



International Society for Mobile Youth Work Stuttgart



European Network for Street Children Worldwide, Brussels

## Street Children and Mobile Youth Work

Documentation of the International Symposium in  
St. Petersburg, Russia, 8 – 11 September 1998

### Table of Contents

Forewords.....	9
----------------	---

#### Chapter 1

#### Welcoming Addresses and Statements from Russia

<i>Alexander Hasov</i> The Welfare of Disadvantaged Children is of Principal Concern to the City.....	15
<i>Margareta Mirsagatowa</i> <i>We Are Waiting for Positive Input.....</i>	16
<i>Natalija Leonidowna Jewdokimowa</i> Street Children - a Worldwide Problem.....	17
<i>Vladimir Trojan</i> Street Children as a Phenomenon of the Crisis.....	18
<i>Nina Twardowskaja</i>	

Concern for the Coming Generation.....	20
<i>Alexander Stepanow</i> Towards Cooperation Between Ecclesiastical and Governmental Agencies in Social Work .....	21
<i>Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, Alexei II</i> The Misery of Children as an Injustice .....	22
<i>Jürgen Gohde</i> Hope for Children.....	23

**Chapter 2**  
**International Contributions**  
**from the Fields of Politics, Science, and Practice**

<i>Maartje van Putten</i> Changes in society - a challenge for ENSCW .....	28
<i>Jochen Weitze</i> Political Strategies in the Struggle Against the Exclusion of Children and Youth in Germany.....	31

<i>Emanuelle Tremblay</i> <i>UNICEF Strategies with Regards to Street Children</i> .....	34
<i>Görel Thurdin</i> The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child .....	38
<i>Walther Specht</i> Mobile Youth Work in Europe.....	42
<i>Pekka Haavisto</i> European and Worldwide Networking - A Clearly Defined Task.....	46
<i>Jürgen Gohde</i> The Global Role of the Church With Regards to Street Children.....	48
<i>Ernst-Ulrich Huster</i> On the International Development of Poverty and Social Exclusion.....	51
<i>Frans Krasovec</i> The Role of Dutch Cities and Municipalities in Dealing with the Problem of Street Children .....	57
<i>Ayşe Sule Çağlar</i> Paths to Independence - a Practical Example From Turkey.....	63
<i>Werner Blenk</i> The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) .....	65
<i>Mr. Alphonse Tay</i> Strategy in the Struggle Against the Social Exclusion of Street Children and Youths: UNESCO Point of View.....	69
<i>Dr. Rui Antonio Ferreira da Cunha</i> Children at Risks/Street Children .....	72
<i>Olivier Chazy</i> The Street Children of France .....	77

**Chapter 3**  
**Russian contributions**  
**from the Fields of Politics, Science, and Practice**

<i>Margareta Mirsagatowa</i> Russian Street Children - an Analysis of Concrete Problem Situations.....	83
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

<i>Galina Sorokina</i> Social Services for Russian Street Children and Youth .....	85
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

<i>Artur Rean</i> Social, Pedagogical, and Psychological Aspects of the Phenomenon of Street Children and Street Youths in Russia .....	88
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

### Three Practical Examples

<i>Alexander Fein</i> A Network for the social protection of children and youths in St. Petersburg .....	95
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

<i>Benjamin Benz</i> The St. Petersburg Children's Centre .....	97
--------------------------------------------------------------------	----

<i>Peter Grünberg</i> A Rehabilitation Centre for Disadvantaged Children on the Edge of the City .....	99
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

### Chapter 4 Reports from the working parties

<i>Working Party II Horst Steinhilber</i> The Role of Sports, Culture, and Art in Mobile Street Work Worldwide .....	102
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

<i>Working Party III Christa Veigel</i> On the Dangers to the Health of Street Children through the Inhalation of Harmful Substances .....	103
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

<i>Working Party IV Gerhard Fuchslocher</i> Violence and Criminality in Youthful Street Groups .....	105
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

<i>Working Party V, Christa Specht, Ingrid Scholz</i> Street Children, Sexual Violence and Sexual Pedagogy .....	107
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

<i>Working Party VI Hans Steimle</i> Experiences from Street Children Projects in Latin America, Africa, and Asia in Comparison to Projects in Russia .....	109
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

<i>Working Party VII Michael Schirmer</i> Training, Advanced Training, and Continued Training in Mobile Youth Work .....	111
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

---

## **Chapter 5 Further Findings of the Symposium**

General Policy Statement.....	115
Action Programme of the Organisers.....	116
Reactions and Appraisals from Russian and Elsewhere .....	118

## **Appendix**

From the programme.....	123
List of Participants .....	130
The European Network on Street Children Worldwide .....	146
International Society for Mobile Youth Work, e.V., (ISMO).....	148

The four Joint Chairpersons of the Symposium:  
Alexander Hasov, Municipality of St. Petersburg; Dr. Walther Specht (ISMO); Maartje  
van Putten (ENSCW); Prof. Artur Rean, University of St. Petersburg (from left to right)

*Maartje van Putten*

## **Foreword**

It is almost one year - how time flies - since we all met in St. Petersburg, Russia for the international symposium "Street Children and Mobile Youth Work", organised jointly by the European Network on Street Children Worldwide (ENSCW, Brussels), the International Society on Mobile Youth Work (ISMO, Stuttgart) and the City and University of St. Petersburg. The symposium attracted enormous interest from both Russian and international parties and as a result there was an attendance of more than 300 participants from 38 countries; almost all continents were represented.

### *Background*

The reason for holding the symposium was triggered by our Russian partners to benefit from the know-how and the expertise of street workers in Europe and all over the world.

There was also growing concern from information given to ENSCW and ISMO that there were an alarming number of street children living in unacceptable conditions in Russia and other Central European countries. In 1997, for example, the German Embassy estimated the number of street children in Russia to be 2 million.

The financial crisis (August 1998) worsened the economic situation. The crisis had indeed dramatic consequences on income levels and thus the living conditions of the population and impacted in particular on the lives of street children.

### *What did the conference achieve?*

The symposium was a unique chance for Russian NGOs and local authorities to express their need of support to face the dramatic situation of children in their city. The workshops and the informal meetings indeed allowed local NGOs to benefit from the experience and know-how from their counterparts in other parts of the world in different fields such as sexual exploitation and education, the role of local authorities... Furthermore, the conference had a positive impact in St. Petersburg as local NGOs got to know each other and are now working together. The Russian organisers certified that "*the symposium gave an impulse to strengthen the activities with street children and achieved to draw the attention of the public to the issues facing street children*". The symposium was highlighted in all St. Petersburg newspapers as well as in national ones; Russian TV featured the issues on their Panorama Programme (9<sup>th</sup> September 1998).

Furthermore, Prof. Rean confirmed that local NGOs in St. Petersburg are now exchanging information on a regular basis thus meeting the objective of strengthening civil society.

Of course, the conference gave special opportunities for international participants to learn about the situation in Russia where the dislocation of the families, mainly due to unemployment and alcoholism implies that each year half a million children are neglected by their families. As a consequence, parents' rights over their children are

being increasingly withdrawn by the authorities thus producing the next generation of "social orphans".

In a country where all the youngsters were obliged to achieve high levels of education, the increasing and disturbing number of school drop-outs is perceived as a dramatic phenomenon - it is estimated that 600 000 children have no possibility to continue their education.

Furthermore, the symposium also gave a voice to government representatives and officials from international organisations who urged governments and States to act, to cooperate and to fully respect the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Mr. Pekka Haavisto, Finnish Minister for International Development expressed his growing concern about the indifference and the lack of contact between the "*the World under the sun and the world under the earth*". Therefore he urged actors involved in addressing the rights and needs of children at risk and street children to join forces.

Mrs. Görel Thurdin - Rädde Barnen/Swedish Save the Children and Mr. Alphonse Tay - UNESCO stressed the responsibility of the State in the fight for the welfare and rights of the most deprived. Dr. Rui Cunha - Secretary of State for Social Inclusion stressed that judiciary instruments were already at the disposal of the States. By signing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, States indeed agree not only "*to respect and guarantee the rights of all children within their jurisdiction without any discrimination, but also promised to take all legislative and administrative measures necessary to fulfil this obligation*".

As a consequence, the conference adopted a general policy paper - reproduced in this report - that urges international action and recognition of the children's rights and needs. It is hoped that the foundations laid at the conference between the policy makers and the civil society for a partnership approach, will be maintained and reinforced as a binding commitment to improving the lives of street children.

Finally, the symposium aimed at developing cross-disciplinary cooperation between academics, field workers, and political representatives on a national, European and international level.

As you will see from the Action plan adopted during the symposium, a Russian Network on Street Children, a branch of ENSCW, is being set up.

As a follow up ENSCW is considering the best way it might support the establishment of the Russian Network.

Participants and ENSCW members were able to discuss in depth some of the key issues facing street children, to review the future function of the European Network and to agree follow-up activities for strengthening its capacity to respond to the needs of its members.

We consider this conference to be a significant first step towards improving the situation of street children not only in Russia but also in maintaining this issue on the International Agenda.

### *Conclusion*

It was the first time the network organised such a complex and important event together with one of its important members. The lessons we have learnt will need to be embedded in our future activities.

The informal networking proved a useful and challenging stimulus. One Turkish participant wrote "*such meetings provide great motivation for the participants who work at different levels (...). Besides the meeting gave courage to the participants to*

*maintain their struggle for the deprived children in their countries.” One Dutch streetworker said: “I have never learnt so much in my life before, than in this one week”. A participant from South Africa added, that she hopes “to make use of the networking opportunities to form partnerships, exchange programmes and information exchange with members [she] met at the conference.”*

#### *Acknowledgements*

We would like to acknowledge with thank all contributions from Donors, Participants and Russian hosts in making possible this first step towards hopefully strengthening civil society and highlighting the situation that faces Russian street children as we enter the millennium.

This report is being published in German, Russian, Spanish, English and French with the support of the French Ministry of Employment and Solidarity. Many thanks to Mr. Stéphane Tessier and to Mr. Olivier Chazy for their support, advice and remarks.

Our gratitude also goes to Mr. Pekka Haavisto - Minister for International Cooperation/Finland, to Dr. Rui Cunha - Secretary of State for Social Insertion/Portugal, Mrs. Görel Thurdin - Rädga Barnen/Swedish Save the Children/Sweden, Mr. Pierre Schori - Minister for Foreign Affairs/Sweden, Mr. Stefan Eriksson, Desk-officer for Central and Eastern Europe of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs/Sweden, and finally to the British Department for International Development.

Furthermore, we also would like to thank the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs who did not make a direct contribution towards the conference, but who made a contribution towards the Foundation European Network on Street Children Worldwide.

Our gratitude also goes to COMINTOUR, especially Mrs. Garbouz, Mrs. Malkova and Mrs. Petrova who organised the accommodation and visits during the conference.

In addition, our thanks and gratitude goes to the co-organisers of the symposium;

- The University of St. Petersburg, with a special thanks to Prof. Rean and Dr. Tchernenko,
- The city of St. Petersburg, with a special thanks to Mr. Hasov and Mrs. Sorokina,
- A special acknowledgement to the International Society for Mobile Youth Work (ISMO), without whom we would never could have organised this major event. In the name of the Board, I would like to express our gratitude to Prof. Dr. Walther Specht, Mr. Joachim Kleppel, Mrs. Claudia Dubois-Raymond and Mrs. Susanne Portraz. They and our unequalled Claudia Arnold, co-ordinator of ENSCW, formed a wonderful team that had to work under great pressure.

We also want to express our gratitude to the participants of the conference who contributed towards the unique atmosphere and we believe success of this symposium.

Brussels, July 1999

Maartje van Putten, MEP

*Walther Specht*

## **Foreword**

The International Society for Mobile Street Work (ISMO), a professional association within the Charitable Department of the Evangelical Church in Germany, the European Network on Street Children Worldwide (ENSCW) in Brussels, Belgium, and the St. Petersburg Municipality and State University, held an international symposium on the topic of "Street Children and Mobile Youth Work" in Belosselskij-Beloserskij Municipal Palace, St. Petersburg, from 8 - 11 September 1998, with approximately 300 participants from 38 countries.

Experts from the fields of science, practice, charitable departments and politics met in the highly hospitable and open-minded city of St. Petersburg, uniting ecclesiastical and government agencies, institutions, and administrations. As may be seen from the programme, there was no shortage of prominent political and religious personalities, who, through their presence and contributions, stressed the social tragedy of the worldwide problem of millions of street children. At the same time, the participants demonstrated their willingness to take responsibility for the necessary changes, particularly, in view of the fact that increasingly greater numbers of the world's children and young people are living in misery on the street, deprived of basic human rights. These young people lack food, clothing, shelter, constructive training, and leisure activities; they receive no assistance grants, and enjoy no security. They often live without rights or social space, and are defenceless against emotional, social, and physical violence. Today more than ever, these youths must be given future prospects for the 21st century.

How did the participants in the symposium respond to this challenge?

All four days, plenary sessions and discussions, working parties and project visits were characterised by lively, active exchanges of information on the problems of street children and young people at risk in various nations of the world. The chief emphasis of the symposium, however, was upon preventing the impoverishment and reduction to misery of the world's young people, and upon an examination of the politically and theoretically based action concepts and concrete assistance projects derived from those concepts by the individual states or municipalities.

In keeping with the theme of the conference, the central emphasis was upon the concept of mobile youth work, developed over many years of international exchanges by the University of Tübingen since the 1970s. Based on the American concept of community-based street work, and practised as a professional concept of social work in the USA as early as the 1920s, mobile youth work objects to the international trend towards purely individualistic assistance in social work. Mobile youth work, by contrast, stresses system-oriented thinking and actions (family system, clique system), while its concepts refer to the primarily positive educational significance of groups outside the family (peer groups, friends, cliques, gangs). Family support and community work

(resource orientation, district and network work, empowerment, mediation) are also indispensable to mobile youth work.

Even though the concepts and projects described by the participants in the symposium were often not based on the theory and concept of Mobile Youth Work, it was nevertheless quite clear that the basic elements of mobile youth work -- partiality, children's rights, sex-specific perspectives, an orientation towards needs and resources, systematic thinking, community mobilisation, participation, and self-organisation -- played a central role in a great many papers, from both Russian and international participants. To this extent, the symposium was a complete success. But to the organisers, it was very much more: it involved establishing a consensus as to content, while indicating methods of youth social work which would be viable and rich in prospects at the present time, thus contributing to an improvement in the living conditions of street children and street youth.

Criticism of the concept of mobile youth work was, of course, also expressed. This was, however, directed less against its basic content (basic elements), but rather against an impression on the part of among individual participants that mobile youth work, as a professionally, theoretically based concept of action, was overly self-confident and insufficiently self-critical. The limits of this approach still need to be worked out in greater detail.

That the limits on social work, generally considered, are very narrow, particularly, in view of the economic background -- especially in Eastern Europe and the developing countries -- was repeatedly emphasised by symposium participants. The organisers therefore selected the theme and concept of "Mobile Youth Work", because, through its systematic orientation to the living world, it looks beyond the very cost-intensive and purely individualistic forms of assistance developed, in particular, by Western countries and still enjoying a certain dominance.

It became apparent immediately after the symposium, and is proving hopefully true today, 6 months later, that, for example, signs of reinforced cooperation of Western participants with the Russian network for Street Children, founded during the symposium, or with the charitable department of the Russian Orthodox Church, indicate rather an extension and overcoming of borders.

These are very encouraging signs of hope.

Stuttgart, March 1999

Walther Specht

Prof. Dr. Walther Specht

**Chapter 1**  
**Welcoming Addresses and Statements from Russia**

*Alexander Hasov\**

**The Welfare of Disadvantaged Children is of Principal Concern to the City**

A word of welcome from the Lord mayor of St. Petersburg

My friends,

I wish to welcome you with all my heart. In the days to come, we will deal with a very acute problem. You came to St. Petersburg to discuss the problems of street children and related phenomena in Russia and elsewhere. The number of children in difficult situations, is, in fact, constantly increasing all over the world, including in Russia. Children in difficult situations are in particular need of our support. One objective of our symposium is to help them overcome their difficult living situations and return to their families. You can all support us in this objective.

I am glad that you have all gathered for the symposium in St. Petersburg, and I hope that this meeting in our beautiful city will be both fruitful and successful.

Gouverneur Vladimir Jakovlev

---

\* Alexander Hasov, Joint Chairperson of the Symposium, is employed by the Youth Welfare Office of the City of St. Petersburg. Mr. Hasov spoke on behalf of the Lord Mayor of the City, Vladimir Jakovlev.

*Margareta Mirsagatowa\**

**We Are Waiting for Positive Input**

Expectations of the Moscow Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen, Participants in the Symposium

Please permit me to express my thanks for the invitation to participate in the present symposium. In the coming days, we will direct our attention to methods of working with children, particularly, with street children. One of the greatest tasks in this regard lies in preventive work with children at risk of exclusion from society. Another task relates to assistance to children already in difficulties. The new social conditions in Russia at the present time, however, prevent the implementation of a governmental children's rights policy. As a consequence, the number of social orphans is constantly increasing. Related problems are also increasing in like measure. We are witnessing the social and moral collapse of many families. Children are being practically expelled from their families. The reasons for this phenomenon include demographic, social, and psychological factors, all of which will be discussed at this symposium.

The official committee from Moscow, which I represent at this symposium, and various other social institutions as well, are making an effort to develop measures such as the creation of new legal foundations intended to work for children at risk under the present economic, political, and economic circumstances. Corresponding programmes such as the broad Programme of the Chairpersons, "Children of Russia", are being worked out to support children in crisis situations through the assistance of the programme. But we lack experience in working with street children. We, that is, in particular, many Russian participants in this international symposium, are waiting for corresponding factual knowledge, in relation to development of a concept for working with street children.

The work of the Moscow Committee of the Russian Federation, which I represent, is also concerned with the situation of street children at present time. The results of this international symposium are quite important to us. We are waiting for positive input in the work of our committee, as well as corresponding partners in large cities such as St. Petersburg and Moscow.

I would therefore like to wish all participants a productive work and work rich in experience during the symposium. The future of the planet depends upon your work.

---

\* Mrs. Mirsagatowa spoke as Government representative of the Russian Federation in Moscow (see also p. 78).

*Natalija Leonidowna Jewdokimowa*\*

**Street Children - a Worldwide Problem**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Symposium Participants.

On behalf of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you all very sincerely.

The problem with which you are concerned is of contemporary concern, not only in our country, but also in all countries of the world, regardless of their commercial social, political, and economic situation. The problem of street children is an international problem, which must be dealt with on an international basis. Children are the future. Leaving the coming generation on the street would be equivalent to losing our future.

This danger is of especially contemporary concern in our country at the present time. Russia is in the midst of an economic crisis. It is clear to us why children go on the street, but we lack the resources to support their families.

I wish you successful work at the conference, and await the results of the symposium with the greatest interest.

---

\* Natalija Leonidowna Jewdokimowa is Chairperson of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg

*Vladimir Trojan*\*

### **Street Children as a Phenomenon of the Crisis**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues

Please permit me to welcome you as participants in this international symposium. The purpose of the symposium is to discuss the problem of "Street Children and Mobile Youth Work".

On behalf of St. Petersburg University, I turn to you today: the problems facing you today are closely related to the future of Russia. But first let us take a look at Russia's past.

The educational and vocational training of the youth of St. Petersburg was extraordinarily well organised by the founder of the city, Czar Peter the First.

As early as 1724, Peter founded the University and Academy of the Sciences, as well as the classical secondary schools; other educational institutions date back to him as well. These three pedagogical institutions provided very well for the country's future for several centuries. The University of St. Petersburg forms part of our educational tradition even today.

Honoured colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen! "Derelict children" \*\* are a phenomenon of crisis. This was apparent as early as the 1920s, after the civil war, and just as much so after the end of the Great Patriotic War in 1945. In past decades, however, the nation nevertheless found ways to solve the related problems.

For a decade now, Russia has been traversing a crisis, which will lead to a new economic order. The related problems can only be countered with difficulty. Unfortunately, the first to suffer are, of course, the children. It is a genuine task of the state, a special challenge to science and society as a whole, to support children on the street and to enable them to lead lives worthy of human dignity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues! The present conference is dedicated to an acute complex of problems. The international exchange of experiences is exceedingly important, in order to adapt to Russian society strategies for a solution already having been found in other countries. We hope that this conference will result in some useful first experiences.

The city of St. Petersburg is already committed to the support of "derelict" children.

---

\* Dr. Vladimir Trojan, high school teacher at the State University of St. Petersburg, spoke on behalf of Prof. Ludmilla Verbizkaja, Rector of the university of the same name.

\*\* Street children in Russia are often referred to as "besprisornyj", derelict children, even today.

A variety of homes, called asylums, have been opened for these children. Children need a normal, regular, workaday routine in their lives and, most particularly, they need a society returning to normality. The University of St. Petersburg and the faculty of Psychology, Sociology, and Pedagogy join you in wishing to help integrate these children into a consolidated society.

We must work today to protect the future of our children, the future of the children on this planet. Ethical and moral standards recognised all over the world play a central role in this endeavour. All the world's religions, Christianity and the Christian churches in particular, bear a great responsibility in this task. Man must be at the centre of our community of values. From this point of view, the fate of street children becomes a complex of ethical problems, which must be taken seriously. The symposium will deal with this problem.

I wish you much success in your search for solutions.

*Nina Twardowskaja*\*

### **Concern for the Coming Generation**

Ladies and Gentlemen, participants and organisers of the representative forum. On behalf of the Russian Academy of Education, I would like to extend my very sincere greetings to all participants in this conference.

Russian scientists, and the world community as a whole, are concerned with the problems confronting growing human beings, even in childhood. Under the present circumstances of social and political change in Russia, it has become difficult to prepare youths for the future. We are especially concerned with the increasing numbers of "derelict children" and the living conditions of our children in the Russian families of the present. Regional programmes of the Academy are making an effort to provide an answer to this problem. At the same time, new pathways are being tested in order to organise social work in Russia. Thus, a sort of "search movement" is coming into being; new models of social pedagogical assistance and educational working methods with children will be tested with the assistance of this movement. In so doing, our chief concern is with children from critical environments and/or families at risk. Russian scientists and practitioners are working on new systems of rehabilitation of these children. The present living conditions in Russia will be taken into consideration at the same time. In my remarks, I can only sketch out a many-sided complex of problems burdening the coming generation. One of the chief concerns of this meeting will be to deal with this complex of problems. I would like to wish all participants successful work to the benefit of our children. You, the experts of this symposium, are to help establish the manner in which children may best be helped on the political, legal, social, or simply the human level. I believe that the common efforts of scientists and practitioners, politicians and political institutions, especially in Russia, as well as all over the world, must be directed at the coming generation, the generation of the 21st century.

