

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILD LABOUR DESK – DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN
INTERNATIONAL
No. 1 (November - December 2001)

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1. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN, TORTURE AND OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENCE (Tampere, Finland, 27 Nov. –2 December 2001)

From November 27 to December 2, 2001 Helen Bayes, Secretary General of DCI, participated in the International Conference on Children, Torture and other forms of violence (Tampere, Finland) organised by the OMCT with the Mannerheim League for Child Welfare and with the support of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Conference supported the UNGA's decision to conduct an international study on violence against children and urged for states' intervention against violence. The Conference stressed the increasing trends of violence in several of its forms, including child slavery, bonded labour and related child trafficking. Chapter 19 in the Plan of Action for the Declaration was dedicated to the issue and underlined the fact that slavery and bonded labour may affect physical, psychological, social and intellectual development. This occurs not only because of the conditions in which children are kept but also because of the physical, mental and sexual abuse often perpetrated by employers. The long working hours, the working conditions and the suffering make these forms of labour a sort of torture, against which intervention is necessary.

According to the final Declaration approved at the Conference, intervention should take place in the form of an in-depth international study on violence against children (in its diverse forms). A Special Rapporteur with the collaboration of an expert, UN agencies and related bodies and the Committee on the Rights of the Child should develop the study.

The Declaration also urged for States' intervention for the ratification and implementation of international and regional human rights and humanitarian instruments relevant to violence. Domestic laws should be amended on these treaties within a national plan of action against violence. The Declaration thus looked at the need to promote and ratify ILO Convention 182 Against the Worst Forms of Child Labour and ILO Recommendation 190. Implementation mechanisms, rehabilitation of child victims were strongly emphasised at the Conference and are also present in the final Declaration.

For further information and final Declaration, please visit the website: www.omct.org

2. NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL MARCH

In the New Year, the Global March will launch the World Cup Campaign 2002, which will target labour violations in the sporting goods industry. FIFA sub-contracted companies are on the spotlight, as they have appeared to be violating labour rights and standards. Such violations are reported in a document prepared by the India Committee of the Netherlands: "The dark side of football: child and adult labour in India's football industry and the role of FIFA".

In the mean time, FIFA and UNICEF have launched a campaign to promote the rights of the child in partnership. The World Cup Campaign 2002 has requested UNICEF to see the partnership as an opportunity to urge FIFA to adopt transparent monitoring mechanisms to end child labour in the sporting goods industry.

For the report *The Dark Side of Football*, please visit the website: www.indianet.nl/iv.html
For further information on the World Cup Campaign, please contact the Global March: yatra@del2.vsnl.net.in

3. **CHILD SOLDIERS**

On November 15 2001, the Child Labour Desk participated in the NGO Group on the Rights of the Child, Sub-Group on Children in Armed Conflict and Displacement. Valuable information on child soldiers (one of the worst forms of child labour according to Convention 182) was given. The breaking news of the meeting was that the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts** will come into force on February 13, 2002 since all the ratifications needed for adoption were obtained in the first half of November.

For the unedited guidelines of the initial report and a list of the countries that have ratified the Protocol, please visit the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR): www.unhchr.ch. (Click into **Human Rights Issues, Children, Children in Armed Conflict** and then the **Protocol**).

For further information, please contact the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers: info@child-soldiers.org

3. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

25-27 FEBRUARY 2002,

Combating Child Labour; Building Alliances against Hazardous Work

Location: The Hague, Netherlands

Organiser: Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment in co-operation with the International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI) and with the support of the ILO

Information and contact: Congrex Holland BV, P.O. Box 302, 1000 AH Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Tel. +31-20-504 0200, Fax +31-20-504 0225, email: childlabour@congreg.nl

4. **RESOURCES, PUBLICATIONS AND USEFUL WEBSITES**

•*Child Domestic Workers.*

- Anti-slavery International is preparing a **Handbook on Advocacy on Child Domestic Workers**, which will be produced in English, French and Spanish. To receive a free copy, please contact: Jonathan Blagbrough, j.blagbrough@antislavery.org
- Information on child domestic labour, including a virtual library on the topic, can be found on the website of the Global March Campaign against Domestic Child Labour: www.globalmarch.org/childservants/
- Further information on the topic is displayed on the website of Child Workers in Asia: www.cwa.tnet.co.th (under the icon "Behind Closed Doors")

•*Ratification of Convention 182.* The complete list of the countries, which have ratified the Convention, is provided and updated by the ILO in their website: www.ilo.org (under IPEC, Ratification Campaign). The list is presented in the format of a map. By clicking in the continent of interest and into the country, information on the ratification process for that specific country will be shown.

