

Children Act 1995 sought to shore up the Kilbrandon principles by; enshrining in legislation that the welfare of the child was to be the paramount concern, that no orders were to be made by a Court or Children's Hearing unless such an order was in the best interests of the child and that the child's views were to be taken into account when determining courses of action. (Bala et al,2002,108)

Given recent media comments and difficulties evidenced in practice with respect to care and protection issues in Western Australia there are some valuable lessons to be learnt from Scotland. On a recent study tour I had occasion to enter a discussion comparing Western Australian's child welfare and Scotland's child welfare, one thing was clearly evident, that the lack of external complaints mechanisms within Western Australia is not conducive to a child's rights based approach to welfare nor does it provide the level of transparency that is evident within the Scottish system.

## References

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## Violence Against Children: New NGO Advisory Council for Follow-up to the UN Study

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**A new NGO council is being formed specifically to support strong and effective follow-up to the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children.** Its primary purpose is to encourage and maintain NGO involvement at national, regional and international levels in follow-up advocacy with governments, UN agencies and others for full implementation of the Study's recommendations. The new NGO Advisory Council will have 18 members: 9 representatives from international NGOs, and 9 representatives selected at regional level from national and regional NGOs.

The nine international representatives have already been selected based on nominations invited from INGOs around the world. Each representative was selected based on the representative's/organization's commitment to the study, expertise on violence against children, ability to relate to broader networks during the follow-up, past history of participation in the study process, and potential contribution to the follow-up process. Paulo Pinheiro and Jaap Doek were each consulted for the final selection process.

The selected organisations and their representatives are: CRIN (Veronica Yates), Defense for Children International (Virginia Murillo), ECPAT (Theo Noten), Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (Peter Newell), Human Rights Watch (Jo Becker), OMCT/World Organization Against Torture (Cecile Trochu Grasso), Plan International (Ann-Kristin Vervik), Save the Children Alliance (Roberta Cecchetti) and World Vision (Sara Austin). Brief bios of each of the members appear below.

The process of selecting the 9 regional representatives is still underway, but will be announced shortly.

The mandate of the NGO Advisory Council is:

- To encourage and maintain NGO involvement at national, regional and international levels in follow-up advocacy with governments, UN agencies and others for full implementation of the UNSG's Study recommendations;
- In particular to advocate for a Special Representative to the SG on violence against children and to work with a SR when appointed;
- To work with the Independent Expert and the

Inter-Agency Working Group, particularly in identifying key priorities for the working group and its members and developing follow-up activities and strategies to ensure effective implementation of the Study's recommendations;

- To identify and transmit important information regarding VAC from the field level to the SRSB and other appropriate UN bodies;
- To use and strengthen existing information channels/mechanisms (e.g. CRIN, NGO Group mailing lists, etc.) to inform the child rights NGO community regarding the follow-up of the UNSG's Study on VAC and its implementation;
- To be strongly and systematically connected to the proposed Youth Council in order to support continued and increased participation of children in follow-up;
- To participate in monitoring the implementation of the Study's recommendations by member states.

Cristina Barbaglia will be working part-time, based in New York, to support the work of the Advisory Council during the lead-up to the 2007 UN General Assembly session. The Advisory Council can be contacted through Cristina at [barbagliac@gmail.com](mailto:barbagliac@gmail.com)

**\*\*Visit CRIN's [page on the new NGO advisory council](#), formed specifically to support strong and effective follow-up to the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children**

**\*\*For more information, contact: NGO Advisory Council for the UN Study on Violence Against Children Cristina at [barbagliac@gmail.com](mailto:barbagliac@gmail.com)**

Visit: <http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=13320>

### **VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: A toolkit on positive discipline**

[15 May 2007] - Physical and humiliating punishments are recognised by the UN Study on Violence against Children as the most common form of violence affecting children the world over. It has a high degree of acceptability in South and Central Asia, as a method of instilling discipline and exercising control over children by adults within the home, schools, work place and in institutions. Physical and humiliating punishment can be replaced by techniques of positive discipline. To order a hard copy of the report, write to:

Prajwol Malekoo  
([prajwolm@sca.savethechildren.se](mailto:prajwolm@sca.savethechildren.se)) with a cc to  
Neha Bhandari ([nehab@sca.savethechildren.se](mailto:nehab@sca.savethechildren.se))  
Regional Communications Officer.

### **Youth Advocacy Program: Workshops for 14-17 yr olds (Brisbane)**

YANQ has been supporting a group of individuals and organisations (including Just Rights QLD and the YWCA) to organise workshops for people aged 14-17 years at various locations in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast to foster the advocacy skills of young people.

If you would like to find out more about these workshops or the program you can visit the program webpage, ring David at YANQ on 3844 7713 or email [youth.program@justrightsqld.org](mailto:youth.program@justrightsqld.org).

You can catch all the latest news directly from the upgraded JRQ website at <http://www.justrightsqld.org>.

**Young Indigenous Leaders Forum (Brisbane)** The Young Indigenous Leaders' Forum brings together 20 young Indigenous people from across Queensland.

The forum will be held from 28 May to 31 May 2007. Forum participants will:

- learn about leadership and how to connect to resources
- develop networks with other young leaders and potential mentors
- discuss specific community issues • gain knowledge of business within the private, public and community sector.

The Young Indigenous Leaders' Forum will be organised by the Office for Youth, Department of Communities. The theme of the program is "Across Two Worlds", recognising the additional challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people working within their own communities and the broader Queensland community. If you are interested in participating in the forum, you will need to complete an application form.

For more information phone 1300 555 954 or visit <http://www.reconciliation.qld.gov.au/events/leaders.html>.