Mr. Freeman was a State Department Foreign Service officer for more than 30 years. He was special assistant and coordinator for international labor affairs from 1983 to 1993, serving under three secretaries of state.

# Fifth Biennial Conference

*April 18-19, 2008,  
sponsored by the Global and Multicultural Education Center,  
the University of Missouri-Kansas City Women's Center,  
and other participating organizations.  
Manny and Sara Pedram*

## **SUMMER INSTITUTE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Education 489 Q

Reference 12556

In the midst of the climate debate, what as a teacher are you doing to advance a sustainable approach for teaching climate change and raising awareness of your students?

**CLASSROOM TEACHERS ARE INVITED TO:**

1. A free and open forum at the Kauffman Foundation (Brush Creek Room), Feb. 16, 2008, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
2. Hear what is new in climate change and learn about an opportunity available in professional development.
3. Register for a week of Summer Institute starting on Monday, June 2 to Friday, June 6, for 2 hours of professional development graduate credit.

Space is very limited. To reserve your spot, email Global and Multicultural Education Center

<[info@kcglobalconcepts.org](mailto:info@kcglobalconcepts.org)> with the following information: Name, School, and e-mail, or contact UMKC School of Education, Continuing Education.

This course is coordinated by Dr. Manny Pedram, a former classroom teacher, educator and director emeritus of G.A.M.E., with a team of university and community consultants knowledgeable about various aspects of climate change and skilled in professional development.

This forum and summer institute is a joint project of:

(G.A.M.E.) Global and Multicultural Education Center

(UMKC) University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Education, Continuing Education with financial assistance from:

(EPA) Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7

G.A.M.E has been a leader in encouraging classroom teachers to teach global climate change in their classrooms for more than 20 years.

### **International Calendar:**

January 4, 1969: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in force.

January 3, 1976: UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in force.

January 18, 2002 : Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography in force.

## GLOBAL CONCEPTS

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

A non-profit organization.

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### **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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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.