•*Research on child labour.* The World Bank, ILO and UNICEF are the promoting bodies of the two-year Inter-Agency Research Cooperation Project: **Developing New Strategies for Understanding Children's Work and Its Impact**, co-ordinated by Furio Rosati at the Innocenti Centre, Florence, Italy. The project aims at developing more accurate research, data collection and analysis on child labour, enhancing capacity for data collection and analysis and improving

impact assessment of interventions in the field. The above objectives were identified within a collaborative effort between the three agencies, which should produce a more efficient approach to the issue of child labour. The project welcomes NGOs' collaboration and involvement, especially as far as the worst forms of child labour are concerned. The project's website currently offers access to resources, data, country statistics and bibliography (by author, date, title, country and thesaurus).

For further information, please visit the website: www.ucw-project.org
or contact: Furio Rosati, frosati@unicef.org

•*Child Soldiers.*

- The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (ICRC) has prepared an information kit on children in war, which includes issues on *child soldiers*. The kit, which is available on the ICRC website, includes details on the role of the Red Cross, legal protection for children in war, articles and pictures. Several legal and human rights treaties are mentioned and are available at least in their relevant articles. The ILO Convention 182 and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts are also part of the documents included in the website.

Please, find the kit at www.icrc.org, by accessing Issues and Topics, and then Children and War.

- The ILO and the Quaker United Nations Office have launched a joint research project on child soldiers. It will be sponsored by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will have a twelve-month timeframe. The title of the project is "*Voices of Young Soldiers, Why do they fight: Why do they Stop?*" and will look at the root causes of children joining armed forces or armed groups. Its aim is to develop effective reintegration strategies. Research, which will be based on five or six in-depth interviews of young soldiers (up to 25 years of age) from different countries, will also consider the factors behind voluntary joining of armed forces. The project will develop into a book, a report and relevant publications. A series of workshops will also take place around the topic after research is completed.

For further information, please contact: Rachel Brett, r.brett@guno.ch
Irma Specht, specht@ilo.org

•Publications

Dorman, P. (2001) Child Labour in the Developed Economies. ILO/IPEC Working Papers. Geneva: ILO/IPEC. The paper argues that child labour also exists in developed countries, especially in some of its worst forms, e.g. child prostitution. The need to understand the phenomenon in developed countries, where economic wealth has been achieved, lies on the importance that policies may have in the eradication of child labour. For the study, a survey was conducted in each of the following countries: USA, Canada, EU, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. The paper is available at www.ilo.org, by accessing IPEC, Publications and Child Labour Policy.

Halson, A. (2001) "Underage and underfire: an enquiry into the use of child soldiers 1994-1998", Childhood, 8, 3, 340-360. The article considers the circumstances under which children are recruited by armed forces. The analysis of two sets of countries (respectively 162 and 165 countries) shows that child labour may actually reduce recruitment, which may be seen as alternative to work.

Liebel M., Overwien B. and Recknagel A. (eds.) (2001) Working Children's Protagonism. Social Movements and Empowerment in Latin America, Africa and India. Frankfurt/Main, London. The book gives an alternative view on child work based on articles by several authors from different regions. The focus is on child's participation and children's protagonism in the fight for the recognition of children's rights through the experience of the International Movement of Working Children. To order a copy of the book, please contact: ikoverlag@t-online.de. Price: 25 Euro

Independent researchers (2001) Good Practices in Action against Child Labour: a Synthesis report of Seven Country Studies (Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Philippines, Tanzania, Thailand, and Turkey), 1997-98. Geneva: ILO/IPEC. This is a synthesis report of the extensive research conducted in seven countries in relation to the fight against child labour. While the country studies have contributed to the development of child labour programmes at the national level, the synthesis aims at having a wider impact at the policy and programme level worldwide. The paper is available at www.ilo.org, by accessing IPEC, Publications and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Child Labour Desk
Defence for Children International
1 Rue de Varembe
P.O. Box 88
Ch-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 734 0558
Fax: +41 22 740 1145
Website: www.defence-for-children.org