---

\* Nina Twardowskaja is the Representative of the Academy of Education in Russia.

*Alexander Stepanow\**

### **Towards Cooperation Between Ecclesiastical and Governmental Agencies in Social Work**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, brothers and sisters, Father Vladimir Fjodorow, who wished to speak today on behalf of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, could unfortunately not be present. I must therefore speak on his behalf.

In the name of the Metropolitans of St. Petersburg and the Ladoga region, I welcome you all and wish you much success in the fulfilment of the present symposium.

It is no accident that of the two foreign Co-Chairpersons of this Symposium, at least one of them represents an ecclesiastical service, the Evangelical Church of Germany. Social service still forms part of what the Christian churches stand for, particularly in Europe.

Social work has been a constituent part of the Russian Orthodox Church for many centuries. In past decades, however, all the ecclesiastical structures were dismembered and destroyed. The Church was forbidden to engage in social activities. The structures of social work are therefore being re-developed today.

We have therefore begun to incorporate fields of social work into the catalogue of responsibilities of the Orthodox Church, as well as of the other Christian denominations. That this is a complicated and difficult process is due to the fact, for example, that we have very little experience in cooperation with governmental structures. For some time, we acquired our initial experiences in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other cities. Church hostels and homes were opened there. But they are still heavily regulated by the State.

With a regard to our work with street children, I am of the opinion that, in the future, the ecclesiastical agencies of this work will work in close cooperation with those of the state. Our church alone cannot bear the costs for social work with street children. It can, however, offer the moral and ethical basis for this work. The Holy Scriptures gives us a reference for this: our work must be "built on a firm foundation".

I do not believe that the governmental structures, in particular, the public authorities concerned with this problem will fail to heed our wish to take part in this work. I believe that this symposium will be very informative as to the experiences of Christian churches in cooperation with governmental structures in the West. Your experiences may constitute a major basis for our future work in Russia.

---

\* Alexander Stepanow spoke as a representative of the Russian Orthodox Bishop of St. Petersburg, Vladimir Fjodorow

*Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, Alexei II.*

### **The Misery of Children as an Injustice**

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear brothers and sisters! I wish to welcome you very sincerely as participants in the international symposium for street children and mobile youth work. You are meeting at a time in which our country is experiencing great difficulties. The greatest injustice, which we cannot accept, is the misery of our children. We share their suffering when we think of children growing up without love and affection.

The Russian Orthodox Church, which has cared for the weak for more than a century, is also making an effort to help street children, and give them lodgings and hope. We recognise that every one of us bears a responsibility before God our Lord as regards the weak, and I recall the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ: "Verily, I say unto you: all that you have done for the least of your brothers, have you done for me".

Therefore I welcome the purpose of the international and Russian, governmental and non-governmental organisations and spiritual associations to unite all men of good will and their dedications in the solution of humanity's most difficult problems.

I wish you God's help and much success to you and your gathering. I ask the blessings of God on all your doings for the well being of street children.

Alexij, Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia.

*Jürgen Gohde*\*

### **Hope for Children**

Prayer from the ecumenical religious service, Church of St. Petri

Although a number of participants attended the religious service, participation was strictly voluntary. We have thought fit to transcribe the Mass for the sake of the completeness of our report.

Dear friends, Dear Brothers and Sisters, Ladies and Gentlemen!

At the beginning of the St. Petersburg congress on street children, we are gathered together to pray, to be still, to think, and to listen.

A great hope has been entrusted to us. This hope relates to children; these children are a unique object of hope. These are the children with whom we live, children whose daily life is the street, whose misery we recognise and share, whose joy fills us with joy. These children are an image of life. They are an image of God, the friend of our life, both Father and Mother.

A great love has been entrusted to us, a love, which can change all things, a love, which so many men need. It is a love, which we sometimes hardly even recognise, in the injuries and humiliations of many children. These children hunger for love. They live on the street, without a roof over their heads, and work well into the night, beg or trade, in physical danger, eager for a good word, a tender gesture, or a meal once a day. Children without parents, on the run, often without a future. May the spirit of God, who brings men together and reconciles them, be with us. He brings us to life in these days. We therefore pray for his presence and hope that bridges may be built between North and South, East and West, between men speaking quite different languages, with different experiences, who view things in quite a different light.

This is the spirit of God, which allows us to find new pathways with one another, and to another, filled with enthusiasm. It is His spirit, which allows us to act as the advocate for the living. He ejects the violent from their thrones and raises the lowly. To take a few steps forward together in the struggle against poverty and social exclusion is an act of love, an act of life. It would truly be an act of life if the persons involved then became participants, taking up our hope and going forward together, in the same love and in mutual knowledge. We can no longer afford the luxury of hopelessness. The power, which enables us to create something new socially, to reconstruct social relationships, may be illustrated by a Bible story. I would like to recall it to you briefly:

Jesus of Nazareth was underway with his disciples. They had had an exhausting day and were extremely tired. The disciples thought that Jesus

---

\* Chairman of the Charitable Department of the Evangelical Church of Germany

needed to sleep at that moment. They thought he had done enough. Then some women came with their children and disturbed the quiet. They had only one purpose. They wanted His blessing for their children. The blessing of Jesus, the blessing implying the strength capable of healing a ruined life, His strength which is joy, His strength which is love. The women knew that His blessing was of great value to their children; it is also of great value to us. The women saw that if they allowed the disciples to prevent them gaining the blessing, that they would miss their opportunity. Without His blessing, humanity has no chance; without His blessing, the soul remains deaf. Men are running into a void. What a spectral scene: the disciples desiring rest for Jesus, and therefore building a wall around him, shielding women from life who seek life. But one cannot build walls around life. Life makes its own way. When people come to Jesus, they must not be sent away. When men see life, Jesus breaks down all well-intentioned barriers. "Suffer little children to come unto me, forbid them not" (Matthew 19:14). Children are a sign of the Kingdom of God. Men do not count for their power and influence, for their money or outward show of power. We all know that the reality of life often appears otherwise. We are all familiar with a reality in which children are victimised, in which they count for nothing, in which they have no rights, in which their lives are worth nothing, nothing at all. We are all familiar with situations in which their hopes are trampled underfoot.

What good is the process of the globalisation of world markets, of information, in which money can travel around the world but people cannot? This is what counts: "Suffer little children to come unto me, forbid them not." These words are a power capable of changing reality, a power in the struggle against religious and social demoralisation, even in the midst of plenty, a strength, which can take away our fear to advocate life? This is not just a beautiful dream, flowers on a daisy chain, to borrow a phrase from Karl Marx; rather, it is the principle of hope that counts, hope that gives our longing wings, which inspires our minds with fantasy and good thoughts, our hearts with the strength of transforming love. The man who said this was himself born a child in misery. A child full of love, full of spirit, a child of great power, one might say. The power of love, a living strength, a child who, as an adult, created room for the living and who continues to inspire people to do the same, even today. I am thinking, for example, of the family of a priest near Bergier Possad, who has taken many children off the streets and given them a home in his own family. I am thinking of the members of NPRUH in Managua, who endure the violence and the living situations in the markets of this city, seeking hope for children attempting to live on the streets of Brazil, Guatemala, or elsewhere. I am thinking of the volunteers, both men and women, who set the signals of hope by creating a space for meeting and for action, oriented towards the living world, against violence, against drugs, thereby strengthen the powers of life. The list can be extended to any length. The way of hope is at least as powerful as all the things that cause us to become discouraged.

"Suffer the little children to come unto me, forbid it not, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven"

That is our hope for these days and beyond. Amen.

Ecumenical religious service in the Church of St. Petri  
Sermon by Jürgen Gohde, Chairman of the Charitable Department of the Evangelical  
Church of Germany

Choir, Ecumenical religious service

Alexander Hasov, Prof. Artur Rean

**Chapter 2**  
**International Contributions**  
**from the Fields of Politics, Science, and Practice**

*Maartje van Putten\**

### **Changes in society - a challenge for ENSCW**

I feel very honoured to have been given the opportunity to address this conference as President of the European Network on Street Children Worldwide and to welcome you on behalf of the Board.

I am grateful to our Russian co-organisers who, despite this difficult time in Russia, have arranged for this important conference to be held in their beautiful city of St. Petersburg at this well-known university. They are hosting this conference together with ISMO from Germany and my own organisation, the European Network on Street Children Worldwide. Special thanks should extend to Prof. Rean of the university and Mr. Hasov of the city. Huge efforts have been made to bring a great many people together from 38 countries worldwide, to discuss the developments on the streets of our cities.

I would like to begin by explaining briefly who we are and what we do in the Network, and what we will be talking about and hope to learn from this conference.

#### *Why do street children exist?*

When talking about street children, we tend to find ourselves speaking about the rapid changes which are taking place in the world today, although the phenomenon is not a new one. Changes in the natural environment worldwide have involved the disappearance of forests, the expansion of deserts, and a decrease in the fish stocks of oceans and rivers. Climate change has led to flooding in China and Bangladesh, while Africa is confronted with erosion, deforestation and drought. Human intervention is responsible for many of these changes in the natural world, changes which will in turn affect human life, since it must be recognised that mankind is part of nature.

The creation of huge cities with large shopping centres selling the kind of consumer products that society seems to have become addicted to, and the creation of modern transport systems have destroyed the natural environment in which children used to grow up. Streets were children used to play have been taken over by cars. The construction of large factories and business centres far from home mean that children are no longer in touch with their parents' daily work. The labour market has become more flexible and global outlook, with work places operating both day and night shifts. Consequently, parents seldom eat meals together with their children, and such meals tend to consist of convenience foods rather than fresh produce. All this has resulted in a divided society with small numbers of the very rich and large numbers of people living completely outside the social system.

---

\* Maartje van Putten is President of the European Network on Street Children Worldwide.

Such changes in society have greatly affected the organisation of the family. At our last conference in Amsterdam Professor Pilotti from Uruguay said of the situation in Latin America:

"North and South have embraced the democratic system as the preferred way of life in their societies. In most Latin American countries this goes far beyond the election process. A commitment to respecting human rights and constant improvement of the mechanisms to ensure full citizenship to all are the true test of a democratic society... Street children are indicators of the social pressure building up in different societies and should aid us forecasting the future political climate. If neglect of the plight of the children and their families continues, there is a high probability that the sunny season of democracy will be brief and that stormy weather lies ahead in the shape of authoritarian regimes which usually step in under the pretext of restoring order."

Thus in his presentation Professor Pilotti warns us that the action taken by a country with regard to children and their families is politically very significant.

#### *Why does the Network exist?*

The European Network on Street Children Worldwide unites European non-governmental, governmental, multilateral and international organisations, and individuals, all of whom are committed to addressing the rights and needs of street children worldwide. The organisation was set up as a result of a hearing at the European Parliament on March 28 1994 in Brussels. The Network itself does not work directly in the streets of the world's cities; this is the task of the members who employ their own unique methods. The members of the Network vary in size and type. They range from a small group of citizens who may work on a daily basis with street children in their own neighbourhood or abroad, to street artists like Circus Elleboog, to long established organisations who have worked all over the world for many years, such as ISMO, Save the children, Rädda Barnen (Swedish Save the Children), and ChildHope International. Our members also include cities themselves. For example, present at this conference is a delegation from the city of Kerkrade located on the Dutch-German border, and they will be making presentations at the working-group meeting on Thursday.

Despite having an extremely varied membership, all our members do share a common concern with the social structure of society today. The main function of the Network is in bringing together such like-minded people and organisations. We are able to share information on what is happening in the city streets all over the world. Members inform each other about experiences in the field and make suggestions with regard to good practice. In this way, we support each other in our attempts to influence the political system and society on the issues that concern us.

The Network has been in existence for four years and our activities in Brussels are supported by grants from various European Union governments, including Finland, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United-Kingdom, Portugal and France. We are extremely grateful for this support and for the additional support provided by our members through their membership fees.

*Our expectations for this conference*

Finally, I'd like to express my wish that all of you will enjoy this opportunity to exchange information on the issue we are concerned about. Hopefully this conference will assist us in getting our message across to the public and to politicians, some of whom we will be meeting during the next few days.

*Jochen Weitzel*<sup>\*</sup>

**Political Strategies in the Struggle Against the Exclusion of Children and Youth in Germany**

First, some information on the situation of street children in Germany generally. The situation in our country is not, of course, comparable to the situation, for example, in South America or Russia. Estimates speak of 5,000 to 7,000 street children in Germany. And these cases involve, not children, but, rather, 14-18 year olds at least. But, as correctly stated at the conference, the numbers are not what counts. Regardless of how many street children there may or may not be, they urgently require the support of youth policy agencies and youth assistance services in the municipalities, and of society as a whole.

In approaching the topic of today's morning session, "Political Strategies in the Struggle against the Exclusion of Children and Youth in Germany" such strategies must, in my opinion, begin with a discussion of the reasons for exclusion. Against this background, it appears to me that we must reinforce the instances of socialisation, such as family, school, and youth assistance.

With regards to the family, to me, this means strengthening the material situation of the family, which, of course, naturally includes single parents, while strengthening the educational authority of the family. Precisely because nothing can be more important to children and young people than growing up in a family environment of trust, an environment which provides guidelines and communicates values.

In Germany, we are attempting to reinforce the material situation of the family through family allowances.

Where the educational assistance is concerned, in Germany, we have a modern children and young people's assistance law which entered into effect in 1991 with a broad range of services in support of parental educational responsibilities.

With regards to the reinforcement of the young people's assistance services, I would like to mention the law I referred to just now. The services available under this law include, in particular, children and young people's emergency services, start-up and advisory offices, street work, mobile youth work, as well as forms of living care taking place outside the family (such as home education, living groups, living communities).

---

<sup>\*</sup> Herr Jochen Weitzel is the Ministerial Director of the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) in Bonn

The already existing services naturally do a lot, but, in their usual form, are still insufficiently successful in reaching street children. Street children are therefore presenting the youth assistance services with face new challenges.

The Federal Ministry for Youth has therefore drawn up two plans for the technical further development of the range of services and performance of the youth assistance agencies:

- First, we have subsidised the "Street Children and Young People" research project of the German Institute for Youth in Munich since 1994.  
An exact knowledge of the living situation of these minors and the "street world" is a precondition for the discovery of pathways towards social reintegration and the development of new services designed to fit new needs. This is associated with the further development of conceptual building blocks encouraging interdisciplinary cooperation on local levels, to help prevent street careers from falling into an inevitable vicious circle, resulting in impoverishment and long-term exclusion.  
The results of this project were recently published in book form. Furthermore, an inquiry was carried out among the persons concerned and, therefore the street children themselves, in connection with this project. The interviews were published in this book.
- Second, in 1995 we initiated the action programme entitled "Residence: The Street: Children and Youths in Special Problem Situations". This programme was intended to contribute to the further development of municipal assistance services, increasingly well organised in terms of mutual coordination, and, more precisely, designed to fit the problems of the persons concerned. At locations in Dresden, Karlsruhe and the Ruhr, the young people's assistance services are being encouraged to facilitate a gradual ascent out of the "street scene", in cooperation with free agencies, individual assistance and non-bureaucratic forms of action.

The project is still current, and runs until the end of September 1998.

Since the sexual abuse of children has been mentioned several times at this conference, I would like to say that, in reference to the Stockholm World Conference, we have worked out an extensive working programme to combat child abuse, child pornography, and sexual tourism through an entire package of measures in the field of enlightenment and prevention, legislation, international criminal prosecution, and victim protection.

This programme has -- and I am glad to say -- also found recognition in foreign countries.

I would now like to enter into a brief discussion of the problems relating to education and the job situation. This is not only an urgent problem generally speaking; rather, it is a problem for the excluded and disadvantaged in particular.

It is frequently stated that the youth assistance services are intended to accomplish the integration, or reintegration, of street children. With a glance at those young adults

having formerly lived on the street, the question arises of where the youth assistance services are really supposed to integrate them. The youth assistance services must create future prospects for young people, prospects which street children no longer possess due to their biographical damage, failure to obtain school-leaving certificates, "blank spaces" in their curriculum vitae, and their living habits directed at survival on the street but not at "normality", as a result of the economic situation and training and job situation.

This problem is gaining explosive power due to the fact that the gap between the requirements for entering a vocation and the educational qualifications of street children today are even greater today than in the early 1980s.

We are hoping for know-how and assistance, among other things, for our action programme "Working World Related Youth Social Work", initiated this year and running until the year 2001 with a total of 23 projects.

Street children are -- as repeatedly emphasised at this conference -- not just a national problem; they are a global problem as well. In my view, therefore, the assistance of international organisations is also required. In addition, the problem must also be kept in mind by the individual governments within the framework of their particular international activities. Thus, in Germany, for example, the Ministry for Development Assistance supports programmes in the struggle against poverty, which are intended to flow preventively into the field of "street children". German NGOs furthermore support street projects from development assistance funds. Or, to mention one example out of my own Ministry: the topic of street children has, in the meantime, also been included in the form of staff seminars within the framework of measures drawn up by the German-Russian Youth Council on the basis of the corresponding government agreement on youth exchanges.

In conclusion, I would very much like to clarify something at this point:

The political instances - I am speaking of the Federal instances in Germany - can create legal instruments and basic conditions, it can provide active encouragement, and provide input through model measures. But there is one thing it cannot do, and that is, it cannot actively accept cases on the spot.

Here, as in other fields as well, it is dependent upon cooperation in partnerships, not least of all with free agencies and NGOs.

I would therefore like to express my thanks to all those involved in this work for their great personal commitment and dedication in this difficult field -- in our country, for example, the Federal Labour Association for Street Work and Mobil Youth Work, and all others active in this connection as well. I would furthermore like to thank you for conferences like this one, not just because they are held in the beautiful city of St. Petersburg, but because they create and maintain an official political consciousness.

*Emanuelle Tremblay*<sup>\*</sup>

### **UNICEF Strategies with Regards to Street Children**

Dear colleagues,

I would like to structure my presentation on three main axes:

I will start by presenting the general UNICEF approach to strategy development when dealing with issues such as street children; I will then introduce the specificity of the UNICEF Russia programme strategy; and finally, I will focus on the concrete example of programme implementation in the city of St-Petersburg.

#### *UNICEF's Strategic Approach*

When one tackles the issue of neglected or street children in any country or region or city, there are necessary basic elements and considerations that have to be taken into account before one is able to design strategies. An inventory of knowledge, programmes and policies of all actors involved has to be undertaken as a first step. We need to have a general idea of what is being done by the Federal and local governments, by academic institutions, by non-governmental, church and community organisations to tackle the issue of children and families at risk.

In UNICEF's jargon, this is called the situation analysis and this allows us to identify the gaps in knowledge and where we are most likely to intervene in support of all these institutions to better serve the children and allow their rights to be respected. Identifying the gaps is the second step.

Once this is done, the third fundamental step that will allow our strategies to function is to create general awareness of the decision-makers, professionals from the law enforcement, judicial, education and social sectors, media and the public at large on the sensitive issue of children in especially difficult circumstances, including neglected and street children<sup>\*\*</sup>. Awareness is the key to building consensus around the necessity to respect children's rights. This awareness is raised among different groups by different means but as a rule, making the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) widely available, teaching it in schools and referring to it whenever we talk about children and youth issues is a good step in the "rights" direction. General awareness will probably and unfortunately reveal that children's rights are violated in all sorts of ways, and will help the society focus on the plea of the most vulnerable strata of society. This is where the real hard work begins!

---

<sup>\*</sup> Prepared by Emmanuelle Tremblay UNICEF Moscow in cooperation with Judita Reichenberg and Olga Remenets.

<sup>\*\*</sup> In the Russian context, we use the term unsupervised children to identify the growing number of children spending a considerable amount of time on the streets because of the lack of extra-curricular activities and the high number of working hours of their parents.

Real work requires complementary approaches of:

1. Preventing that at risk children become children in need of special protection. In the case of Russia, we could say that we intend to prevent that unsupervised children become neglected and street children.
2. Responding to the needs of the children in the streets, vulnerable to different harmful conditions. It is important here to underline that the group that we call street children is not an homogeneous group. Therefore, there is no single response to their situation.

The "street child" that is compelled for whatever reason to work in the street and earn, requires a social and economic solution slightly different from the "street child" who is in conflict with the law. One needs to recognise that sometimes one and the same "street child" is faced with complex problems that require complex measures.

#### *UNICEF in the Russian Federation*

UNICEF has been working in the Russian Federation for just over a year now and it soon became obvious that the Russian context is complex and that a comprehensive situation analysis was not possible to develop at once with our national partners. You can imagine by the size of the country and by its Federal nature how hard it is for the Government and for UNICEF by the same token to design policy that is applicable everywhere. UNICEF Russia is moreover not a full-fledged country programme, since Russia is not, and should not be considered as, a developing country. Therefore UNICEF has to focus most of its attention on advocacy, awareness raising on children's rights, and capacity-building of policy makers and practitioners. UNICEF in the Russian Federation does not have the means to deliver services and is very limited in providing support at a wide geographical scale. We work at the Federal level with Ministries of Labour and Social Development, Education, Internal Affairs, Health, among others. We provide technical assistance to design programmes that will both prevent that children find themselves on the streets and help the ones in the streets to live in better conditions and eventually re-integrate the family environment, school, the community.

UNICEF also works with a number of NGOs who have developed innovative approaches, and explores the possibility of making good practices become part of future government policy.

We favour a local approach and develop partnerships with city authorities to engage in more comprehensive programme implementation (the example of St-Petersburg follows).

Working in Russia may sound for certain people like "mission impossible", but we need to stress a number of positive features of working in this country. Generally speaking, we are dealing with a very educated society, which has vulnerable to differ-quite strong government structures and procedures that we just need to help restructure for better efficiency. There are a lot of data available and the legislative environment is very well documented. We can say that in Russia, there is a core of key people in the Ministries who have a very broad understanding of what the Convention is all about,

and are dedicated to make it a reality. In some judicial and law enforcement circles (judges, police officers), there is an openness to consider the street child and the young offender as children/adolescents in need of protection and rehabilitation, and as children who have something to say about their own destiny.

