

Global Information for Local Action

A global network of NGOs has been established for sharing information on children's rights and interpreting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly through case studies.

The Children's Rights Information Network (CRIN) will focus initially on special child protection measures and children's civil rights and freedoms. It will develop training materials and services for global information exchange, a database on "who is doing what".

DCI's Children's Rights Documentation Centre in Geneva will be a key contributor to CRIN. The Documentation Centre, which has nearly 10,000 documents on children's rights issues and violations, provides information services to researchers, DCI Sections, and other organisations.

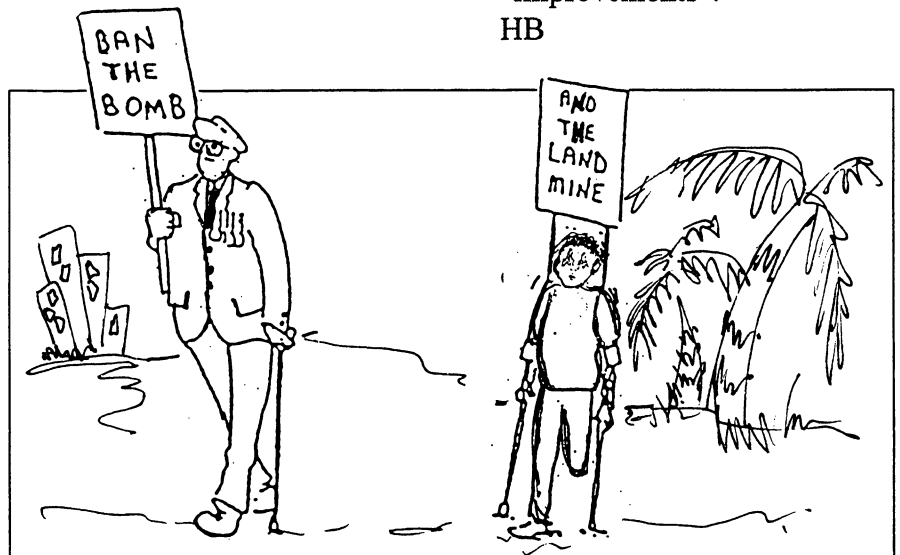
DCI-Australia now has its own collection of 1000 references on children's rights and hopes to develop a database using the same format and software as the Documentation Centre. Already we get several requests a week for information from students, researchers and journalists. Links to CRIN will enable us to exchange information globally.
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Secretary-General's Flying Visit

On Saturday morning, 12 August, DCI's Secretary-General Ricardo Dominicé spared a few hours of his family holiday to share all manner of DCI news around the globe. Members from Sydney, Wollongong, Brisbane and Canberra met with Ricardo at the Friends' Meeting House, Surry Hills and then saw him to his plane.

We were glad to hear that the next International Congress and General Assembly will be held in Montreal in June 1996, and sorry to hear that the financial viability of the Monitor is still in doubt, despite strong efforts to secure specific funding for it.

We discussed the activities of some of the 50 sections - Israel, Holland, Bolivia, Senegal, Equador and Belgium. Ricardo spoke about variety, the importance of international links and projects, and fund-raising.



Landmines Campaign

The international landmines campaign is gathering momentum in Australia. International Landmines Day on 28 August focussed attention on the Commonwealth Government's refusal to ban landmines. Australia should join Sweden, Mexico, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, the European Union and the UN Secretary-General in calling for a total ban on the production and use of land-mines.

Landmines disable and blind more children everyday. They lead to mothers tying their children to them while working so the children will not run into mined areas. No technology will devise landmines that can distinguish a child's foot from an adult's, a civilian's from a fighter's. They are an outrage against human rights regardless of technological "improvements".
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