UNICEF has engaged in a series of media workshops and there is now a group of journalists who are well equipped to deal with youth issues such as STDS, HIV/AIDS, drugs and delinquency in a non-sensationalist way, bearing in mind the principles of the CRC. There are also a number of University professors, and among them professors of future teachers, who have been teaching the CRC and encouraged their students to put it in practice in their working environment. There are a number of new services, notably social services, which have been developed, in the last years. The profession of social worker has been "created" in Russia recently and we are starting to see emerging tendencies of social work worth building upon.

All these are positive elements that need to be taken into account when developing strategies and partnerships.

Of course, there are also major difficulties and shortcomings. The present economic situation may unfortunately result in a large leap backward in terms of social policy. We are however convinced that with the help from intergovernmental organisations such as UNICEF, the Russian people and the governmental and non-governmental structures will be able to overcome the crisis.

UNICEF's most important role in this context is two-fold: offering a platform for dialogue between all engaged in making the Convention on the Rights of the Child a reality in the Russian Federation and acting as a catalyst for change through capacity-building and advocacy.

UNICEF's experience in over 140 countries around the world gives us access to international expertise in a variety of domains that we can apply when we deal with our partners, be it with Governments or the civil society, be it at the Federal or local level.

#### *Experience in St-Petersburg*

As I said earlier, among UNICEF's strategies to deal with the emerging issue of unsupervised and street children, we develop partnerships with cities and develop as comprehensive programmes as possible in these cities, working with government and NGOs. In the concrete example of St-Petersburg. UNICEF has decided to support or engage in a number of activities aimed at different groups of children at risk: support to the social response to young offenders (training of judicial and law enforcement professionals and establishment of the post of a social worker in court), drop-in centre for unsupervised children, drug prevention and support to families of drug-addicted people, establishment of a programme of preparation to independent living for children leaving state care, establishment of a local ombudsman for children, training of journalists on youth issues, etc. We feel these activities are to some extent all related to each other and the small financial resources that are put in each part of the project has a catalyst effect on mobilising other resources/energies. UNICEF is negotiating

with the City authorities the signing of a generic cooperation agreement that is the basis for more specific contracts with partners.

The cement of all these UNICEF supported activities is the establishment of the Youth Information and Support Centre which serves the following four purposes:

- A place where young people can drop-in in a safe space and engage in extra-curricular activities including production of information material, training on life skills and peer education, etc. The Centre should belong to young people and they should be involved in the decisions involving its orientation and activities;
- A clearinghouse for information on existing governmental and non-governmental services for children and families in St-Petersburg for referral purposes, and collection of information materials on youth issues such as HIV, drugs, CRC, etc.
- A first line consultation point (psychological, social and legal) for children, adolescents, parents, etc. and referral to other existing services;
- A meeting place for all government, NGOs, community and church organisations working with children to exchange information on programmes and coordinate action.

I will spare you the details of other projects, but UNICEF is willing to share with all interested parties information on its programmes and projects.

In closing, I would like to thank the International Society for Mobile Youth Work and the European Network for Street Children Worldwide for having made this meeting possible. I truly believe that together, we can support the Russian people in dealing with the emerging issue of children at risk in this period of economic and social hardship.

*Görel Thurdin\**

### **The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Colleagues.

I am delighted to be part of this worldwide event on Children and Youth in Especially Difficult Circumstances, organised by The International Society for Mobile Youth, the Foundation European Network on Street Children Worldwide and the University of St. Petersburg.

The presence of so many organisations engaged in the improvement of children and youth situation such as the organisation that I represent, Rädga Barnen, will in the next days not only establish new contacts but also share views and contribute to proposals for a concrete global strategy.

#### *The child's best interest*

How the UN convention on the Rights of the Child, which came into force in 1990, apply to the 100 million or more of children and youth living on the streets of the cities of the world?

There is a clear violation from the States parties. The number of abandoned children is increasing at a tremendous rate.

Who determines what exactly a child's best interest is?

And how are they best met if not through the governments?

Do the States Parties consider that they have to take all appropriate measures "to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury, abuse or maltreatment"?

The Convention reflects children's best interest.

All provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child - the almost universally ratified Human Right Instrument - call for the protection of children's right to life, education, health and other fundamental needs. The twin principles of universality and indivisibility make the Convention unique. The UNCRC is also the base for democracy. As a matter of fact is the true test of a democratic society

The Convention may not have changed the reality for many children but it is the start of a very strong instrument especially as it has to be monitored.

#### *The UN Convention on the Right of the Child*

---

\* Mrs. Görel Thurdin is a Member of the Swedish Parliament and Chairperson of the internationally active NGO, Rädga Barnen/Swedish Save the Children.

Governments should adopt a coherent policy to end the most inhuman and degrading form of living, which is unacceptable, and they should respond with dignity and integrity to this phenomenon called street children by creating the appropriate structures to overcome the current situation and create a mutual political solidarity for the present and future generations. In the developing countries and even in the most industrialised the phenomenon lies in the economic and social system, the distribution of wealth excluding the majority of the world's population. Structural changes have to be done.

It is almost impossible to understand the magnitude of the problem. We are speaking of millions and millions of children, who never reach adulthood, no past, no future.

Street children are the victims of the dissolution of the families living in extreme poverty due to unemployment, wars or armed conflict, natural disasters, abuses of all kind.

The International Agencies, as well as the NGOs, which are the voices of the most vulnerable in the society, can help to find the appropriate solutions at local and global level, but the main responsibility lies on the States. The governments should look after and protect their citizens. Children and youth are citizens.

Different countries from different continents of the world have different traditions; different features and they tackle the problems in different ways. The care facilities and approach to this problem is different, but the nature and the consequences are the same: sexual abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, exploitation, TBC, recruitment to armed conflicts, drug abuse, premature pregnancy, mental perturbations due to the ill treatment, discrimination, violence etc are the common denominators in all countries.

It is a high time to put this issue on the world's agenda for prevention, protection and rehabilitation of children at risk not only because it is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on Human Rights and almost a decade of the UN convention on the Right of the child, but also because we are reaching the year 2000 and the goals related to human development for the next century have not really started yet.

It is an imperative to consider the various mechanisms and strategies to overcome the street children phenomenon all over the world.

Changes are evident and growing very fast such as the demographic changes, urbanisation, the economic globalisation which affect all peoples and especially the most vulnerable.

For this reason I believe that the CRC has a key role to play at global scale now and in the next century.

It is a paradox to live in times in which the Rights are part of the political speech and violations of the same rights are happening all over.

We have a long way to go before it becomes a reality, I am an optimist and I am sure that together we can succeed.

We need to promote more international co-operation so the existing legal instruments can be applied.

Within the European Union, we have to find the ways to help the poor countries and create a binding legislation to protect children and youth at risk. This is fundamental if we want a change.

The current wars and different types of political crisis on the planet have shown how little States care about children.

Violence against children is an ignored problem. We need to make especial provisions to deal effectively with and give professional support and assistance to those traumatised children. Special rehabilitation system should be handled by the local authorities of the respective countries.

Many developing countries are marked by their dreadful actions. Paramilitary groups and squads kill street children, torture them or sell their organs.

In other countries the disrespect for the universally adopted standard - the CRC - is due to the facts that the information is insufficiently disseminated and unknown by the population and the authorities. In this regard the inclusion in education of the UN Convention and other HR instruments should be a must in the school's curricula as well as in the training of the police and the military.

We are said to live in information society, we are communicating in cyberspace at global level but still information about the most basic and important issues is far away from reaching the policy makers and the population.

It is of a great importance to denounce violations of HR, which in many cases is an effective tool to promote changes.

As a politician myself, first as parliamentarian, then as minister of environment and now Deputy Speaker of the House in Sweden, I know the power of the NGOs and it is our duty to commit our selves to the causes of the citizens, who have given us their trust, and fight for justice.

Support from the budgetary lines of the national parliaments as well as International Organisations, The World Bank, the IMF and others is needed. The involvement of teachers, the media, leaders, the churches, social workers, police and volunteers is necessary. Resources must be defined to include all sectors of the civil society and also the public-private-sector partnership.

I am confident because the civil society is becoming more and more organised all over the world and the problems are seen with an "inter related perspective".

Health, environment, human geography for instance are new components in the analysis of the situation of vulnerable groups.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw the attention to the phenomenon of glue sniffing and other volatile substances. This is an issue, which has been for many years neglected by the authorities in different countries. It is time to include it in the global strategy in order to find international standards concerning the marketing and use of certain products.

Rädda Barnen in the framework of European Network on Street Children Worldwide launched a campaign at the European Parliament this year. It is very important that this type of drug abuse should be incorporated in the programmes of the European Union and UN agencies.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope the debate and ideas exposed in this Conference will help to raise the international standards in relation to children and Human Rights issues. I would urge the governments present here and other in decision making position to make a commitment and guarantee solutions for the millions of street children and help to prevent this evil. All of us have a roll to play

*Walther Specht*<sup>\*</sup>

### **Mobile Youth Work in Europe**

#### *1. What is mobile youth work?*

Mobile youth work today is a professional method of performing social work and of social pedagogy. It is also concerned with street children and street youths. Their problems include isolation and poverty, physical hunger, lack of affection and respect, drug consumption, an inclination towards violence, extremist tendencies, homelessness, and boredom.

The Street Work assistance approach developed for advisory work on the street is now practised all over the world in a variety of forms and according to a variety of different theories. Its origins lie in the concept of street work as developed in the USA. The first social pedagogical programmes were developed as early as the late 1920s, especially in large cities, in connection with constantly increasing juvenile delinquency. The target group typical at that time was the youthful street group, clique, or juvenile gang.

Since the Second World War, street work approaches have been developed in almost all the nations of Western Europe, in Great Britain, where it is referred to as "Detached Youthwork". In the Netherlands, it is known as "Street Corner Work", in Switzerland as "Gassenarbeit". In France, street workers are referred to as "Travailleurs de la Rue"; in Germany, this approach is referred to as both Street Work and Mobile Youth Work.

Since the political change 1989/90, street work approaches have also been introduced in Eastern European countries.

#### *2. Where is Mobile Youth Work practised?*

Mobile Youth Work takes place at the meeting places or dwellings of children and youths, and, of course, almost always at times determined by the youths themselves. This is especially true for city-centre approaches, where the meeting place is usually a railway station, metro or underground, or other locations where inner-city youths tend to congregate.

The second type of mobile youth work is oriented towards principles of district and municipal work. Here the main emphasis is placed upon the prevention or reversal of the process of exclusion from a social environment remaining intact to some extent, such as the family, clique, or city district.

---

<sup>\*</sup> Dr. Specht is Director of the Charitable Department of the Evangelical Church of Germany, with headquarters in Stuttgart. He teaches as honorary professor at the University of Tübingen.

Wherever groups of the same age, or cliques play a central role for the individual youth, such as supplementing the family or even substituting for the family, this fact is reflected in corresponding group pedagogical activity. These activities view the relational group, not primarily as an instance of seduction, but, rather, as social forces capable of mobilisation, which strengthen, reinforce, and positively correct, street children and street youths.

3. *Which are the social and youth policy possibilities of Mobile Youth Work concept?*

8. Topics:

- 3.1 The most important objective with regards to the improvement of the living situation of street children and street youths is, in each case and depending on the levels of action, to create a
  - Global
  - Continental
  - Regional and
  - Localmovement of alertness, allowances, care, and assistance.  
In this process, viable action concepts, compatible with those applied in other humanitarian affairs, must be developed simultaneously.
- 3.2. For youth policy officials on the national, regional, and local level, this is primarily a matter of drawing up a solid inventory (field analysis, social space analysis) of the living situations of street children.  
Every action concept in working with street children should be capable of support itself with quantitative and qualitative data, such as social-spatial studies. These living situation reports are an important youth assistance policy instrument in public debate.
- 3.3. The implementation of concrete projects of mobile youth work must first of all be based on the needs of the children and youths involved. All measures in this regard should be oriented towards a reinforcement of personal identity. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that reality, for hundreds of thousands of street children in many parts of the world, still compels them to work in order to survive.  
Since the voluntary nature of cooperation on the part of the street child with regards to the project service, as well as trusting relationships with service personnel, are the central basis of the assistance process, any idea of repressive intervention is excluded by its very nature.
- 3.4. The active combating of crimes and criminal activity committed by street children (for example, violent children's cliques and youth gangs) is the business of the police and justice system, not the youth assistance services. Need-oriented youth assistance services are nevertheless strongly preventive in their effects, and make an important contribution to the creation of public safety and order.

Wherever mobile street work is directly confronted with delinquent activity, the reprehensible nature of the act is firmly stated, but without abandoning solidarity with street children.

3.5 Mobile youth work consists of youth assistance for street children on a basis of partiality. It involves:

- Street work
- Individual assistance
- Group work, and
- Community work.

This also includes development initiatives in the community, municipality, or district, to reinforce families or single parent families, or to improve the social infrastructure (empowerment).

There is very close cooperation with existing social services and self-help groups, as well as other residents not yet mobilised.

This conceptual approach assumes that the central forces of preventive and healing social work reside in the neighbourhood community itself. When these social forces are not available, or are weakened, they must be created or reinforced within the social environment.

For this reason, before creating a new youth assistance service, an examination must be made to see whether or not an already existing citizens initiative or self-help group – including those based on ethnic membership – is capable of performing mobile youth work for street children with financial and technical assistance from the government or city administration or international organisations.

3.6 Wherever there is a visible lack of training and educational services available for street children, these must be created or reinforced within the framework of community work.

Better working conditions should therefore be created for street hawkers, carpet makers, shoe shiners and car washers so as to enable them to participate in informal learning activities or leisure programmes (mobile schools, learning buses).

3.7 Mobile youth work also stresses the importance of ensuring the general interests of local residents, such as, for example, jobs, traffic, health, hygiene, environment, the desire for crime reduction, culture, sport, etc., therefore changing and improving social-ecological living situations. Community-based official enlightenment, mobilisation, and participation of local residents in problem solving all play a central role in this task.

The creation of a more humane environment for street children also includes the development of joyful leisure and cultural services (street entertainment, music, dance, and theatre).

3.8 All youth assistance services for street children should be locally supported and rooted, or should at least attempt to obtain such support. The chief responsibility in matters relating to premises and administration should lie with the local (youth assistance) authorities and municipalities; free private

bodies (NGOs) should, however, be primarily responsible for practical project implementation.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) must also be especially protected and encouraged for their work with street children by the particular state governments. In this context, NGOs are an important element of civil society and democracy.

*Pekka Haavisto*\*

### **European and Worldwide Networking - A Clearly Defined Task**

Mrs. Chairperson, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to speak at this symposium on behalf of the Finnish government. In Finland, I am responsible for the organisation of welfare and humanitarian assistance. In my country, we are fortunately able to offer assistance, since there are many Non-Governmental Organisations working with street children, among other activities. Unfortunately, the problem of street children remains unsolved despite these efforts; it may be seen that the number of homeless is increasing all over the world. This is aggravated by the increasing indifference with which this trend is being accepted, that is, the attitude towards the homeless is one of increasing indifference. This is, of course, of concern chiefly to certain countries in serious economic difficulties. They have so many serious problems that hardly anyone notices what happens to street children. This statement is true for Eastern Europe, as well as for Latin America and Asia, particularly, regions of East Asian. Finland is attempting to do everything in its power in this regard.

A few weeks ago, I received a letter from a country in South East Asia dramatically describing the living conditions of the nation's street children. This information is available at any time through the media. For example, a recent television broadcast described the living conditions of street children in Mongolia. The broadcast showed children living practically underground, in the tunnel of a heating installation. One youth was asked the question: "What would you like to do when you grow up?" His answer was the following: "My dream is to live off the bottles I pick up every day". That is the dream of the future for these children. This dream shows that the region offers no great prospects for the future.

The example shows symbolically, that humanity is practically divided into two different worlds: here, the world under the sun; there, the world under the earth, in tunnels and cellars, the sewer installations of a great city. These worlds hardly ever come into contact.

Once again I must stress that the problem of poor children is a worldwide phenomenon. I could just as easily report on Mexico, or the situation in West Europe.

Before we can change anything, we must have a clear concept of what is happening worldwide in relation to street children, as well as in relation to the assistance already being provided. We must reinforce our international contacts and undertake common efforts to provide assistance. That is why I am speaking at this conference. What you are doing in the non-governmental and governmental organisations, should and must be networked. That is a clearly defined task. In Finland, we are working in this

---

\* Pekka Haavisto spoke as a representative of the Finnish government.

direction, and the reason why I am participating in this conference is to be able to make a contribution to networking. We are already cooperating on similar programmes, such as PHARE and TACIS.

The findings of this symposium will certainly be communicated to the European Union as well. This is very important, because work is also being done on political levels within the Union to help street children and homeless children. No one should evade the responsibility implied in this work.

I mentioned my own particular concern at the beginning of my speech: the indifference with which our societies treat street children. This is true even of my country, Finland. We are struggling against economic difficulties in Finland as well. Even in our country, people are increasingly concerned with their own problems only. They are hardly even interested in the lives of their neighbours, or the lives of men in neighbouring countries. The media could play a positive role in building an awareness of the phenomenon of international poverty. The media should show positive examples of the work of individual organisations attempting to solve the problems described here, thereby encouraging others to participate in this work.

This often involves initiatives having arisen based on the unpaid work of volunteers. Volunteers, as multipliers of public awareness, contribute to a broad perception of the problem of homeless children; they confront society as a whole with these problems, performing political work on an international level. This is made clear by this symposium, and I am very grateful for your invitation to speak here today.

Jürgen Gohde\*

### **The Global Role of the Church With Regards to Street Children**

Ladies and Gentlemen, participants, the Swedish writer Ellen Kay, writing in 1899, called the century now drawing to a close "*the century of the child*". She had demanded global efforts on behalf of the world's children and, in the optimism of her upbringing, predicted a magnificent future for children.

We know that events have turned out quite differently. The small voice of the Polish pedagogue Janusz Korczak, who, with incomparable empathy, accompanied his children to their deaths and was finally killed with them by the National Socialists in the concentration camp of Treblinka, was correct in his 1928 prediction: "Beware: the strong, brutal *homo rapax* determines modern life, and dictates its patterns of behaviour. His concessions to the weak are a lie, his professed respect for the old, for the equal rights for women, for the well being of the child, are dishonest. Sentiment roams homeless - a Cinderella. But children, in their feelings, are princes, poets and wise men. We should have respect if not humility, before bright, shining, unspotted, blessed childhood" (Janusz Korczak, "The Right of the Child to Respect", Göttingen, 1972).

There has been little sign of blessed, unspotted, bright shining childhood in this century. The signs of *homo rapax*, however, are visible everywhere, throughout the Twentieth Century. You know that from your own experience. There is social and religious devastation even in the midst of plenty. I am thinking of child prostitution, the misery of child labour in India and elsewhere, children living on the streets, in the Mercado Oriental in Managua, or the railway stations of Eastern Europe, in Berlin, Amsterdam, or Rio de Janeiro. Street children are a worldwide problem. Their living conditions, like a burning glass, allow a clear perception of all other social problems. The refugee situation, the results of social injustice and exclusion, poverty and misery, the drug problem, the worldwide interweaving of economic processes to which the living conditions of men are of no concern. We cannot close our eyes before this aspect of the modern world.

Janusz Korczak made his remarks in a book entitled: "The Right of the Child to Respect". The rights of the child are a provocation to humanity in many respects. Where the rights of the child are ignored or trampled underfoot, where adults no longer perceive the face of a child as that of a living person, the result is a devastation of the human soul which has no equal. The soul – in the words of Daniil Granin, the St. Petersburg writer – becomes deaf, and loses its sensitivity for humanity. What kind of devastation results in children who are the victims of sexual misuse or violence? Trust

---

\* Pastor Jürgen Gohde is Chairman of the charitable department of the Evangelical Church of Germany in Stuttgart.

is hope, the strength to live responsibly and remain curious, to remain sensitive to the living and the vulnerable. It is a labour of Sisyphus, to prevent this deafness of children's souls, children who are, to others, are simply consumption goods or merchandise, to be disposed of as one sees fit. To take upon one's self, these efforts for the sake of life, to stand up for the protection and children's living conditions together with the children themselves, is a labour of Sisyphus.

Working with street children enjoys a prominent position in the history of the German diocese. Jonann Hinrich Wichern, the Hamburg theologian who wished to inspire the Evangelical Church for love, this very month 150 years ago, in Wittenberg, Germany, was moved to this by the observation of the situation of the street children of St. Georg, near the Hamburg railway station. The misery of the in the cities of England, working in match factories or coalmines, were also before his eyes. They were only permitted to learn to read and write and hear the word of God on Sunday. The Godlessness of such living conditions caused Wichern acute suffering. None of these children needs to be lost. This impulse of the Gospel led him to a perception of the significance of saving love. To Wichern, the central question was one of saving love, the love that gives no child up for lost, the love which seeks to provide the children with lodgings and hope; that is the question, even today. It is a matter of strategies, proposals for solutions, mutual associations, the conclusion of cooperation agreements.

What are we doing for the children? What are the Churches doing? The great German relief organisation "Bread for the World", or the Catholic "Misereor" organisation, is already committed in innumerable projects all over the world. Together with their partners on the spot, not acting on their behalf or in their place, they seek solutions ensuring assistance in the form of self-help, bound up in the living world and attempting to strengthen the forces available. The reconstruction of social relationships can only succeed in the presence of a perception and reinforcement of available resources. Those who need help must merge and form associations. Those providing assistance and those requiring help must pool their abilities and possibilities for the well being of children. The forces available in an area, a district, a house, in a neighbourhood, must combine. Speaking out for the rights of children is a conscious advocacy for the development of democracy.

Let us attempt that here, during the present symposium, in conversation, in speeches, in lectures, in discussion. Let us ask ourselves what contribution we can make – without derogation -- to the construction of civil society. The point of departure in our actions in the sense of Johann Hinrich Wichern must be a knowledge of the all-embracing situation of misery. Misery is never merely material, it is various and relative, as one sees when one travels all over the world and makes a general comparison of situations of misery. It is not just a question of hunger or poverty, there is always a social component. It bears the face of exclusion, the loss of dignity, of injured worth. Furthermore, misery always has a spiritual side. The alienation of men from their true destiny. The alienation from life, a life without sense and purpose. This side must aim at the struggle against poverty and exclusion. Let us therefore think together over the reconstruction of social relationships in a quite extensive sense, for

the well being of children and the human beings living with them and speak out for them.

In recent weeks in Germany, the Global March, the March Against Child Labour, moved many people. There is a need for this kind of social charitable movement of the Diocese in favour of street children. Help us to make them strong. Let us recognise the message of life, of human beings with a message of the possibilities of life, and of its worth.

*Ernst-Ulrich Huster\**

### **On the International Development of Poverty and Social Exclusion**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are now experiencing two processes, partly contradictory and partly running parallel to another, in both economics and politics. These processes involve the creation of increasingly greater economic spaces and international forms of cooperation. The creation of the Single Market of the European Union quite obviously represents merely an intermediate step to an extensive expansion of the European Union, to include the states of Central and Eastern Europe. The North American continent has also taken steps towards a "North American Free Trade Area" (NAFTA). There have also been economic mergers in Eastern Asia, forming a global growth triangle with Western Europe and North America, dominating the greater part of world trade.

This global competition is creating new impulses for growth. At the same time, however, the individual countries and economic regions are attempting to obtain competitive advantages through economic research policies, technological policies, and educational policies. The available financial resources of the individual countries are being concentrated in these fields. The other side of the coin of this policy is threatening to uncouple parts of regions, particularly, regions on the edges of these large economic spaces, from overall development. This process affects chiefly rural areas and, to some extent, industrialised areas as well. Other regions already suffering from particular economic problems are more or less unable to fill the development gap in order to catch up. The resulting process is one of social differentiation between regions and parts of regions and cities on the one hand, and to segregation processes within the regions and parts of regions and cities on the other hand.

#### *Gap between North and South remains unchanged*

In view of the increasingly serious process of emerging social polarisation in the wealthy countries, as well as the social collapses before the European Union's own back door, the political problems of global inequality of distribution, problems which were much more severe in earlier years, have increasingly receded into the background. The pressure exerted by millions of migrants and public debate over so-called "economic refugees" who are alleged to be merely abusing the intent of immigration law, show that this unequal distribution not only still exists, but that the dependence of the so-called Third World upon the industrialised world has not only not been reduced, but that poverty and impoverishment have increased rather than decreased, despite, or even because of, billions of Marks in development assistance. Parallel to this process, we are witnessing an increasing militarisation of these regions.

---

\* Dr. E.-U. Huster is a high school teacher at the Evangelical Technical Highschool in Bochum

A graphic depiction of the world according to actual distribution, first, according to population, and secondly, according to economic performance, would reveal a considerable disproportion. The rich North, with only 24% of the world's population, accounts for 63% of the world's total economic performance, while the poorer South, by contrast, with three-quarters of the world's population, accounts for only 37% of economic performance. 1.8 billion people must get along on less than US \$ 500 year, while the inhabitants of the USA Japan, Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain, etc. earn over US \$ 10,000 a year.

World trade consists, first of all and foremost, of domestic trade between large Western-oriented industries – which are now service nations as well! There is also a perceptible exchange, especially in raw materials and industrial products, between the developed countries and the industrial states, but this is a form of trade in which the developing countries can only participate if they dispose of coveted raw materials. The developing countries, as a whole, also exhibit a negative trade balance, which means that their debts are continually increasing. The economic programmes repeatedly imposed upon the developing countries by international institutions such as, for example, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, lead, as a rule, to greater cuts in social services, while the upper strata, in particular, continue to import coveted luxury and special consumption goods, as well as armaments, just as before. The worldwide inequality becoming visible here is not the result of too little market liberalism on a worldwide scale; rather, it is induced and reinforced by the industrialised countries themselves through market dominance and the development of terms of trade to the detriment of raw materials prices and in favour of the prices of products and services of the industrialised countries.

*The regionalisation of phenomena of poverty due to globalisation*

The future has, at least in film, already begun: residents of black Africa, cut off from water and their other food resources, are migrating to Europe and are attempting to cross the straits at Gibraltar. They are met by an army holding their weapons in firing position. The assault of the poor on the welfare fortress of Europe could – once again - be defended against.

This fictional description illustrates the potential of men struggling for their survival, while simultaneously oversimplifying the actual social processes of a process of globalised poverty. Globalisation is creating a renewed potential for poverty, even within the economic centres protected by the social-state; this potential for poverty is, in the final analysis, leading to exclusion not despite, but rather as a result of, the general multiplication of well-being. This process is reinforced by legal migration for employment purposes, such as, for example, within and between the Member States of the EEC and beyond. And, finally, there is a growing reservoir of workers working and living here illegally, with repercussions on those segments of the population already suffering from social exclusion, thereby causing working and living conditions to sink, not seldom, to levels which, until recently, could only be found in the nations of the so-called Third World. The result, at the same time, is an unpredictable conglomeration of problems the consequent effects are difficult to appraise, since the potential for conflict and competition for opportunities usually increases in

explosiveness between groups and sub-groups on the lower levels of the social pyramid, and not generally between all segments of society.

*The social polarisation process in Western Europe*

The societies in the Member States of the European Union have obviously resigned themselves to the fact that, parallel to constantly increasing well-being or even wealth, there is a dramatically increasing number of persons who cannot live on their incomes without governmental assistance. As a whole, the distribution catastrophe largely came to a head in the 1980s: from 1980 to 1992, for example, in (West) Germany, the number of recipients of living support in the form of social assistance more than doubled (index 1980 = 100, 1992 = 238), while the number of households with a monthly available income of at least 10,000 DM increased over six-fold from 1983-1993. Wealth in Germany and other Western industrialised countries, viewed from a social point of view, has become a total mass phenomenon.

According to the distribution policy criterion of poverty established by the European Commission of the European Communities at 50% of the average national household income, weighted according to the size of the household, approximately 55 million people in the countries today forming the European Union have lived in a social situation corresponding to poverty during the transition period to the 1990s. This would be 15% or one seventh of all households. At the same time, there is a considerable differentiation between the poverty rates of the individual countries under consideration at the present time; nor did poverty increase uniformly in the 1980s.

In the southern European countries in particular, the poverty rates were and are especially high; in Portugal, this proportion still stands at 26.5% despite drops in the 1980s! By contrast, Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands have poverty rates far below the European average. In Denmark, the poverty rate more than halved in the 1980s. The large countries such as Germany, France, and the United Kingdom exhibit a relatively stable poverty rate of 10%. The new states of the EU -- Austria, Sweden, and Finland -- have, to some extent, moderate poverty rates, or rates comparable to those of the large countries. Though poverty rates have been reduced in some countries, others, like Belgium, Germany, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Finland, viewed from their point of departure in each case -- continue to exhibit very constant poverty rates. In contrast, poverty in Italy and the United Kingdom has increased, in Italy even drastically!

Unemployment gaps in education, and insufficient income insurance systems, conceal special crises of poverty. In addition, certain forms of the family which -- with increasing one-parent families -- require new forms of social insurance. And finally, children and young people, in particular, are exposed to an increased risk of poverty. In total, in recent years, there has been an increasingly greater social polarisation in the Europe of the European Union, to some extent stronger and to some extent weaker, both regionally and in terms of distribution. On local and regional levels, the processes of social exclusion now becoming visible are subordinated to global developments, which would be inconceivable without worldwide and transnational inequalities, just, as they have repercussions on the latter in turn.

*Poverty and social exclusion in Eastern Europe*

The children's assistance network of the United Nations -UNICEF- summarised the total situation in its 1994 report on Mortality, Health and Nutrition, in Eastern Europe with the words:

"The crisis in mortality and health burdening almost all East European countries since 1989 has no precedent in the peacetime European history of this century. It indicates a social crisis of unforeseen proportions, unknown implications, and without visible means of solution." There is said to be an increased danger of famine, with increasing damage to human health, as well as juvenile crime. Murder and suicide are on the increase, particularly in Russia. The "social stress" which always appears "when men have difficulty adapting to new and unexpected situations" is said to be increasing. When national pride is furthermore injured and political institutions collapse, rising social costs further augment those caused by economic reorientation.

Studies published at yearly intervals since 1993 show a dramatic increase in low incomes and poverty in all Eastern European countries. According to these studies, approximately 75 million persons in the transformation countries of Central and Eastern Europe lived in poverty between 1989 and 1994. On the average, this means 8% of the population of Central Europe and 35% of the population of the remaining countries. If the lower income brackets are taken into consideration as well, this means that a total of over 110 million people live below the poverty level in Western Europe. Wherever one sixth to one third of the population or more live in poverty, traditional value systems, once valid for regulated social processes but dysfunctional for a strategy of mere survival, are quite obviously obsolete.

In addition to impoverishment, there is a stronger social polarisation in these countries. Using the Gini-coefficient as the measure of material inequality, the result is an even stronger differentiation of incomes in Bulgaria, Poland, Rumania, the Baltic States, and particularly for Russia. Developments in Czechia and Hungary, on the other hand, are relatively mild.

Russia exemplifies this rapid differentiation of the level of well being precisely because it is a "region whose official ideology for several decades was equality in living standards between classes and regions" (UNICEF). In Russia today, 50% of the income is concentrated in the upper 20% of income recipients.

*The landscape of European poverty*

The picture of poverty in Europe is multi-layered. In (Eastern) Europe, "extreme poverty" is increasing, and can no longer be remedied except with the greatest difficulty. On the whole, however, poverty is relative in comparison to total available social well being, defined according to the social material resources of society. These material resources are closely related to various dimensions of social participation or social exclusion. To a high degree, in Eastern as well as Western Europe, poverty is correlated with unemployment and under-employment. Housing shortages, including homelessness, are spreading most severely precisely where relative poverty is especially high. The educational participation of children and youths has fallen in the countries of Eastern Europe to the extent that the social situation of the parents has

become more uncertain. Health status as well as health care are, in Western Europe, to a high degree, determined by social strata. In the transformation countries, especially crass forms of neglect appear. As a whole, the social insurance systems make a contribution to reducing poverty, although the "poverty gap", i.e., the difference between the funds spent to prevent poverty and the total funds required for that purpose, is also quite large in the Member States of the European Union at the present time, even though it is smaller than, for example, in the USA. In the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, these social security systems are only being created just now, and their protective function is therefore limited.

Poverty in Europe has increased. Even if the figures for Western Europe document the situation at the beginning of the 1990s, they not only show no trend towards reduction, but rather a reinforcement of the processes of social exclusion and pauperisation -- regardless of the question of how long and how often the individual falls below, or rises above, the poverty level. It remains to be clarified why the national poverty rate as a whole has changed relatively little, with observable "dynamics" of poverty, that is, the change between poverty and non-poverty. This indicates that poverty levels in all societies are relatively stable, while the concrete population of persons living below the poverty level is subject to a more or less constant change, though sometimes persisting with great tenacity.

Poverty is not just found in economically weaker regions and cities. Social segmentation occurs according to social space, and is also found where there are good growth conditions and potential for integration. On the whole, a social-spatial concentration of social exclusion, already strongly reflected in Western Europe, is taking shape in the countries of Eastern Europe.

#### *Peace requires social justice*

With the fall of the Wall, the cities and controlled economies of Central and Eastern Europe are closely bound up in global exchange relationships. With a few exceptions, truly catastrophic crises of adaptation are appearing, the trough of which has perhaps already been reached in economic terms, but certainly not in social terms.

In most countries of Eastern Europe, social polarisation means that a small rich upper stratum is confronted by largely impoverished classes in a social situation more closely resembling that of Latin American countries than Western European societies. However, the standard of comparison for the residents of Eastern Europe is not Latin America, but Western Europe, which is immediately adjacent and is the object, in a different way, of great expectations as well as fear.

At the same time, among not a few young people, particularly in large cities, there is increasing frustration at the lack of opportunity arising from a No-Win-Situation in which they are unable to obtain their share of wealth from the present society, at least by legal means, or by means represented by socialisation and the traditional value system. The reactions are varied: fear of the future, depression, drugs, self-aggression, even suicide. Many youths abandon values, which have proven worthless to them, they turn away from entities such as their family, or that which sometimes remains of the family, identified in their minds with these false values. Very often, the street is not the objective, but rather the result. Poverty is often only one cause among many; in each case, however, it is the result of this process. Other youths direct their

rage at their own situation or the threat of social collapse at others. They envy others for their relative success, resent those who are socially weaker, or even become criminals, sometimes with fatal consequences! There is an increasing potential for violence in our society, among these youths, in particular, violence against the socially excluded. Street children in particular are often victims of this violence.

In contrast, increasing numbers of politicians are demanding tougher law enforcement. Naturally the state must protect its citizens against violence, particularly, physical violence against life and limb. But increased public and private armaments are as a whole aimed in the wrong direction: no attempt is made to arrive at a social consensus on matters of distribution in the particular societies; rather, the circle of wagons of the rich is being drawn even tighter, nationally and internationally: the Clinton Government in the United States has approved millions of dollars to protect the USA against immigration due to poverty. Even in Germany, a kind of wall is now being rebuilt -- this time, not in Berlin, but along the borders with Poland and Czechia; not of concrete, but of electronics.

Juan Somavia, Chairman of the Preparation Committee for the Social Summit in Copenhagen, stated that "the threat through the atomic bomb during the Cold War is being wiped away by a social bomb. The tensions caused by misery and injustice are, of course, increasing considerably more dramatically in the South. But the reappearance of xenophobia, the attractive force of ultra-national appeals and authoritarian philosophies as well as a nostalgic view of the Communist past in the regions of the former Soviet Union clearly show that the North is equally vulnerable to this same threat".

Peace without social justice is only a truce; peace requires social justice. Social justice means the inclusion of men, the participation of all in the resources, both material and immaterial, of a society. Social problems and social conflicts must be analysed, their causes known, and the forces identified which stand in the way of a solution to the problem. Children and youth are the future of a society. Excluding children and youth from the future means deconstructing the future of a society. Let us make our contribution to this future, in the words of the 85th Psalm, "Righteousness and peace kiss each other".

*Frans Krasovec*

### **The Role of Dutch Cities and Municipalities in Dealing with the Problem of Street Children**

A child is not simply the bearer of his own future within himself; he also forms part of the future of us all. The truth of this statement is universal and timeless. The simplest basic rights of children in the world as a whole, however, are being violated. The often-heard phrase, "the future belongs to the young" is becoming merely an empty phrase.

The truth of this statement need not be proven on this podium. Each one of us is aware that many of the world's children are living under dreadful circumstances, and that many must die in their youth. In every continent, including Europe, children are perishing from poverty, want, helplessness and exploitation. The indifference and uncertainty of educators and governments also play a great role in this problem. Every generation forms part of our future as a whole, in a type of vicious circle.

#### *The youth problem in a "rich country"*

Kerkrade, with approximately 52,000 residents, is a relatively small city. Because it forms part of a Euroregio encroaching on Germany, with a total of 1.5 million inhabitants, these inhabitants are nevertheless faced with almost all the problems of a large city. This includes drug and alcohol misuse, growing juvenile delinquency and youthful dropouts.

Studies and statistics in the Netherlands show that 15% of our children and youth live in relative poverty.

Kerkrade is no exception in this regard. In comparison to the present population structure, statistically, 1,600 children and youth in our city are increasingly at risk. Five percent of this at-risk group are actually "problem cases", that is, they have, for example, already been convicted of crimes or are addicted to drugs. In many cases the cause and/or consequence lies in their own unemployment, social exclusion, residence or homelessness.

The lowest category of children and youths are the "street children". I would very much like to describe the manner in which the city of Kerkrade attempts to deal with these children and young people.

#### *Youth policies generally*

In the Netherlands, child and youth policies are drawn up and implemented on various levels: national, regional, and local. The provincial government has delegated a series of youth policy practical tasks to the regions, as well as to the cities and municipalities. The regions are at the same time responsible for curative measures, cities and municipalities are responsible for preventive measures.

When young people really run off the rails, "problem cases" usually become a case for the regional youth assistance. We make a distinction in this regard between ambulatory and stationary care measures, as well as psychiatric care children and youth measures:

- ambulatory care helps within the particular living world;
  - stationary care includes assistance following admittance to an institution;
- We speak of psychiatric care for children and youths when psychiatric disturbances are the cause of disturbed or problem behaviour.

The cities and municipalities have a very important role to play in the prevention and solution of the problems of children and youths --perhaps even the most important!

Kerkrade has been following an integrated child and youth policy on a local level since 1997. The main emphasis is on cooperation and interaction with private and municipal partners, interpreted as broadly as only possible.

The city's children and youth administrative activity is subdivided into general youth policies, targeted preventive youth policies, and reintegration measures:

General youth policies are directed at all children and youths and include:

- Services and measures for the age group as a whole (BIJVOORBEELD; youth meeting places, educational help, HALT projects).
- Targeted preventive youth policies relate to certain groups and categories of children and youths at risk who would run a serious risk of falling into difficulties without special allowances and measures to help them develop into independence.
- Reintegration measures targeted at children and youths already in difficult situations. This assistance is intended to avoid further escalation and relapses following participation in an assistance programme.

Later, I will describe some projects primarily directed at preventive youth work and reintegration measures.

The living world of these children, that is, the environment in which they grow up and are educated in the broadest sense of the word, is formed, for the most part, by society. Family, school and leisure time are decisive in this regard. The municipal administration is jointly responsible for shaping the environment, and therefore plays a decisive role in the development of children and youths.

When the municipalities understand that the family, school and leisure time are of great importance to the child, the most important concern of the city must be to recognise problem behaviour at an early stage.

The analysis of problem situations leads to action. The involvement of a corresponding care installation can, in many cases, keep children from running off the rails and ending up in youth assistance or, in the worst case, on the street. In Kerkrade, connections made with the so-called child or youth network ("Netwerk Jeugd") are very important in recognising danger situations and in mediating for adolescents before assistance structures.

We will speak of this later.

One thing, however, is sure: the longer it takes for endangered or problem children to receive care, the more difficult it will be to reverse the damage. It goes without saying that, even from a financial point of view, the earliest possible intervention is of the greatest importance.

Wherever children threaten to lose their bearings, the city of Kerkrade attempts to prevent children from falling into undesirable or unsuitable types of behaviour through the use of basic care installations and the implementation of targeted programmes. We therefore try to reach these children as soon as possible, preferably as early as the pre-school age. This is the age when there are the greatest chances of success. In addition, most basic problems arise in the primary living world of earliest childhood.

#### *Projects and activities*

The best way to clarify the manner in which Kerkrade attempts to avoid or eliminate problem situations through an integral, interactive approach is to provide an example of a few concrete activities and projects.

The following are a few examples of preventive projects:

#### **The POS-PLUS Project**

("Project Ongediplomeerde Schoolverlaters" - Project for School Leavers Without School-Leaving Certificate)

Target group: Students on the secondary school level (vocational preparatory secondary education, four-year general secondary school education).

Participating parties: Schools and businesses of the region.

Aim: To return to school, obtain a school leaving certificate with so-called starting qualification for the job market, and find a job (part time work combined with finishing school).

Comment: Students who wish to leave school early, but who do not yet entirely refuse to go to school, should be given practical theoretical and social training so as to live independently in society.

#### **The SNEEUWBAL ("Snowball") Project**

Target group: Endangered youth between 12 and 18.

Participating parties: KIOSK (welfare institution), Impact Foundation (a local youth organisation), police, Straathoekwerk JEM (an institution for youth social work and street social work).

Aim: To organise activities for young people (particularly during the summer months)

Experience shows that youths at risk are in need of meaningful activity, particularly during the summer months. This project attempts to encourage youths – including those outside the project target group -- to participate in activities. The so-called Youth Bus is used in this project.

The project is now current. Among other things, the activities consist of sports, survival skills, and pop concerts. Another service consists, for example, of barbecues at the Starting Points or other locations, with mobility provided by the youth bus.

#### **The INTERVENTIONSTEAM Project**

Target Group: All children and youths

Participating parties: Police, KIOSK, CMW (street children social work)

**Aim:** To intervene in situations in which children and youths are a nuisance to others. The project concentrates on individual districts or residential areas.

**Designation:** Integral responsibility in solving problem situations.

The participating institutions waive their usual manners of intervention. The police, for example, are not allowed to engage in repression, but rather attempt to find structural solutions through communications, to eliminate tight spots and through the creation of needed institutions. In so doing, they are supported by youth work entities and street social work institutions. For the past few months, we have also noted that the core activity of this project is shifting from problem solving to a preventive problem-solving approach.

### **Educational assistance**

**Target groups:** Children from 0 to 12 years.

**Participating parties:** Domestic care service, childcare ("Kinderopvang" foundation, Kerkrade), primary schools, the BGO youth assistance installation (Bodaert-Giezenhoven-Overbunde) / Youth Assistance Office, the GGD (health service), the OBD (school care service), welfare institutions, social work.

**Aim:** To offer educational assistance to parents and children.

**Note:** This project is still under development!

This involves the construction of a network based on "Places of Discovery". For example, initiatives can be developed whenever institutions associated with "Places of Discovery" or educational experts observe problems. With parental approval, the intention is to react early, with social information and targeted further referral. "Simple" problems can be solved within the context of the network. Complex problems are re-referred through a special integrated youth care office - - the entranceway to youth assistance - aimed at (intramural) youth assistance. The project also offers possibilities for solving common problems, creating contacts, and working out concrete assistance programmes.

### **Starting Points/Youth bus**

**Target group:** Youths between 12 and 24.

**Participating parties:** Welfare institutions, youth associations, street social work, police, administration of the Starting Points.

**Aim:** To offer youths their own meeting places in residential areas. These offer the possibility of carrying on activities or participating in organised activities.

For welfare institutions and street social work, these Starting Points represent "Places of Discovery" where groups and individual youths can be supported and receive care. This may range from helping with homework to assistance with concrete problems.

### **GOA**

("Gemeenteliimk Onderwijs Achterstandbeleid" - city programme for the elimination of school backlog)

School backlog refers to the totality of negative effects caused by unfavourable student socio-cultural and economic conditions.

- Target group: Children of parents with low educational levels or children of immigrant parents.
- Participating parties: The chief responsibility lies with the schools. Cooperation with other institutions is indispensable. At the same time, attention is given to libraries police, childcare, domestic care, as well as social work and welfare institutions.
- Aim: To combat school backlog, particularly at the primary or secondary level.
- Concrete aims are: Better examination results, fewer children repeating the year, greatest possible number of students going on to secondary school, reducing the number of drop-outs (particularly in at-risk groups). As a precondition for this, attempts are made to obtain an improvement in behavioural patterns.

#### *Children and Youth Network*

I had already mentioned that family, school, and leisure are of the greatest importance in a child's development. In connection with this, it is noted that the city should recognise problem behaviour in an early stage.

In Kerkrade, the coupling to so-called children and youth network ("Network Jeugd") is very important in the identification of dangers and further mediation of adolescents. Very early intervention is possible when the city government assumes full responsibility for the action. The city should also take care to seek to apply new methods.

Therefore Kerkrade has created the Children and Youth Network. It consists of:

- various divisions of city government (welfare, education, local and district care, public order and safety);
- police, street social work, welfare institutions, home care services, schools, advisory offices for alcohol and drug-dependent persons (CAD), health services (GGD), youth council, youth associations, children care, administration of the Starting Points, etc.

Within the children's and youth network, every organisation performs its tasks as fully as possible. Partners able to lend added value are sought within the framework of the network. Attempts are therefore made to bring about a symbiosis. The city administration assumes the administrative role.

Youths are also represented in the children's and youth network, in addition to professional assistants. On the spot, we are convinced that youths must be encouraged to participate in the formulation of city policies relating to children and youths, since, after all, they are the persons concerned.

Practice shows that youths can make an excellent and constructive contribution in this regard. What is more, this leads to a better understanding of the various points of view and broadens the basis for project implementation.

The child and youth network is growing steadily. On strategic levels, the Youth Policy steering committee ("Stuurgroep Jeugdbeleid") ensures network functioning. The chief officials of the youth-managed organisations and institutions belong to the steering

committee. Apart from contributing to the programme, a direct link is created on the implementation levels, thus placing youth policies on a broad basis. Support on the leadership levels is therefore also important in reaching the desired objective.

The recognition of the city's preventive responsibilities has led to the creation of methods of cooperation between regions (youth assistance) and cities and municipalities. The main aim is to reduce the demand for direct youth assistance through preventive activities. We wish to achieve this aim through involvement of youth assistance institutions. Until a short time ago, preventively oriented institutions and those intended to solve already existing problems still functioned exclusively independently from each other.

Concretely, this means that the know-how of the youth assistance bodies falling under the responsibility of the regions strengthens the local projects, therefore creating a broader basis for the "Netwerk Jeugd".

Naturally, no child and youth model is able to prevent all "problems cases" before going out "on the street". Even in Kerkrade, children fall through the cracks of our network.

But there is a last stage between dropping out and landing the street, a last attempt, to protect youths from a miserable future.

#### **Pension Mijnsicht**

Target group:	(homeless) youths between 14 and 23 with development backlogs on several levels.
Objective:	To improve the social situation of youths through 24-hour a day care services, through the availability of living quarters, and through care leading to a better integration into society.
Characteristics:	Mijnsicht offers lodgings for the homeless, cares for youths, makes contacts, and links persons and institutions during the implementation of their projects.

*Ayşe Sule Çağlar\**

### **Paths to Independence - a Practical Example From Turkey**

First, I would like to use this opportunity to speak before you in order to express my thanks to the organisers of this symposium. This symposium is extremely effective from various points of view: first it enables an exchange of experiences with colleagues on a technical level, and secondly, it possesses considerable political signal effect, since representatives of various governments are present as multiplier factors.

I speak today to you as the Turkish representative of the ILO. My organisation is concerned, in particular, with the worldwide phenomenon of child labour. We are confronted in particular with the task of ending the exploitation of children. But some authorities advise against a general prohibition of child labour. These authorities rather advocate improvements in children's working conditions. We have created a programme in Turkey, which deals precisely with this. In this connection, we work with a centre, which I would like to describe more exactly. The centre was created for children working on the street in Ankara. Among us are experts who have cooperated in drawing up this programme, and who have already been working with children on the streets of Ankara for 8 years. In past years, we have collected detailed experiences and further developed the above-mentioned programme. The ILO has supported us in so doing. In 1997, however, financial support was terminated. The programme nevertheless continues. And we see that the programme is relatively well established on its own account. We are aware of the resources available in our own country, and we are making an effort to obtain our own financing in order to remain independent from international funds.

Our work involves supporting working children and giving them an education. We are also concerned with the health of working children. We wish to bring some normality in their lives and on the street. On the other side, we are working to awaken the awareness of the population for the problem of these children. The social context of the children, the context of the family, the school, and the street, is actively incorporated into our work. The centre also coordinates the efforts of different institutions working with children. It is a question of the moral, cultural, and spiritual development of the child. We offer services, which encourage a many-sided development of the child.

Mobile care locations were created and are now intensifying their work with parents and schools. A great many volunteers support our work, for example, educators working with families and children. Our organisation has registered approximately

---

\* Mrs. Çağlar Ayşe Sule is a high school teacher in Ankara and representative of the ILO in her country.

1,500 children working on the street. We are in contact with a total of approximately 4,000 children. Of these, 2,200 are still in some of educational system. They therefore attend school, while continuing to work on the street. We support these children in their education, for example, through teachers who also work with individual children and groups outside the school. Our universities in Ankara are also occupied with children on the street. For example, students cooperate in our centre, performing periods of practical training within the framework of the study, thereby considerably supporting the children's centre. They help children with their school homework, such as learning to read or with arithmetic. These students act as simultaneous multipliers of our work within the University.

We cooperate very closely with representatives of UNICEF Turkey. We cooperate with the police, such as in matters of continued training for policemen who are thus enabled to understand the problems of street children. From time to time, we organise a meeting with representatives of government or international organisations. Entrepreneurs support us, for example, by offering jobs to children. We have thus built up a stable network, with the help of which we can work relatively independently; projects for waste processing and the recycling of rubbish and glass bring additional funds.

*Werner Blenk*

### **The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)**

I have been in charge of the programme since March 1998 and would like to give you an account of the main challenges we have faced, of the difficulties met and of the progress made. I would also like to make some suggestions on our future strategy

The year, which is coming to an end, was rich in important events for IPEC. Much progress was made on the road to a new Convention on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, during the 1998 International Labour Conference. At the same Conference the 110's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work was adopted. These are both important milestones to build on for future IPEC action. The Global March, which we actively supported in a large number of countries and which culminated in the Plenary of the international labour Conference was extremely important. Those who were present in the Plenary Hall will remember the poignant meeting between the delegates and the marchers. It represented much more than a symbol, it reflected the reality of our fight against child labour. All of us joined hands, workers, employers, governments and non-governmental organisations. There was a unity of purpose, a meeting of the hearts and minds, in an effort that transcended all borders. It was a moment in ILO's history, which will not be forgotten by those of us present that day.

Furthermore, while the actual march came to an end in Geneva, our march on the road to eliminate child labour will continue. We are not alone on this road. The growing commitment of countries is reflected in the increasing demand for ILO support. The total number of countries in which IPEC undertakes action to date has reached 65. 33 of them have signed the memorandum of understanding, thereby providing a sound and stable basis for IPEC action in the countries concerned. And the number is growing. For example, Uganda will in a few days sign a memorandum of understanding. Furthermore, 32 countries are at present associated with IPEC in a less formal manner. If we add to this the 22 donor countries which are supporting the programme, the international partnership in the battle against child labour now spans some 90 countries on all continents.

There may also have been significant developments regarding funding. As you may be aware, the United States has recently announced a very generous contribution to IPEC. This will be a very major boost to our activities. We are extremely grateful to President Clinton and to IPEC's friends in the US Department of Labour.

We are also grateful to all other donors, large and small, whose contributions in terms of leadership and funds provide the basis for our work.

We are particularly encouraged by what we in IPEC refer to as "core contributions", that is, funds which are given to the programme activities as a whole without restriction

on their use in terms of sector or country. A healthy balance between core and other types of funding helps us to serve regions, countries and sectors which do not, for a variety of reasons, attract sufficient direct funding from donors. Such contributions are instrumental in developing a balanced programme in recipient countries and we would appeal to all donors to provide, at least part of their contributions in the form of core contributions.

Increasing demands for our services and massively growing donor commitment strengthen our resolve, but they also bring tremendous challenges and responsibilities for the programme. What have we done this year to address the challenges in front of us? let me mention the most important point first. The overriding principle of all our activities is "impact"!! We want to produce real and visible results.

First of all, it was necessary to reorganise and expand the IPEC team at headquarters. The structures that had developed since 1992 needed to be adapted to the requirements of a rapidly expanding programme where programme development and evaluation are key. Our organigram, reflecting these changes, is attached as Annex 2 to the report: We now have regional desks for all major regions. We have strengthened - and this is crucial for the viability of the programme - the finance unit, the programming and evaluation unit, and we are building up a communications unit. Within this structure we can expand, if necessary, by adding more officers to the desks which were created. However this is only part of the task completed. The most pressing challenge, in organisational terms, is also to take a close look at our field structure. IPEC is action-oriented and action happens on the ground in participating countries. In the light of increasing demand for our assistance, the need for expansion is evident. It is equally important to provide training to our field staff not only on programme development and evaluation, but also on financial and administrative matters. Having strengthened our team at headquarters, we have now sufficient capacity to take on this task - with vigour and determination. We are organising a training programme back to back with the Asian Director's meeting in Bangkok in January. In May we are proposing a similar exercise in Africa; Latin America will follow soon after. We should see significant improvement in the course of the next year.

Strengthening the field structure is certainly necessary for a sound technical and administrative underpinning of our activities. But what about our strategy to tackle child labour, in the face of a growing number of child workers, at a time when both donor commitment and the interest of recipient countries increases?

Over the past year I had many discussions with both representatives of recipient and donor countries in Geneva and elsewhere. The following are my suggestions:

- First, we will continue to tackle the worst forms of child labour on a priority basis. This is the very clear message we received from the first discussion of the new convention on the worst forms of child labour.
- Second, supporting the development and implementation of country programmes to prevent and eliminate child labour will remain the basic element of the programme's strategy. SIMPOC, our Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on child Labour, is instrumental for this effort. It provides the

database to develop well-targeted projects responding to the needs of the countries concerned.

- Third, we propose to reorientate the size and focus of many of our new projects. During the early years of IPEC, we have seen a period of broad-based experimentation, with many, but relatively small, action programmes. Considering the present volume of IPEC and our emphasis on impact, we cannot continue this approach, which was successful in the past. We need to move to fewer, larger and more targeted projects. Many of our new projects will typically be made up of three basic components. Their basic ingredients can already be found in our most innovative projects, which are being implemented in Pakistan and Bangladesh. The basic idea is to target a hazardous industry or a sector in its entirety and to remove from work all children working with it. Comprehensive coverage is the key word. Obviously we cannot leave children to their own devices once we have removed them from hazardous work. We need to offer alternatives and ensure that they go to school. This is not always easy, since educational facilities are often sorely inadequate in regions where we work. Hence we have to think of non-formal education where necessary. And, of course, of vocational training when the age is right for this. After all, while we want to end child labour, we also want to prepare young people for the labour market when they are old enough. Thirdly, and this is extremely important, we want to assure that our goals are reached. Therefore, we need to provide for credible and independent monitoring which has a strong preventive effect. In some of our programmes, IPEC monitors make unannounced visits to work places. If children are found, we make sure they stop working and we move them, as the slogan of the global marching goes "from exploitation to education". But you may ask, what happens when the project comes to an end. In our experience the industries concerned wish to keep production free from child labour and they are interested in continuing monitoring in one form or another. At present we are engaged in discussing how this can be done after we withdraw our direct services. We cannot stay forever. Our aim must be to do our job and phase out when sustainability is assured.
- Fourth, advocacy will continue to play a crucial role. Our strategic priorities at the national level need to be accompanied by worldwide advocacy against child labour. Mobilising public support is a key to the continued success of IPEC. In the past, we have been carrying out a large number of activities to influence public opinion. However, we have to continue to develop a more coherent strategy and we are working on this. Advocacy needs to take a more prominent role in our work!
- Fifth, we wish to strengthen cooperation with workers and employers, and continue to work with non-governmental organisations and our partners in the United Nations system. Child labour is a multifaceted problem. We need to combine our efforts within the UN system and build on the comparative advantages of the organisations concerned. We are executing some of our most innovative programmes with employers' organisations. We are also developing a number of very significant activities with workers' organisations, for example on child labour in and around railway stations in India. And there is much scope for more cooperation. Workers and employers should, in my view, develop and implement more projects under the IPEC programme. We should also mention the Social Partners' Initiative in Italy. This initiative proves convincingly that our

constituents can work together to generate financial and political support to fight child labour.

- Sixth, and by way of conclusion, much emphasis is being placed on improved programming and evaluation. They are a key concern of the programme. Since the beginning, evaluation has been important for IPEC. A review of the overall performance of IPEC is regularly carried out at the annual IPEC International Steering Committee. Furthermore, IPEC has been discussed in various committees of the Governing Body, most recently in the Committee on Technical Cooperation at the March 1998 session of the Governing Body. As Mr. Bequele has just pointed out, there are efforts underway to look into the mode of operation of the Steering Committee and the result will, no doubt, have impact on IPEC programmes. IPEC's current evaluation structure is based on established 110 procedures, involving both self-evaluation and independent reviews. Evaluations undertaken so far include country evaluations, thematic evaluations and evaluations of individual action programmes. Results of these evaluations, which have been largely positive are described in the report submitted to you. As the programme matures, performance and impact assessments become more important. Our "Programming and Evaluation Unit" is ensuring a close link between evaluation and programme development so that the lessons learned are integrated into future activities of the programme. At present, efforts are underway to develop a more systematic and comprehensive evaluation system.

This brings me to the end of my remarks. When I was recently visiting one of our projects, I met a young boy who, thanks to our projects is now going to school. I asked him what he wanted to do later in life. He said "I want to have a good job when I am grown up so that my children don't have to work". I thank you all, in the name of children who benefit from our programmes.

*Mr. Alphonse Tay*

### **Strategy in the Struggle Against the Social Exclusion of Street Children and Youths: UNESCO Point of View**

In the programmes and budgets approved by the successive General Conferences of the UNESCO Member States from its creation until 1990 -- the year of the *World Jomtien Conference in Thailand on Education for Everyone* -- street children did not appear as a distinct reality deserving of particular attention. But they formed part of the socially underprivileged or excluded populations, a group which has always been considered by the Organisation as a field of priority action in its programmes and budgets. This group includes **the poor in general, aged and indigent persons, the handicapped, isolated populations from an ethnic or geographic point of view, persons without family or solid social affiliation, women, any person deprived of the possibility of access to education, science, and culture, i.e., in the last analysis, any human being deprived of full human dignity.**

It was therefore only beginning in 1990 that a world education programme was specially drawn up by UNESCO and gradually implemented for the benefit of **street children** in particular and **children in difficult situations** in general, particularly, **school-aged children being exploited at work, children traumatised by wars, children having suffered, or likely to suffer, from various forms of abuse or physical or symbolic violence, i.e., children surviving under conditions incompatible with the serene integrity of the body and spirit and enjoying the joy and love which children require in order to open up to education** in the broadest sense of the word. The five fields of action of the above programme are therefore the following at the present time:

- I. **Sensibilisation of governments and the general public of all nations by means of:**
  - media (press, audio-visual media, films);
  - publications (books, exposition materials, articles);
  - collaboration with lay and religious organisations;
  - collaboration with institutes of higher education (conferences, courses, etc.);
  - meetings (symposia, congresses, seminars, special events, etc.).
  
- II. **Technical cooperation with UNESCO Member States and local international or national actors in the form of:**
  - development of vocational skills (vocational training workshops, seminars for the exchange of information and experiences);
  - situation analyses;
  - project identification, preparation, launching, execution, and evaluation;

- direct or financial support to educational promotion programmes, projects, and activities;
- consultation services to States and specialist organisations.

**III. Mobilisation of human and financial resources in cooperation with the special actors:**

- collaboration with special UNESCO ambassadors or ambassadors of good will for childhood (public figures from the worlds of industry, business and finance, sports, arts, and letters);
- governmental and non-governmental organisations, whether national or international;
- regional and international banks and foundations;
- United Nations organisations and systems.

**IV. Promotion of partner and solidarity networks between various actors:**

- on the geographical level: nationally, sub-regionally, regionally, and internationally;
- on the institutional level: individual actors, private and public organisations, United Nations system organisations.

**V. Promotion of political determination and its implementation on the level of the UNESCO Member States:**

- through the particular projects or programmes involving collaboration between ministerial departments and their institutions involved on the one hand, and private organisations on the other;
- conventional commitments on the part of States or Municipalities of large cities with UNESCO, with a view to implementing specific common and durable actions for the benefit of street children;
- the organisation of special events for the benefit of children in difficult situations: days, months, national children's years, etc.

With the help of the programme, UNESCO has effectively collaborated with several of its Member States in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Europe, as well as with several of the world's non-governmental organisations. Nevertheless, by reason of its limited human and material resources, UNESCO actions have favoured some fields of action of this programme as well as certain activities in these fields over to others over the past eight years. For the same reason, some activities have been more frequent and better allocated over time than others during this same eight-year period. That is why the public sensibilisation activities, which were numerous during the experimental period of the programme, from 1990 to 1994, have been considerably reduced during the past 3 years with regards to:

- activities in the field of *technical cooperation with partners on the spot*, whether governmental, such as the national committees for UNESCO and the municipalities of large cities, or national or international non-governmental organisations;
- activities involving the *mobilisation of financial resources*, preferably in countries of the North;
- *financial support to education* in reception infrastructures for street children;

- finally, and, most importantly, in our view, are the actions designed in the form of pilot or experimental projects aimed at *mobilising and implementing the political determination of the UNESCO Member States* in the two-fold struggle against the phenomenon of street children such as it already exists, and, on the other hand, against the real, and deeper, causes at the origins of this phenomenon. More particularly, in the struggle against the deeper causes -- a struggle which is doubtlessly more difficult than that carried on directly against these same phenomenon -- pilot or experimental projects have been implemented in several countries starting in 1996.

This approach seems particularly important to us, since the phenomenon of social exclusion of the world's children and youths is so widespread that it is obvious that UNESCO -- which, by its very nature, is not principally an institution for the financing of the world's economic and social development -- cannot attempt to solve this problem directly and definitively, country by country, since it cannot be disassociated from the functioning of the fabric of our societies. Certainly, we owe recognition and encouragement to the numerous non-governmental organisations committed to street children, some of them for over a century. But there is no doubt that, in the world of today, where the conditions of individual existence are becoming increasingly more involved and determined by an all-powerful economic neo-liberalism with universal pretensions, it is in the State that one must establish the central point of human dignity. That is, it must henceforth be admitted that if one sincerely wishes to eliminate this intolerable problem -- which is unworthy of humanity -- in the foreseeable future, then the true and radical solutions to the problem of social exclusion of children and youth lie in the hands of states and governments.

*Dr. Rui Antonio Ferreira da Cunha\**

### **Children at Risks/Street Children**

The topic of this symposium is part of an indispensable inquiry with regards to the problem of meeting the particular needs of children whose lives begin in poverty-stricken, de-structured families and street phenomena, exploitation and violence, without stigmatising them.

The problem of children is no doubt of concern to all those who can and must contribute to the achievement of the “right to childhood as a time of childhood”, with dignity, joy, and love.

I will begin by making several remarks on the principal problems facing us today with regards to children and their rights, testifying to Portugal's concerns with regards to these problems as well as to the measures and actions being implemented by Portugal.

Children are an especially vulnerable group of the population from the physical, psychological, and environmental point of view, as a result of characteristics inherent in their own development.

At the present time, we are asking them a variety of different questions – of a socio-familiar, scholastic, and environmental nature -- within the context of the larger social, cultural, and economic changes affecting their well being and quality of life.

These phenomena are associated with the conditions of many families accompanied by a deprivation of resources, education, housing, and dignified employment. Sometimes these are high-risk families, either of young parents poorly prepared to assume the parental role; or families living in stressful situations with very little or no ability to accept themselves: either parents with problems of drug dependence and/or alcoholism and families with very little social support.

To a certain extent, all children are vulnerable and susceptible to unfortunate experiences. But certain groups are doubly vulnerable, due to the particular circumstances of their personal, family, and social trajectory.

These are children confronted with violence, often reflected by the actions of parents, relatives, or others and who are the cause of physical and psychological harm, which are harmful, in a certain manner, to their rights and needs, and which affect their psychomotor, intellectual, moral and affective development.

---

\* Secretary of State for Social Integration, Ministry of Labour and Solidarity of Portugal

Consequently, true violence is that which relates to the violation of the psychic space and respect to which the child is entitled, and it is here that children are particularly defenceless.

We can say that violence impedes the application of mechanisms which must assure the equilibrium of the psychosocial system, as regards the image built up by the individual of him/herself.

Some children, due to abandonment or other reasons, take to the street to live. The result is a rupture of all family and emotional links and rejection by the schools and by society.

The demand for subsistence strategies often makes them subject them to various forms of exploitation and causes them to adopt deviant behaviour.

The consideration of the child as the subject of rights is gaining great importance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, an essential statute for the protection of children, a statute with imperative force, resulting in specific obligations for the ratifying States, as is the case in Portugal.

The Member States assume a commitment to respect and guarantee these rights to all children under their jurisdiction, without any discrimination, and furthermore assume a commitment to take all legislative, administrative, and other measures essential to implementation of all rights recognised by the Convention.

Like the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic is also based on the defence of the supreme interests of the child, guaranteeing its protection and well-being, above all, as regards the most vulnerable.

That is why it acknowledges that the Child has a basic right to special protection by society and by the State against all forms of discrimination and oppression, as well as against the abusive exercise of authority within the family and other institutions.

The Constitution imposes upon the State the duty to implement policies of full-employment and social security to protect them from privation or the insufficiency of means of subsistence, health, and education.

Thus, in the field of the Broad Options of the Plan for 1998, the development of the Social Security reorganisation process is making significant progress, particularly as regards the option in favour of development and social policies to combat social exclusion, articulated with the development of the Minimum Guaranteed Income (M.G.I.).

On the other hand, the existence within the Portuguese social security system of a Secretariat of State with competence in the field of Social Action reveals a concern for social policies.

Social Action, constituting the privileged means of execution of state social policies for several years now, has been subjected to profound changes over the past few years as a consequence of the new situations arising from social problems and the techniques of combating the same.

The Institute for Social Development was recently created within the scope of action of the Organic Law of the Ministry of Labour and Solidarity (MTS), and included in a Social Security reform measure. Its object is to work in strict contact with the Regional Social Security Centres (RSSC) and administer, in an integral manner, a set of programmes with the participation of many social institutions, including assistance programmes to children at risk.

This Institute will coordinate the local M.G.I. accompaniment committees, the local social action committees of the social network, and the commissions for the protection of minors.

The committees for the protection of minors were formed in May 1991, in a context of change. Society is changing, new problems are appearing, and services must adapt to these changes through improved organisation more effectively corresponding to the needs of children.

Within the family and community in which they are integrated, these committees constitute a potential guarantee of more appropriate solutions, since the principal services of the community participate in these committees.

The joint action of all the resources available can ensure more innovative action and more creative answers better adapted to the problems.

On the other hand, the Portuguese social security system is a decentralised system, since the RCSS are public institutes enjoying administrative and financial autonomy. The RCSS are, in turn, decentralised on the level of the sub-regional and local social security services and constitute the operational sector, enjoying competence for the management of systems and the exercise of social action.

But the State of Portugal recognises and valorises actions performed by private bodies -- the Institutions of Private Solidarity, particularly, with regards to children and youths deprived of a suitable socio-familial environment, with the State acting in a supervisory capacity. This function is intended to encourage the accounting for their objects and activities with those of the social security system.

In Portugal, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) include institutions in the form of Associations and Foundations, occupying a prominent position with regards to the social security system, and a relationship based on cooperation.

The RCSS, as a principal matter, carries on activities in the field of social action, representing an agglutinative centre for organised volunteer work.

The data for 1997 reveal the existence of more than 3,000 of these RSSC, carrying on the most diverse activities, particularly, those directed towards children. If we consider only those responses concerning social action teams, we may see that they cover a population of more than 150,000 children.

In the field of support to children, and in conformity with policies defined beforehand, there are also inter-Ministerial programmes directed at children at risk and their parents, stressing interdisciplinary value, inter-departmental and inter-institutional collaboration, and the organisation of resources. As an example, we might mention the Be a Child Programme, which has the object of developing special projects directed towards children in socio-familiar at-risk and/or handicapped situations and their families.

We are concerned, with increasingly greater acuity, with the implementation of appropriate measures and mechanisms to ensure the protection of children at risk and to prevent such situations insofar as possible, to be achieved by means of these programmes.

These programmes are also the object of a study conducted by an inter-Ministerial working party, which has also studied the needs and drawn up a diagnosis of the situation with regards to support to children and their families.

This working party has also expressed an opinion on what it considers the major difficulties with regards to a correct approach to children's problems.

The Resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 193/97, dated 3 October 1997, defining the guidelines for a reform of the protection system for children at risk and containing a commitment to the success of new and improved forms of organisation of the services of the State with the RCSS, was therefore issued within the prospect of an integrated policy for children and youth at risk. The same commitment can be found in the Cooperation Pacts for Solidarity, signed in December 1996.

Decree Law no. 98/98, dated 18 April, created the National Committee for the Protection of Children and Youth at Risk, assigning it with responsibility for planning, accompaniment, and evaluation of the actions of public and community bodies in the protection of children at risk.

During the same year, 1998, particular priority was given to reinforcing the support conditions for youth in danger of social disintegration. This priority is reflected in the production of legislative and regulatory amendments.

This is also the case, consequent to creation of the Adoption Programme 2000 in 1997, Decree-Law no. 120/98, dated 8 March, amending the legal system governing adoptions, amending the institutes of judicial and administrative competence, the regulations governing the system of international adoption, and the RCSS regulations relating to adoption procedures (Regulatory Decree no. 17/98 dated 14 August).

The reinforcement of support conditions for children at risk is also apparent in continued investment in Temporary Reception Centres offering urgent, temporary lodgings for children and youth in emergency situations, in the principal regions of risk. There were 38 of these centres in 1997; the creation of 32 more centres being planned for 1998.

The creation of a national network of these Reception Centres is one of the important measures of the Government within the framework of policies relating to minors.

On the level of the policies and actions accomplished in Portugal, note should also be taken of programmes, of both public and private initiative, with the object of globally satisfying the needs and difficulties of children and their families.

This is the case, among others, of the Programme of the Struggle Against Poverty, the Integer Sub-Programme, and the Minimum Income Measure. These are all programmes on a national level, of an inter-Ministerial nature, and falling under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Solidarity (MLS), with the object of the economic and social integration of underprivileged groups.

As regards political measures, we must stress, in particular, the New Juridical System of Family Allowances of the MLS, the Expansion and Development of Pre-School Education, consisting of two modules, the educational module falling under the competence of the Ministry of Education, and the family module falling under the competence of the MLS.

In conclusion, and returning to the idea expressed at the beginning of my present remarks, I am anxious to repeat that everyone -- states, civil society, the Community in general and each person in particular -- has a duty to lend our assistance in helping to minimise the risks facing the children of today.

We know that problems often have many different causes and, in addition to intervention with regards to the child, imply a family support programme ensuring children the support required for accomplishment of the parental function.

We are sure that it is possible to minimise the risks to children, but only through concerted intervention of all parties concerned, which implies a determination to work together, with a clear definition of the role of each party, while sharing the responsibilities.

That is why we will continue to work to strengthen the application of preventive and corrective measures so that all the children may, in fact, enjoy their rights.

Olivier Chazy\*

### **The Street Children of France**

The attached presentation seeks to draw a distinction between children who hang around in the streets, children from broken homes who are also on the streets, and children who are pushed by their parents into street activity such as begging.

These children have extremely heterogeneous paths, coming from specific problems and public policies, and call for a differentiated presentation.

There are only a few hundred cases of children being pushed into begging by their parents, essentially gypsy families in the course of their travels.

There are three major identifiable categories among the street children:

*Children who hang around in the street, not because of family breakdown, but because of educational deficiency.*

This educational deficiency, which is not necessarily ill treatment, comes within the context of precariousness: six million persons in France are living on the social minima, and the housing deficit is in the order of one million.

They also come within the context of the fragility of the family group (the number of divorces has multiplied by 4 in 30 years).

They also come within the context of migration. A certain number of families, coming especially from the rural African or Middle-Eastern regions, experience a major upheaval in their way of life by finding themselves in an urban habitat where the security of the public space is insufficient, and the social modes of expression significantly different. These children invade the public spaces without supervision and find themselves on the streets late at night.

A recent scientific enquiry by CREDOC has shown that 22% of families with children aged between 7 and 12 in sensitive urban areas has a weak family life that leads to an insufficient acceptance of responsibility.

Confronted with such a situation, the public authorities have at their disposal a certain number of means of action that are without doubt still insufficiently mobilised.

It would be especially appropriate to draw attention to the current family policy which has set up across the whole of France listening, support and accompaniment networks of parents who address themselves to all parents, and who rely on existing initiatives.

---

\* Ministry of Employment and Solidarity. Social Action Unit.

### **1.- Runaway children**

A second category of young minors, very different from the first, also deserves attention. It concerns runaways.

An enquiry by Mrs Marise Choquet, an epidemiologist at INSERM, has shown that 37% of runaways are young minors; that means that some 230,000 young people leave the family home each year without the permission of their parents for periods that vary from several hours to several days.

There is general agreement that taking action in this way is caused by a lack of dialogue within the family, which can be not too serious if it is taken into account as such and if the young person has the good fortune to find on his path adults who manifest a sufficient ability to listen.

Unlike the homeless young people, runaways are an adolescent oedipal problem and they avoid frequentation of the streets.

For some of these adolescents, taking action in this way represents however very risky situations because they can be the occasion for an introduction into marginality especially when they meet young people older than themselves, who are drop outs, and who have considerable seductive influence.

The public authorities, in trying to respond to this question, have sought to develop a specific response in liaison with the public prosecutors so that these young people could be welcomed, sheltered for the night, and listened to by professionals in warm and respectful conditions, at the same time as a mediation contact is undertaken with the family, which remains the sole depository of parental authority. This type of response is particularly to be found in the young peoples' reception centres established since 1996.

### **2.- Young vagabonds**

This third category of young people covers a particularly preoccupying phenomenon, especially because of its considerable growth in recent years. Studies in progress show that 40% of homeless people are now less than 25 years old. In two years, this population has doubled in certain regions and now contains throughout the presence of minors aged from 16 to 18. Any quantitative estimation of this problem is particularly difficult.

Four categories of young people are concerned:

- Young people who assiduously frequent the emergency reception centres but whose situation is heavily static.
- Young people, still equally marginalised, but who refuse all contact with the institutions and their professionals.
- Young people on the way to being marginalised, who no longer live with their parents, but who still have the advantage of elementary support networks (neighbours, friends) who provide them with board and lodging.

- Young isolated people, foreigners, illegal immigrants into France and living in the greatest marginality, not very numerous but in a critical state of health.

These four categories of young people have often adopted addictive behaviour (alcohol, tobacco, soft and even hard drugs) and have come from family backgrounds that can often be qualified as chaotic.

Professional approaches to this public are particularly difficult, because the young people have first of all an attitude of escape from their parents, from adults and from the institutions. The health of the minors is generally in a very serious condition – a virtual physical death – and they are exposed to every kind of risk.

The public authorities faced with this phenomenon, work both to prevent and to treat these situations. The young people coming massively from families that ill-treated them, these should be the subject of a specific policy within the rationale of the protection of children.

The basic text on the subject is the law of 10 July 1989 which speaks, for the first time in France, of ill-treatment (which is not the same as educational deficiency) and which makes it the subject of a voluntary policy organising the notification to the judicial authority, which is for the children of France a specialist jurisdiction. According to the Decentralised Social Action Observatory (ODAS), 21,000 children are so notified each year for reasons of ill treatment and 61,000 for reasons of educational deficiency. What is more, the public authorities are also concerned with acts of institutional violence which are now better identified and which are the subject of more rigorous supervision in the establishments receiving handicapped or unsuitable children.

#### On the level of treating the situations

The Ministry of Employment and Solidarity is concerned with better identification of the reality of the situations encountered and territorial diagnoses shared with a number of partners and institutions have been made on 20% of the country and continue to be proposed.

This work relies on observing the unsuitability of the practices of the professionals and the institutional offers before a public that never conforms to the administrative rationales, and on the great difficulty of bringing coherence to the interventions of the numerous partners concerned.

Missions of support have been entrusted to experts or heads of associative networks to help with the dissemination of the awareness of the problems and to help the evolution of representations and practices.

So a re-socialisation experience for dropouts has been proposed nationally in the areas of show business and music by the safekeeping of the dôme; in Marseilles, the “Young Vagabonds” association is successfully running a campaign of protection and education in favour of illegal immigrant minors. The CEMEA association provides national logistical support for the management of dropouts frequenting the major summer tourist groups.

The Ministry of Employment and Solidarity has moreover published several reports in order to improve public awareness, enquiries among the users of the daytime reception structures, a report on summertime and end-of-year vagrancy by Mr Vidal-Naquet, a report on squats and makeshift lodgings by the National Committee for the Reception of People in Difficulty.

Jürgen Gohde, Chairperson of the Charitable Department of the German Evangelical Church, and Jochen Weitzel, Federal Government of Germany (from left to right)

Prof. A. Rean, Russia; P. Haavisto, Finland; M.v.Putten (MEP) the Netherlands; Dr. R. Cunha, Portugal; Prof. W. Specht, Germany (from left to right)

**Chapter 3**  
**Russian contributions**  
**from the Fields of Politics, Science, and Practice**

*Margareta Mirsagatowa\**

### **Russian Street Children - an Analysis of Concrete Problem Situations**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to speak to you on the problem situation which is characteristic for children in total Russian Federation.

The largest danger for children today is the result of the disintegration of the Russian family. As a result of this development, almost one half million children per year are insufficiently cared for by their parents. This is true of approximately 23% of the children in St. Petersburg. In 1997, there was a further increase in the number of court cases involving the withdrawal of the right of parental care. The courts and administrations are presently working with 160,000 cases in which parents cannot cope with their duties.

A further risk relates to the fact of the increasing unemployment. In many regions of Russia, approximately 50% of all mothers are unemployed. In St. Petersburg, there are approximately 60,000 unemployed single-parent mothers who must live with minimal support from the State.

Failure to attend school leads to a further risk situation for children. The number of children attending 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade has fallen in recent years. Approximately 600,000 children have no possibility of continuing their school education. This situation is especially tragic in a country which people used to be proud that all youths reached the intermediate high school level. Youths on the job market without a school-leaving certificate hardly have any chance of learning qualified a vocations.

In the past years, however, other problem situations, namely flight and migration, have been chiefly responsible for the growth of street children. The number of homeless children is constantly increasing. Children are used as beggars, even as professional beggars. They frequently come from neighbouring countries. But violence against children also drives children onto the street. Children exposed to sexual violence are silent in most cases, and have no one whom they can trust.

The privatisation of dwellings, the sale of family-owned dwellings, also aggravates the crisis facing children. When parents live in unhealthy social conditions, their children are compelled to share such an environment. These children stand in the special danger of running away from home. Among these children a considerably high percentage are convicted of criminal offences. In 1997, the number of convicted children among the named group increased by 24%.

---

\* Mrs. Mirsagatowa is Chairperson of the Moscow Committee for Minors for the entire Russian Federation.

Large numbers of street children were raised in governmental children's homes. In the past year, 19,000 criminal offences committed by children were committed by children still living in children's home. A committee for minors was formed by Presidential Decree of 6 September 1993 as a coordinated body intended to counter this trend.

Another preventive care institution is the Sponsorship and Welfare Committee. These committees are, however, overburdened due to a lack of personnel and the serious increase in the number of children living without their parents. In recent years, the number of street children has doubled. Only a small percentage of these children are prepared to return to their families. The committee lacks coordination and management abilities. I would like to clarify this with an example, the payment of children's allowances granted by the state for children without families, as well as for adoptive families. Russian families must often wait months, even as much as a year, before receiving children's allowances, although each case involves only small sums of money. This shows that the financing of the related amounts is completely unreliable.

Another big problem is the fact that children's institutions no longer enjoy security of financing. Employees' wages are only one cost factor in this regard. Another problem relates to food for the inmates of children's homes. Yesterday's newspapers contained a proclamation to the Duma in which the population was called upon to participate in ensuring nourishment for these children.

The totality of instruments with which children may be assisted in a targeted manner was only drawn up in 1993 for the first time. Social services were created at that time which had not previously existed in that form. In her speech, Mrs. Sorokina will describe the development of these social services in St. Petersburg, and their functioning under the present circumstances. St. Petersburg was one of the first regions in Russia to form social services. In 1992, in all of Russia, only four of these institutions were concretely directed towards working with street children. In 1998, there are already over 600 institutions of this type. They perform a broad spectrum of social work tasks, from consulting and accompanying to integrative approaches, such as the identification of needy children, the recreation of their social status and dignity and, finally, their social integration by encouraging them to return to their original families or submit to adoption. The integration of children into Russian adoptive families is, however, proceeding only sluggishly. Thus, an overly great number are being adopted by foreign adoptive parents, although the preparedness in our land to accept children is by no means exhausted.

Margareta Mirsgatowa, Government of the Russian Federation, Moscow

*Galina Sorokina*\*

### **Social Services for Russian Street Children and Youth**

Ladies and Gentlemen, approximately 15,000 children and youths now live on the street in St. Petersburg. These are children and youths who spend the overwhelming majority of their time on the street. Many of them are homeless. These children suffer from various illnesses, even chronic illnesses. They are dependent upon drugs and alcohol to varying degrees. They are a frequent source of criminality.

Our country is now in the midst of a social collapse. The increase in unemployment has enormous influence on this collapse. But even the loss of function of the family is part of this process of change. Preventing negative effects on the family is an important task for us. We want children who have been convicted of criminal offences to be rehabilitated and reintegrated into society. In family policies, we react with suitable legislation, for example, guaranteed social protection for derelict children and children without parental care.

In 1998-99, we issued a governmental programme for the improvement of family policies in St. Petersburg, intended to assist in the social protection of families and children. The aim of this programme is three-fold; social support to intact families, social assistance to problem-loaded families, and social protection, especially for children in crisis situations.

This programme is intended to cover the following basic tasks: family and social work, child protection and the representing of interests from the children's point of view, the integration of abandoned children and youths, the development of a prevention model, leisure time services for children, for example, in the cultural field, and, finally, scientific accompaniment and documentation of these tasks. This programme is gaining contemporary acceptance with the increase of homeless and derelict children, as well as with the increase in the number of isolated adults.

Concretely, I would like to discuss the social services concerned with children and families in problem situations. Our collaborators work where children stay to an increased extent. Our first working step is a matter of understanding the problems of these children. Only then can reintegration into their families be a meaningful undertaking. As an accompanying measure, both families and children must receive psychological, medical, and legal support. This assistance also relates to the search for employment.

---

\* Mrs. Galina Sorokina, Municipality of St. Petersburg, spoke on behalf of Mr. A. Hasov, Joint Chairperson of the Symposium.

If rehabilitation does not succeed, children can also be placed in homes or rehabilitation centres. There we meet children who have lived without shelter, who have been raped, who have lost their social relations.

In St. Petersburg, there are 12 rehabilitation centres and homes, subordinate either to our office or to district institutions. There are also public homes, which can accept approximately 600 children. For example, they are responsible for the health of the children; they represent the interests of these children in court. They protect the children from abuse by their parents. They support families as well as assist in educational problems. In the summer, they offer organised leisure time in the countryside.

When it proves impossible for children to return to their homes, then other ways are found, such as the search for a new family. Unfortunately, in St. Petersburg, no law has been passed relating to the adoption of children. Naturally, there are guidelines, for example, relating to the assured material well being of the future family.

Before children are accepted into substitute families, a transition period is usually agreed upon, in which future families can receive special accompaniment. They are advised, but also receive material support. Approximately 100 orphans are now lodged in such families.

The committee concerned with the adoption of children has created a databank. A legal advisory service is then offered, with the availability of psychologists and the holding of seminars.

The programme "The Streets of St. Petersburg" has created district centres. Two to three districts finally merge, in order, for example, to prepare lodgings for the residence of the children.

Based on our practical experience we can say that 50% of the street children in St. Petersburg are being reintegrated into their families. The other 50% frequent programmes, which were already discussed.

I would like to discuss a few problems in our work. This symposium will service the opportunity to discuss this point and to learn of different European experiences.

A first problem: we lack the means to create places in which to offer cost-free children's care. At the present time, the care facilities created by us only function up to four months in the year. The operation of soup kitchens also has a social work component. These also contribute to timely identification of children in emergency situations.

Another problem relates to the employment of minors in St Petersburg. Children without education and vocation are more likely to be convicted of criminal offences than their companions of the same age with a job. Approximately 900 jobs are needed for youths aged between 14 and 18.

Visits to various projects have been planned to take place during the symposium, to a youth job project, among other things. These visits will enable you to get to become familiar with the "New Generation" project, which arranges jobs for youths, as well as training them in improved social attitudes. Further projects of the St. Petersburg division of the Children's Protection Division are called "Mascha" and "Nadezhda" (Hope). You will also become familiar with these.

A great number of free agencies are creating services for children and youths, which you will become familiar with. Governmental institutions, free agencies, and committed individuals work together to create worthy conditions for a sound development for a healthy development of our children. Since if we lose our children, we will have no future tomorrow. Thank you for your attention.

*Artur Rean\**

### **Social, Pedagogical, and Psychological Aspects of the Phenomenon of Street Children and Street Youths in Russia**

Ladies and Gentlemen, colleagues and friends!

My talk will occupy itself with the social-pedagogical aspects of the phenomenon of street children. At the same time, I will discuss the situation in Russia especially.

The phenomenon of “derelict children” contains both general as well as regional-specific aspects. The generally attributable factors are true of both Russia and European countries and elsewhere, all over the world. These common factors relate to the field of psychology. It can generally be said, for example, that adolescents wish to become autonomous and independent, or that they form peer groups of the same age. Similar examples can be found on the pedagogical and social level.

With regards to social aspects, however, there are particularly great differences between street children in Russia and especially Europe. These differences consist of the three following factors in particular:

The difficult economic situation characteristic of Russian society is most damaging to the disadvantaged strata of the Russian population, such as children and retired people.

I will cite no data for this. You are all witnesses to the crisis from which Russia is suffering at the present time. I will only make a scientific observation: a crisis-free society can only develop if the income of the wealthy is no more than 10 times the income of the poor. The upper 10% on the income scale today, however, earn fifty times as much as the lowest ten percent.

Another reason for the problematical behaviour of Russian children and youths lies in the wide prevalence of alcoholism. Many parents suffer from this problem.

Another reason for the increase in street children specific to Russia consists of regional conflicts and wars, leading to flight and expulsion. The people of Chechnya, Osetia, and other regions are particularly hard-hit. Among the refugees are many families with children who end up on the street as a result of refugee problems and are in danger of becoming street children.

---

\* Prof. Artur Rean is one of the four Joint-Chairpersons of the Symposium and Professor at the Faculty of Psychology at the University of St. Petersburg.

I would like to mention another aspect for the phenomenon of street children. In the social consciousness, the problem of street children is often associated with the difficult economic situation of so many families. This is said to be the reason why children end up on the street.

In the today's opening address, for example, that of the Representative of the International Labour Organisation, a connection was made between child labour and the life of children on the street. At the same time, it was stated that, for many families, children's work was the only source of income. In reality, however, only a small number of street children land on the street for purely economic reasons. The chief reasons are rather social, pedagogical, and psychological.

Estimates say that approximately 50,000 children leave their families, not because of a difficult family situation, but rather because of violence directed against them by their parents. A large proportion of children returns to the family, but a just as great proportion remains on the street.

Another problem group is those children who have no parents, or children with parents who have lost their parental rights. The Russian government cares them for, for example, in orphanages. The world community possesses data confirming that professionally managed children's homes with well-trained personnel may, under certain circumstances, represent an alternative to the family. These hardly exist in Russia.

At the same time, medical data show that children growing up without a family react less emotionally, are less sensitive, and build harder relations to their environment than children growing up in a family.

Russian statistics state that 50% of all children children's homes become homeless. 20% of them become criminals, and 10% commit suicide.

I would like to speak in more detail of the psychological aspect of the phenomenon of street children and street youth. One characteristic aspect relates to the efforts of adolescents to obtain emancipation. What does this mean?

Development and growth causes young people to wish to cut themselves off from their families and seek independence from their parents. This is a typical characteristic of adolescents of a certain age. It is not related to the social, religious, or cultural characteristics of any particular country.

The street seems a good way to obtain the desired independence. It promises freedom, even if this juvenile notion is an illusion.

I use the word "illusion of freedom" quite deliberately, since the street is precisely the place, which has the hardest effects on children. They become prisoners of the street relationships and their effects, even if they may not notice it at first.

The family is a very important background element, particularly at an age characterised by an urge to seek freedom. Adolescents are not consciously aware of this either. Research studies have been performed in this regard in several European countries, such as Sweden, Germany, Great Britain, and later in Russia as well. I would like to present some of the findings of these research studies.

When adolescents are asked to indicate the persons with whom they would like to spend their free time, the answer is always the same: their peers of the same age and the same or opposite sex. The parents always come last.

This is a fact in all countries, whether Great Britain or Russia. But when adolescents are asked to indicate the persons to whom they would turn in a difficult situation, the parents are always the first ones mentioned. Of the parents, the mother always comes first, before the father. In difficult situations, therefore, the mother is always preferred by both boys and girls to the same degree; in many situations the father, or a friend, an especially trusted person, is mentioned as well.

Unfortunately, this emotional relationship between parents and children, and, especially, between the mother and child, is not always present.

There is another answer to the question of why children become homeless: in psychiatry, we are familiar with a phenomenon, which provides an explanation. This phenomenon is characterised by an irresistible, almost pathological urge to travel. Many children who run away from home are found, not in their residential environment, nor in their own city, but far away from home. This urge on the part of the child to run away used to be considered a mania. Soviet psychiatry explained this attitude as pathological and the child a psychiatric case. This is, of course, fundamentally incorrect. The child's running away should not be explained as the result of a psychic predisposition or pathological phenomenon. Rather, it is the conditions under which the child grows up which are pathogenous, that is, it is the conditions which cause the child to be ill, and from which the child attempts to flee.

A third psychological explanation lies in the peer group reaction, which is typical at that age. Children of a given age want to be with companions of the same age. Rigid, but amorphous structures are created in the process. So-called juvenile gangs are characterised by strict, firm structures. Delinquent young street groups consist mostly of boys. These groups rarely contain girls. Mixed-sex groups, as a rule, have no criminal tendencies. Many children live on the street and are not criminal at all. These children spend their time in non-criminal activities.

Amorphous groups are mostly mixed-sex groups. Young people who take to the street out of excitement or a need for freedom find it particularly difficult to find acceptance in rigidly structured hierarchical groups. Badly integrated, they can only leave the group with great difficulty, if they later wish to. There are two reasons for this: the first reason is that the leader of the group must grant permission to leave the group. If permission is not granted, it is almost impossible to leave the group. The threat of violence prevents the child from leaving the group. The second reason is less obvious. It is psychological, intra-personal in nature. Our observations, and concrete scientific

studies of adolescents living on the street, show that almost none of these young people had succeeded in finding personal acceptance in school or their personal environment. But everyone needs personal acceptance and respect. Both are basic human needs, in the absence of which hardly any human being can live a healthy life. These are basic human needs, like the need for food, sleep, and safety. Respect for one's dignity, as a human being is just as important as any other need. This is the significance of Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, relating to respect for the personality of the child.

We have noted that street children are denied their right to respect. They seek, and find, a substitute only in acceptance by a youthful street group. My colleagues and I have found that adolescents unable to find acceptance in their former environment now gain respect through cleverness and bravery, for example, by daring to rob a kiosk. The manner in which they find acceptance is irrelevant. What is decisive is that their emotional need for recognition is only fulfilled within the street group.

This is one of the reasons why compulsion by the police, the public, or their parents is unable to induce the child to leave this structure of relationships. The child will always attempt to return to the reference group.

The solution consists, not of compulsion or psychological pressure intended to pry the child loose from the group, but rather, in offering the child an alternative, such as another, more interesting group, in which to feel at home.

When the youth finds acceptance in a criminal group, for example, because of physical strength, we must find a group for him in which his strength finds a similar degree of recognition, for example, in boxing or wrestling.

Another problem arises with youths growing up in a society of adults. Detailed analytical material is available on youth attitudes towards certain adults with whom they come into contact, such as the police or the military. I would like to describe a few findings from our own research work in various city districts from 1997. What is the adolescent view of the police? To answer this question, we used a special method, which I cannot, of course, describe here in detail. This involved drawing up a typical portrait of the police as seen by a normal youth. The questionnaire offered young people a choice between certain positive and negative characteristics. The result was as follows: a policeman is brutal, aggressive, and suspicious. He is power-hungry, and at the same time he is quite a mediocre person.

The selected answers contained no positive impressions of the police. Imagine this youth as a street youth: if he comes into contact with the police division responsible for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, he will have no common language with which to speak to the officer. Even before meeting the individual officer, he has developed a stereotype which caricatures the police in the manner described above.

Astonishingly, we obtained almost the same results when we conducted the same inquiry with regards to teachers instead of police. Teachers and police were viewed in

almost the same way. Teachers, however, had at least two positive characteristics. But here as well, out of ten selected characteristics, at least eight were negative.

The school, however, also contributes to the actual exclusion of young people. The marginalisation process of difficult students by schools is a phenomenon that can be observed all over the world.

Yet again, the problem of street children is an entirely social problem. Children who end up on the street, for whatever reason, need support of various kinds. According to a St. Petersburg research centre, 30% of all street children studied required psychological assistance, 50% need medical assistance, and 70% needed parental support. 80% needed a wide range of applied social services in their present living situation.

Most particularly, I would like to stress that the most important approach of our work with street children consists of preventive measures. Social work with the family of origin is also an especially important point of emphasis. This preventive approach must be built up holistically, and must consist of social, legal, and psychological measures. The most important element in the family is love. This is, of course, true not just of the family, but of all social relationships. One of the oldest and wisest books in the world, the Bible, refers to this. Love is mentioned again and again, as love for one's neighbour, but also love for oneself.

The great humanists have taken up this important tradition of the relation between self-love and love for one's neighbour.

Together with Erich Fromm, I would like to convey the factor of love as a triad: real love includes responsibility and care. This connection represents in itself a unity with three characteristic features characterising every mature personality. I am convinced that everyone present here is moved by these three feelings. I very much hope that these personal characteristics, love, care, and responsibility will contribute to working with street children in these three days and thereafter.

Hotel Moskwa

## **Three Practical Examples**

*Alexander Fein\**

## **A Network for the social protection of children and youths in St. Petersburg**

### *The basic idea*

The pilot project has been implemented since 1 September 1998 in three selected districts of St. Petersburg (Petrogradskij, Admiraltejskij and Wasiliowskij). The project duration was only one year to begin with. The Youth Welfare Office of the Petrograd City government, as project agency, was made responsible for project execution. Project leader Alexander Pavlovitsch Fein is responsible for 67 employees and a budget of almost one million rubbles intended for the creation of a system of youth assistance services for the long-term protection of socially disadvantaged children and youths in various districts of St. Petersburg. The structures established were, at the same time, intended to coordinate and reinforce the already existing efforts of various city districts for the integration of disadvantaged children and youths. The declared aim is to rehabilitate at least 1500 disadvantaged children and youths through social and pedagogical measures.

### *Institutions of the network*

The following governmental institutions are components of the network: social offices concerned with the family, psychology, medical care, legal protection, as well as local school offices, a social emergency office, and the vocational training centre. A social hotel offering longer-term lodgings to children and youth in difficulties is also to be created to supplement the above.

The necessary network is coordinated by the social assistance offices for the family. This office registers all clients (children, youth, and their families) and collates the necessary data. It also acts as an information office for social workers and all other points in the network. In return, the social office offers legal protection for the personal integrity of children and youths. It offers legal protection and performs legal work for its clients. It also advises network collaborators on legal matters and represents the network in court.

In contrast to the social hotel, the social emergency services offer only short-term lodgings for youths in acute difficulties, for example, emergencies and health crises. Temporary lodgings for the affected groups of persons are available around the clock. Institutions, social hotel and social emergency service, arrange "normal" living conditions for their clients, creating transitions and alternatives. They make contact with parents and other assistance personnel, offer educational options and other learning opportunities. They work in close contact with the vocational training centre, which operates a large workshop where youths can learn a trade.

---

\* Alexander Fein has been working with children and youths on the street for fifteen years, having founded one of the oldest NGOs in the field of mobile youth work in Russia.

Follow-up care through the social post-rehabilitation service is also a component of the network. After concluding rehabilitation, the effected persons are able to get organised in a Starting Point, keep in contact with social workers, and follow special courses to learn selected skills.

A specific point of the network is that it employs social workers who do not restrict themselves to one-time, short-term assistance, or re-assign children to other institutions. In accordance with the project approach, the social workers act for their clients as permanent trustees, reliable interlocutors, and accompanists to the varied partners of the network. The social worker acts as the binding element throughout the social services, in which specialists, such as doctors, psychologists, and teachers, also offer technical support. The social worker ensures the continuity of the rehabilitation process.

*Target group*

Despite the relatively small number of street children and street youths -- only a few thousand in the whole city -- there has been a clear deterioration of children's living situations due to the increased number of at-risk families, that is, families with members who are alcoholic or drug addicts, psychically ill or weak, families with many children, with handicapped children, or those with small incomes. As a result, in the project documentation includes persons under the age of 18 having the central point of their lives on the street as the target group. More exactly, this includes homeless children, those who have been abandoned or who have broken their relationships to family and relatives and other reference persons. Children are also spoken to who come from special schools and who are unable to manage the transition to an independent life on their own. The target group also includes children who no longer wish to live in a formal learning and educational environment. Children in prison for a variety of reasons and exposed to physical or psychic violence also receive special project attention.

*Benjamin Benz*

## **The St. Petersburg Children's Centre**

### *On the collaborator structure*

The founder of the institution worked with street children for more than a decade on her own initiative and without pay. There were not supposed to be any street children in Soviet society, so the problems related to them were hushed up. Social pedagogical assistance was not officially provided. The work of the first collaborators of the children's centre was therefore impeded rather than supported. The children's centre only began to be subsidised by city funds and the district administration a few months ago. These funds have enabled the firm hiring of chief professional collaborators. Approximately twenty persons now work in the field of street social work, while ten professionals work in the interior service, eight more staff work in a home offering the possibility of overnight lodgings and pedagogical care. The team is also supplemented by psychologists, supervisors, scientists, and lawyers.

All new collaborators, both men and women, are first engaged for one month as "volunteer" workers for the children's centre and are given a "screening" test during this period. If the collaborator passes the test, he is firmly hired. Students and older students also work for the children's centre on a volunteer or part-time basis.

### *Installation office facilities*

The central office is located on the Bolshoj Prospekt in the Petrograd district. Petrograd is one of the oldest parts of St. Petersburg, characterised by over-aged population structures. Freshly renovated houses of so-called "novi ruski", newly-rich Russians, stand next to residential dwellings in need of renovation, in which up to five households share one bath, one toilet, and one kitchen, and in which whole families frequently live in a single room. The entranceway to the traditional middle-class house, which has already seen its best days, lacks all reference to the offices, installed in a former dwelling on the third floor. Five rooms are used as for central organisation, advisory and information offices. In the city are more offices and subsidiaries, such as day-care centres and a night-shelter facilities for approximately 10 children.

### *Target group*

The services of the children's centre are intended for homeless children aged 5 to 16, as well as for children aged from 10 to 18 who spend most of their time on the street but who are not yet homeless. The first group consists of approximately 500 children, according to estimates of the children's centre. Another 20,000 to 50,000 teenagers are in danger of becoming homeless. This second group is also referred to as "street children", and receives preventive care from the children's centre.

### *Services of the children's centre*

Since younger children who cannot cope alone are in particular danger, children aged 5 to 8 are taken off the street and either placed in homes or lodged in families. The strategy with regards to older children, by comparison, is a different one: working out

common prospects for the future. This is while the youths continue to live on the street. Role playing, fantasy games, musical services, and the organisation of youth clubs corresponding to various sub-cultures, are some of the working methods used by social workers in order to organise the street children. Thus the children's centres may work with hippie-punk and skinhead groups. Attempts are made to provide young cliques with new interests and other meaningful activities through cooperation with other initiatives such as environmental protection associations engaged in environmental-pedagogical work. Group weekend excursions to the countryside or the forests receive positive acceptance from youth groups.

Young adults are only dealt with in individual cases, for example, when they are members of a group overwhelmingly composed of minors. These persons often work in the children's centre later as volunteers. Collaborators with their own "street past" also supplement the quality of the children's centre, since they have a good rapport to street children on the basis of insider knowledge and develop their own advisory profile.

Another aspect of the work of the children's centre may be described using the example of a day care installation in the Petrograd district. In the cellars of a corner house not far from the central offices is a house where girls and boys aged 7 to 14 can meet and spend their free time watching television, playing table soccer or darts. They are not considered street children, but rather "children at risk", such as children of alcoholic parents or single mothers. The children can only be accepted in day care following contact with their parents, and with parental consent. The original families are associated in the process of social pedagogical assistance and are offered psychosocial support if necessary. Sleeping facilities for ten children are available to children most of whom cannot return home due to family problems.

*Peter Grünberg*

### **A Rehabilitation Centre for Disadvantaged Children on the Edge of the City**

#### *Organisational structure of the institution*

Approximately 40 minutes by car from the city centre of St. Petersburg are the buildings of a rehabilitation centre for children, youths, and families, in a district on the northern edge of the city. The work of the institution is organised by churches and the city under a system of mixed responsibility. Four full-time church employees, paid by the municipal employment committee, are active in the field of visiting social work. They make initial contacts with street children and refer them to the services of the centre on the edge of the city. Work within the rehabilitation centre itself is city-oriented to use district resources for the reintegration of street children. The children cannot spend the night there.

Another ten employees, paid by the district administration and concerned with a broad range of advisory services, are employed in a second, preventively oriented, field of activity. Psychological, family and vocational consulting services, as well as helping with homework, supplement each other. Preventive measures are designed to prevent further migration of children onto the street. A third sector is concerned with encouraging vocational assistance. It is organised with the assistance of local schools. Firmly hired employees are supported in their efforts by volunteer manpower.

#### *Service structure*

The initial starting point for street children is a canteen in the city centre where children are given a warm meal and are able to make initial contacts.

Children spend their leisure time in one of the two buildings in the outlying district, and can also learn various working procedures. They also participate in renovating the building and help in the garden.

In the second building of the rehabilitation centre, also a two-story building, local students, both girls and boys, who attend school regularly in the morning, receive initial experience and qualifications in various vocations. Here they can learn thirty different occupations. Nursing, painting, and wood working vocations are some of the vocational choices available. The institution places a very high rating on the value of work. It is already possible to perform independent work at home for pay after a two-month basic training course. Consideration is also being given to the idea of offering complete vocational training to create the long-term basis for earning a living as well as prospects for older children.

Conversation during a project visit

Russian translator at work

**Chapter 4**  
**Reports from the working parties**

*Working Party II Horst Steinhilber***The Role of Sports, Culture, and Art in Mobile Street Work Worldwide**

Speaker: Mr. Alexander Banarov, Izhevsk  
Moderator: Dr. Gabriele Stumpp, Tübingen  
National origins  
of the participants: Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Russia

In his introduction to the topic, the speaker analysed the high suicide rate in St. Petersburg. In 1993, there were 43 suicides for every 100,000 inhabitants. In 1998, there were 70 suicides with the same number of inhabitants. 35% of all suicides were committed by young people. A. Banakov, in a second step of his analysis of this problem, referred to suicide as self-aggression, which could be treated with the help of sports activities. Sports, in addition to cultural and artistic activities, were said to be an important factor in reducing aggression. Banarov especially recommended types of sports encouraging a high degree of self-consciousness or enabling a process of group dynamics. The type of sport must be suitable to the children and youths involved, and open up new ways of living and types of activity.

During the following discussion, the question was raised or whether or not combat sports, for example, encouraged aggressiveness rather than reducing it. In addition to sports activities, cultural activities for street children, such as visiting museums and expositions, were encouraged to facilitate the learning process. Personalities from the fields of sports, the arts, and culture were to act as interlocutors in working with street children and in collaboration with street children initiatives.

The city government of St. Petersburg was encouraged by the workshop participants to make additional premises available as meeting places for street children, in addition to leisure activities, sports, and cultural services. Free agencies in work with street children should be more tightly networked to optimise their working structure.

*Working Party III Christa Veigel***On the Dangers to the Health of Street Children through the Inhalation of Harmful Substances**

Speakers: Mrs. Gloria Svensson, Rädda Barnen/Swedish Save the Children, Stockholm  
Dr. Maristela G. Monteiro, WHO, Geneva

Moderator: Mrs. Sabine Etl, Vienna

National origins of the participants: Brazil, Germany, Finland, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, and Turkey

Mrs. Svensson introduced the topic of the workshop: there was an increase in the spreading and consumption of the inhalation of harmful substances, especially among children in Eastern Europe. In the past, these toxic substances were not considered drugs. The attitude of the WHO was to direct the attention of world opinion to the related problems. Rädda Barnen/Swedish Save the Children, an internationally respected children's rights organisation, demanded corresponding international legislation (see also: Rädda Barnen/Swedish Save the Children Memorandum, 25 March 1998).

Dr. Monteiro reported on her work as a Brazilian doctor with street children. At present, she was occupied with a WHO assignment on the topic of "harmful substances". With the help of a two-page survey, she reported on a whole range of toxic substances which were still legal and which were furthermore still cheap to buy. Street children inhaled harmful substances for many reasons, for example, to "get high", relieve hunger, or compensate for violent experiences, trauma, or lack of sleep. Adults seldom saw the reasons behind the acceptance of drugs. Mere prohibition was unable to solve the problems of street children. If a substance were no longer obtainable, children would simply go on to others. Children's lives and health was being endangered through toxic substances, as well as by the type of ingestion, such as inhalation with the help of plastic bags. Chronic illnesses and psychic consequences resulting from the inhalation of harmful substances remained under-researched and largely unknown. To prevent drug dependence and to cure drug-dependent children, Dr. Monteiro had drawn up manuals for working with correspondingly endangered children, using local resources, theatre, children's theatre, video and television.

During the discussion, the participants unanimously confirmed the problems with harmful substances in their own projects. Russian participants stated that not just poor children inhaled harmful substances. Children who felt rejected and found no acceptance in their families took to drugs regardless of material security. There were few experts in Russia to advise families in crisis situations. Responsibility for the crisis of the family was of concern not just to the family, but to all of society, since the

subsidiarity principle had been abandoned. It was the responsibility of a democratic society, independent institutions, and individuals to organise educational assistance through kindergartens and schools. Reference was made to projects, for example, the "Medical Centre" self-help project which was not, however, financially assured.

As a solution, the organisation and networking of initiatives and volunteers was encouraged to assume legal functions for children. This could, among other things, take place with the help of Internet sites. The service of meaningful leisure time was mentioned as another step towards the solution of the problem.

*Working Party IV Gerhard Fuchslocher***Violence and Criminality in Youthful Street Groups**

Speakers: Natalia Geizhahn, Police Academy St. Petersburg  
M. Didier La Peyronnie, Paris  
Moderator: Mr. Valeri Minigarov, University of Samara  
National origins  
of the participants: Belgium, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Austria, and  
Russia

Mrs. Geizhahn first referred to the origins of street gangs. Groups were formed because the individuals needed them, in order to counter threats from the outside world.

Causes of violence arising from within the group included, among other things, a lack of education, the influence of alcohol, an altered value system, and suggestion by the mass media. In addition, violence often formed part of a group survival strategy resulting in increased prestige for group members. Violence-prone football fans often had the objective of destroying opposing fans in order to feel superior.

Children and youth street gangs were often exploited by adult criminals, thus becoming involved in the present-day criminalisation of Russian society.

Possibilities of action to prevent violence were believed to consist, above all, of work with individual group members. There was a need to recognise and encourage their subjective abilities. The individual needed support in order to leave the group.

Didier LaPeyronnie considered poverty to be the chief factor triggering violence. Youths needed social support. Children were the first victims of violence, only becoming criminal themselves as a consequence. Violence increased under the influence of drugs. LaPeyronnie confirmed Geizhahn's argument that violence was not primarily a matter of obtaining property, but of destruction.

In conclusion, LaPeyronnie mentioned a concept of community development as a social worker approach for the reintegration of street children. Street work was made more difficult by the anonymity in which the residents of many districts live. Residents of large isolated districts were afraid of their fellow men. Neighbourhood help and other forms of citizen commitment were hindered by this factor. Present day social work was said to be unable to break through this form of isolation. Social workers themselves were often the victims of violence.

A Russian participant encouraged the improved coordination of the differing, often isolated, services in the district. Another Russian paper warned of the retroactive

significance of residential and living models for children in the sense of Marenko. The empowerment of positive group experiences through environmental protection work was recommended as a further strategy for the integration of gangs.

The individual assistance approach advocated by N. Geizhahn during his speech was taken up during the discussion. The respect and recognition experienced by youths in the experience of the group needed to be embodied in the structure of social work services. Services intended to enable an independent life in dignity made it easier for youths to leave the gang.

Improved qualifications for social workers and volunteers were recommended for the best possible social work with street groups. A solid analytical and methodological tool, as well as extensive legal knowledge, were part of the training for street workers. A network for social workers for the exchange of information and the optimisation of the service structure was also encouraged.

*Working Party V, Christa Specht, Ingrid Scholz*

### **Street Children, Sexual Violence and Sexual Pedagogy**

Speakers: Dr. A. Schaboltas, University of Moscow, Faculty of Psychology and Management  
Dr. St. Tessier, International Centre for Children and Family, Paris

Moderator: Mr. Ahmed Mainuddin, Bangladesh

National origins of the participants: Germany, Finland, France, England, Georgia, Italy, Macedonia, Portugal, Hungary, USA, and the Philippines.

Mrs. Schaboltas had been working in an advisory centre for many years, offering, among other things, a confidential telephone service. The callers, both male and female, were mostly adults who had been the victims of sexual violence during their childhood. 80% of the perpetrators had, in turn, been sexually abused during their childhood. This phenomenon had not received attention in the past. Exact statistical material had not been presented until today.

Mr. Tessier had been working at CIDEF in Paris for 10 years. He wished to consider children's sexuality from another, more holistic point of view. As a rule, children were only perceived when they fell into problem situations, such as sexual abuse. But children also had positive experiences on the street, even in the field of sexuality. These experiences were largely kept secret from adults. Sexuality among children and youths was tabooed or stigmatised. Mr. Tessier then presented an inquiry conducted in Brazil. Children as young as 8 and 10 years, an age defined by Freud as the years of expectation, had already had sexual experiences with each other. They were confronted with their own sexuality and that of other children every day. In the inquiry described, ten-year olds already distinguished between prostitution as a commercial relationship, and sex with friends as love relationship. To heal this split of their own sexuality and physical nature, required therapeutic support as well as the readiness of the child.

Tessier had been working in the field of AIDS prevention. In connection with the description of this activity, the question arose of how it was possible to influence children's sexual attitudes, such as getting them to use condoms. Since the described children had lost their hope in the future, it was especially difficult to influence them with regards to preventive measures. They knew that they could be dead tomorrow or in two or three years. Towards the end of his talk, Mr. Tessier stated tentatively that sexual education no longer took place in the family.

During the discussion, the difficult question of sexual violence was debated. Only very recently had this been discussed in public. Concepts and methods of eliminating

sexual exploitation still did not exist. Other kinds of physical violence continued to be more acceptable socially than rape or forced prostitution.

Russian seminar participants requested better information on existing concepts, project advice, as well as training and continued training of collaborators. Cooperation with experienced partners was desired on both national and international levels. This was also of concern with regards to the integration of political decision-makers in the transposition of the Convention on the Rights of the Child through corresponding legal amendments to Russian legislation.

*Working Party VI Hans Steimle***Experiences from Street Children Projects in Latin America, Africa, and Asia in Comparison to Projects in Russia**

Speaker: Prof. Manfred Liebel, Berlin  
Moderator: Prof. Malvina Ponce de Leon, Santiago de Chile  
National origins  
of the participants: Chile, Ivory Coast, Germany, Nicaragua, Peru, Portugal, and Russia

Professor Liebel spoke concerning a pedagogical method used by the street children social movement in Latin America, taking the child seriously as the social subject. In initiating relationships with street children, the relation must consist of empathy with the psyche and social situation of street children and learning to respect their abilities and strengths. Many children derived their feelings of self-worth from their work, the earnings from which often enabled them to support entire families. The key opening up the door to independent forms of development often lay in children's activities. The difference in pedagogical practice arising from this approach consisted of working not for, but rather with children.

This approach did not demand a general prohibition of child labour, since many children defined their identity through their work, thereby creating the meaning of their lives. On the other hand, it was important to improve children's living conditions and environment. Liebel objected to putting children in homes. This excluded them from society, instead of integrating them. A change of perspective enabling another view of street children would lead to a perception of children as the protagonists of a social movement, in which own structures and forms of organisation enabling an independent, responsible life for children were already being created.

The discussion illustrated the various realities under which children in Latin American countries and regions grew up. In Chile, for example, 40% of all mothers were single parent minors. The society of any country must act consistently according to the existing social situation. But there were hardly any preventive measures. When children already lived on the street, the reaction was one of restrictive care.

That the children's groups had become a substitute family for many street children was hardly perceived to be an accident. The discussion participants therefore demanded the recognition of national and international working children's organisations. These organisations acted simultaneously as an area of learning and space for socialisation. Based on this principle, alternative, i.e., more easily accessible, educational, health, and working structures with children should be developed, supported by the corresponding laws.

NGOs should ensure the following:

- encouraging and accompanying children's organisations
- organising the training and continued training of street workers
- establishing social policy proposals
- acting with the police and other local authorities to encourage protective instead of repressive practices
- conducting studies and research on street phenomena
- encouraging the exchange of experiences between practitioners and universities (students could, for example, spend a period of practical training with NGOs).

*Working Party VII Michael Schirmer***Training, Advanced Training, and Continued Training in Mobile Youth Work**

Speakers:	Prof. Rainer Treptow, University of Jena Prof. Artur Rean, University of St. Petersburg Dr. Gerrie Smit, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa
Moderator:	Mrs. Vika Prokovjeva
National origins of the participants:	Azerbaijan, Germany, Greece, Latvia, the Netherlands, Austria, Russia, and Turkey

At the beginning of his remarks, Prof. Treptow stressed the necessity of education and advanced training to organise competent, professional assistance for street children. Education, in his view, aimed at improved qualifications and professionalism with regards to a certain vocation. To reach this goal required a curriculum, that is, a technically detailed teaching plan with teaching and learning steps, as well as methodological modules. Training target groups included volunteers and (future) professionals. Training locations could take place on various levels: in academies, technical high schools, universities, as well as research institutes, such as adult education classes. The study and research topics, as a consequence, in Prof. Treptow's opinion, should depend on the particular on-the-spot problem situations, for example, the living world of street youths. Last of all, the speaker postulated the best possible cooperation between experts, physicians, psychologists, social workers, teachers, and workers in training as well as practice.

Dr. Gerrie Smit began his talk with the recipients of social pedagogical training, mentioning street workers, volunteers, and representatives of authorities, such as the police, community personalities, and street children themselves. He advocated a practice-oriented training approach consisting of case studies, concrete work on the spot, and contact with street children. Only in this way would it be possible to move from a restrictive approach to a participatory approach, from an institutional approach to a community-oriented approach.

Prof. Rean, the third speaker, described various training curricula for Russian social workers or teachers, such as psychology, pedagogy, law and social-medicine. In contrast to the approach described by Dr. Smit, theory was, however, all too clearly predominant. Prof. Rean admitted that there was a wide gap between pure theory and implementation. The necessary capacity for implementation was not yet being conveyed during training. Teachers were often overburdened in handling children in difficult living situations; it was here that the work of a social pedagogue should begin.

In the discussion, the participatory approach was taken up and reinforced: street children should be actively involved in the contents of the work. Street children later,

as adults, and under certain circumstances, would themselves become the best social workers. A Turkish participant proposed the involvement of volunteers, in addition to professionals in the work, as practised in her project. This proposal was controversially discussed. Dr. Smit remarked that years of experience and special training were of great importance in working with street children. Even street children sought to manipulate their helpers.

A contribution from Chechnya discussed the very different training preconditions for working with street children and training content. All the structures had collapsed because of the war. In particular, work with traumatised children required special qualifications. The leader of the psychological Centre for Rehabilitation in St. Petersburg spontaneously offered assistance.

During the discussion, it became clear that a genuine picture of the social worker's vocation in Russia was only beginning to take shape. A newspaper, published by the youth programme centre at irregular intervals since 1933, was used to communicate this vocational picture. Based on this description, attempts were made to reduce the information gaps in as much as possible during discussion. The idea was gaining ground of founding an information centre, a place in which representatives of NGOs could meet, exchange, network, and engage in further training. Such a centre should dispose of technical information and documents, and collate information on various, already existing projects all over Russia by means of a data bank and an Internet link.

Consideration was also given to the organisation of exchange programmes enabling professional social workers to learn from the experiences of their colleagues in other countries. Students could depart for guest or practice semesters in foreign partner training workshops. Foreign students and experts could, of course, also come to Russia. From the Charitable Academy in Germany came the proposal to participate in the development of standards of social work with street children, exchanges relating to curricula in Russia and elsewhere, as well as in the qualifications for technical personnel. Dr. Münstermann of the Academy advocated the holding of a workshop in which trainers and other experts could gather to further these three fields, i.e., the development of curricula.

*Working Party VII* (see Frans Krasovec, p. 61)

Trudy Davis, Prof. Rainer Treptow, Dr. Artur Rean, Dr. Walther Specht (from left to right)

Symposium participants during the plenary session

**Chapter 5**  
**Further Findings of the Symposium**

**General Policy Statement**

International Symposium "Street Children and Mobile Youth Work"  
St. Petersburg, September 1998

We, the participants of the International Symposium "Street Children and Mobile Youth Work", held from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 1998 at Belosselskij-Beloserskij Palace, St. Petersburg, declare that :

- 1.- The phenomenon of street children worldwide is a growing symptom, which denies street children an identity and access to basic human rights.
- 2.- The participants, recognising that every street child has a right to dignity, support and care, undertake a joint commitment to work towards ensuring that every street child has a better future and is protected under the articles of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 November 1989.
- 3.- The participants call upon street children in all States to participate in all efforts through national action and international cooperation to promote this cause.
- 4.- The participants seek support of the United Nations, State governments, regional and local governments, the police, the academic community and all individual citizens to preserve the rights of street children to nurture, support and provide them with access to health care, basic education and literacy.
- 5.- The participants recognising that the street children phenomenon is in part related to poverty, urge Governments to promote economic growth, particularly in the newly emerging economies and developing countries, and ensure the well being of their vulnerable and unprotected street children.
- 6.- The participants, recognising that the street children phenomenon is in part due to sexual exploitation and abuse, and whilst considering this the most heinous human crime, call on States and Courts to impose the heaviest penalties on child sex offenders and exploiters and the wilful murderers of street children.
- 7.- The participants, concerned about a general lack of acknowledgement of the phenomenon of street children, call on all State, regional and local government, the European Community and all politicians, to extend particular protection for street children, orphans, refugee children, children in labour, children in armed conflicts, children in slavery, children used in the illicit drugs trade, and children in the human organs trade.
- 8.- The participants, recognising that streetworking children and children in labour sometimes provide the only sustenance for their families, will campaign for the provision of alternative income to their families.
- 9.- The participants, recognising the importance of global action on the protection of street children, pledge at this conference to work together to tackle the root causes of the street children phenomenon, to provide services for street children, and to campaign relentlessly for the recognition and implementation of the rights of street children.
- 10.- A Plan of Action will be drawn up to implement the recommendations of the St. Petersburg Symposium

**Action Programme of the Organisers**

International Symposium "Street Children and Mobile Youth Work"

St. Petersburg, 11. September 1999

## The Organisations' Commitments :

- 1.- To establish, strengthen and serve networks in Western, Eastern and Central Europe engaged in assisting street children and youth. (ENSCW, ISMO)
- 2.- To urge all EU member-states to support the ENSCW and promote a coherent policy for street children.
- 3.- To further develop political mechanisms in the frame work of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (November 1989) to protect the Human Rights of street children and youth and encourage prevention, protection and the participation of children.
- 4.- To influence politicians, governments and international institutions in the decision-making process to benefit the plight of street children and youth.
- 5.- To encourage partnerships among NGOs
- 6.- To support programs on exchanging field workers worldwide and develop courses on mobile youth work for them (ENSCW, ISMO)
- 7.- To give advice on funding applications from Eastern and central European street children and youth work agencies through EU budgetlines TACIS (Russia) and PHARE (Eastern Europe) and to encourage the establishment of a Russian/Central Eastern European Network.
- 8.- To further develop a database facility available to members of the ENSCW and all other legitimate enquirer in Europe and overseas.
- 9.- To commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (November 1989)
- 10.- To call a general assembly of the ENSCW network, combined with a conference on the role of City Governments (envisaged in France). (ENSCW)

The fine art of a Russian violin virtuoso during an evening of international exchanges

Presentation of Russian folklore

## Reactions and Appraisals from Russian and Elsewhere

*Prof. Artur Rean*

*University of St. Petersburg*

The symposium was very successful. By ordinary standards, the symposium was very well organised.

This view was shared by many of his colleagues from various other Russian cities who also had participated in the symposium. The aims of the symposium, agreed between all four Joint Chairpersons of the Symposium on 7 and 8 July 1998 in Stuttgart, had been largely attained. The symposium had greatly encouraged a reinforcement of activities related to working with street children while alerting the public to the phenomenon of street children on a more frequent basis.

Newspapers, radio, and television news reporting had made a considerable contribution in this regard. Prof. Rean himself had given five interviews on the symposium. In so doing, he had given particular emphasis to the activities of the ENSCW and the ISMO. He had also strongly stressed the cooperation of scientists and practitioners in this field.

The Russian Federation, in the form of a committee for children and youth problems in Moscow, had also turned to him to request material on the symposium. The aforesaid committee was planning to include the findings of the symposium in a report to the Russian government and President Yeltsin.

In addition to these rather official contacts, there had been great many other inquiries and information exchanges within St. Petersburg and inside Russia. According to Prof. Rean, the decisive question now was what would follow, or rather, what concrete activities would follow, from the impetus given by the symposium to agencies committed to, and responsible for, street children?

*Galina N. Sorokina*

*Municipal administration of St. Petersburg*

Mrs. Sorokina expressed her thanks for being invited to participate in the symposium in St. Petersburg, stressing the professional contribution of the symposium with regards to social, pedagogical, and psychological aspects of mobile youth work with street children and street youths. Mrs. Sorokina also mentioned the rather broad media coverage of the symposium. There were thus numerous reports in the newspapers, on radio, in the series St. Petersburg Panorama, and a television broadcast on 09.11.1998.

After the symposium, a delegation of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) arrived for an on-the-spot examination of the manner in which the ILO might draw up a programme for street children.

An inquiry into the results of the symposium was received by the city government of St. Petersburg from the republic of Khatarstan, with an express request to send papers and talks on work with children and youths to the interested parties in Khatarstan.

After the symposium there was reinforced cooperation with free agencies (NGOs) and the Committee for Children, Adults, and Youths on local levels in St. Petersburg.

*Alexandr Stepanov*

*Charitable department of the Russian Orthodox churches in St Petersburg*

The St. Petersburg Diocese of the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church of Moscow was very thankful for the 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Street Children and Mobile Youth work in St. Petersburg. This international symposium had encouraged not only the creative exchange of experiences, but was also a first step towards constructive cooperation of the Church as free social work agencies in cooperation with governmental agencies and institutions.

The social work initiated with street children within the Russian Orthodox Church had been considerably strengthened by this symposium, which had given the work a major impetus, not only in St. Petersburg but all over Russia.

*Vladilav M Nitikin*

*House of Mercy, Children's Home for Street Children, St. Petersburg*

Mr. Nitikin stated that the symposium was an important step in the development of mobile youth work.

He especially welcomed the international and national makeup of symposium participants. That both governmental representatives and national and international experts had dedicated themselves to the problem of street children was a good thing. To him, this was the special value of the symposium.

To Mr. Nikitin, in addition to papers and working parties, the visit by twelve foreign symposium participants to the Dom Miloserdia children's home, managed by him, was particularly helpful.

With regards to individual working parties, Mr. Nikitin remarked critically that the conference had not been so successful for the Russian participants in all cases, due to a lack of time as well as a lack of Russian experience and corresponding preparation for a forum such as this one.

He therefore placed great hope in the "Russian Network for Street Children as Part of the ENSCW", founded on the concluding day of the symposium, from which he expected stronger cooperation or coordination of the work in Russia.

He furthermore hoped that similar international exchanges of experiences like the just concluded symposium would lead to a stronger commitment on the part of governmental and non-governmental organisations to street children in Russia.

*Benjamin Benz*

*News, reports, and opinions from the Evangelical Technical High school Rheinland-Westphalia-Lippe, Bochum*

The "International Society for Mobile Youth Work e.V (ISMO)", with registered office in Stuttgart, together with the "European Network on Street Children Worldwide (ENSCW)" (Brussels) held the 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the topic of street children and mobile youth work in St. Petersburg on 8-10 September. Social workers, Ministerial members, scientists, and representatives of international organisations such as UNICEF, ILO, etc. met in St. Petersburg for an exchange of experiences and thoughts. Dr. E.-U. Huster participated on behalf of the Evangelical Technical High School Rheinland-Westphalia-Lippe, Bochum, and gave the opening address on the topic "On the International Development of Poverty and Social Exclusion". He was accompanied by B. Benz and P. Grünberg, two social worker graduates of the Evangelical Technical High School Rheinland-Westphalia-Lippe, Bochum.

While the problem of children and youths having the street as the central point of their lives was described in a variety of different terms, one must nevertheless speak of a worldwide phenomenon, as shown by the participation of practitioners from all continents. In so doing, different concepts and methods, living and working conditions became apparent, as well as the common will to encourage work for and with street children and youths on the spot, through exchanges and networking, common political pressure, and mutual support.

**Press releases from the Main Office of the Charitable Department of the Evangelical Church in Germany:**

*100 Million Street Children - A Time Bomb?*

*Congress in St. Petersburg: Strengthening Assistance Beyond National Borders*

*St. Petersburg, 14.09.1998 (dw)*

An international congress on Mobile Youth Work in St. Petersburg, Russia, ended with an appeal to states, churches and other organisations to apply themselves more seriously to the growing problem of the estimated 100 million street children worldwide. In their concluding statement, the approximately 300 participants from 38 countries demanded the legal transposition of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. They furthermore advocated cross-border cooperation to improve the conditions of children working and living on the street as well as their families, most of which were impoverished. Their rights to health, nourishment, education, and support must not fall victim to the economic situation. The participant organisations committed themselves to building up their cooperation in favour of children and youths. The meeting was jointly organised by the city governments and University of St. Petersburg, the European Network on Street Children Worldwide (ENSCW, Brussels), and the International Society for Youth Work (ISMO, Stuttgart) of the Charitable Department of the Evangelical Church of Germany.

*Diocesan President Gohde calls for a "social movement in favour of children"*

At the beginning of the meeting, President of the Charitable Department Pastor Jürgen Gohde (Stuttgart) demanded a "social movement in favour of children". The commitment to the rights of children was simultaneously a "conscious engagement for the development of democracy". Prof. Artur Rean, a professor from St. Petersburg, stated that the traditional youth assistance systems of his country could no longer function adequately without international support. The present economic situation was hitting families especially hard. ISMO Chairman Dr. Walther Specht (Germany) -- also the spokesman of the National Poverty Conference in Germany -- advocated "searching" youth work, speaking to children and youths wherever they live. This was the best way to gain their trust at the earliest opportunity, in order to offer them further help. The Chairperson of the European Network, the Dutch member of the European Parliament, Maartje van Putten, warned of the dangers of an exclusion of so many members of a coming generation. She called the problem a "time bomb". It indicated the social pressure of the present day. It encouraged the call for law and order, and therefore the advent of an authoritarian regime.

## Appendix

Site of the symposium: the Belosselskij-Beloserskij Municipal Palace on Newski  
Prospekt

Symposium participants before the entrance to the Belosselskij-Beloserskij

**From the programme****Street Children and  
Mobile Youth Work**

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues:

The International Society for Mobile Youth Work (ISMO) in Germany, the European Network on Street Children Worldwide (ENSCW) in Brussels, Belgium, and the city government and state university of St. Petersburg are holding the 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on "Street Children and Mobile Youth Work" in St. Petersburg from 8 - 11 September 1998.

In cooperation with Russian NGOs, technical experts, scientists, and youth policy-makers from all parts of the world, we are concerned with the problem of street children, especially the tragic situation in Russia and Eastern Europe.

The objectives in so doing include the following:

- strengthening the forces of reform in civil society in the solution of social problems, especially with regards to street children and street youths;
- mention of the rights of children and young people (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) and their transposition into national implementing legislation;
- technical support in the building of a youth assistance service (mobile youth work) oriented towards conditions in Russia;

- continued cooperation among representatives of science, practice, youth and social policies on national, European and international levels.

We hope that the common 7<sup>th</sup> ISMO Symposium and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ENSCW Congress will enrich international and technical discourse, further develop and construct the “living world related” action approach for street children and youths, strengthen overall European cooperation, and further international efforts to improve the ominous living situation of street children.

Faithfully,

Prof. Dr. Walther Specht

*Joint Chairperson of the Symposium  
Charitable Department of the Evangelical  
Church of Germany (ISMO)*

Maartje van Putten

*Joint Chairperson of the Symposium  
Member of the European Parliament*

Prof. Dr. Artur Rean

*Joint Chairperson of the Symposium  
University of St Petersburg*

Alexander Hasov

*Joint Chairperson of the Symposium  
City Government of St. Petersburg*

**Thursday, 8 September 1998**

14:00	<b>Press conference</b> Official: <i>Galina Sorokina</i> Location: Hotel Moskwa, Alexander Newskowo Platz 2
Until 15:00	<b>Arrival of participants</b> Taking up quarters Registration at conference offices Location: Hotel Moskwa, Alexander Newskowo Platz 2
17:00	<b>Ecumenical Religious Service</b> Location: Church of St. Petri, Newski Prospekt 22/24
20:00	<b>Informal meeting of symposium participants with evening meal</b> Welcoming address by Joint Chairpersons Place: Hotel Moskwa, Alexander Newskowo Platz 2

<b>Wednesday, 9 September 1998</b>	
10:00	<p><b>Opening of the Symposium in Plenary Session</b>  Moderator: <i>Dr. Specht</i>  Location: Municipal Palace "Belosselskij-Beloserskij", Newski Prospekt 41  Honoured guest: <i>Her Majesty Queen Noor van Jordan</i></p> <p><b>Welcoming address</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Vladimir Jakovlev</i>, Lord Mayor of the city of St. Petersburg</li> <li>– <i>Prof. Ludmila Verbitzkaja</i>, Rector, State University of St. Petersburg</li> <li>– Representatives of the Government of the Russian Federation</li> <li>– Representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church</li> <li>– <i>Maartje van Putten</i>, European Parliament, Chairperson of the ENSCW, Brussels</li> <li>– <i>Görel Thurdin</i>, Chairperson of Rädda Barnen/Swedish Save the Children, Stockholm</li> <li>– <i>Dr. Ezio Gianni Murzi</i>, UNICEF Moscow</li> <li>– <i>Werner Blenk</i>, Representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Geneva</li> <li>– Representatives of the Academy for Training, Russian Federation</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers</b></p>
11:00-11:30	<p><b>I. Social, Pedagogical, and Psychological Aspects of the Phenomenon of Street Children and Street Youths in Russia</b>  <i>Prof. Artur Rean</i>, University of St. Petersburg</p>
11:30-12:00	<p><b>II. On the International Development of Poverty and Social Exclusion</b>  <i>Dr. E.-U. Huster</i>, Evangelical Technical High School Rheinland-Westphalia-Lippe, Bochum</p>
12:00-12:30	<p><b>III. The Global Role of the Church With Regards to Street Children</b>  <i>Pastor Jürgen Gohde</i>, President of the Charitable Department of the Evangelical Church of Germany, Stuttgart  <i>Pastor Valson Tampu</i>, Bonded Labour Liberation Front, New Delhi, India</p>
12:30-14:30	<b>Noon break</b>
14:30	<p><b>Working parties</b>  Location: to be determined</p>

	<p><b>I. The social and material situation and the special risks among street children and street youths in St. Petersburg</b>  <i>Dimitrij Anaschkin</i>, St. Petersburg  <i>Vladimir Borissov</i>, St. Petersburg  <i>Eugen Slutsky</i>, St. Petersburg</p>
	<p><b>II. The Role of Sports, Culture, and Art in Mobile Youth Work Worldwide.</b>  <i>Eugini N. Kulikov</i>, Committee for Culture and Sport, St. Petersburg  <i>N.N.</i>, St. Petersburg</p>
	<p><b>III. On the Dangers to the Health of Street Children through the Inhalation of Harmful Substances</b>  <i>Gloria Svensson</i>, Rädda Barnen/Swedish Save the Children, Stockholm  <i>Dr. Maristela G. Monteiro</i>, WHO, Geneva  <i>Dr. Valentin Semjonov</i>, University of St. Petersburg</p>
	<p><b>IV. Violence and Criminality in Youthful Street Groups (Street Gangs)</b>  <i>Didier LaPeyronnie</i>, Paris  <i>Dr. M. Sannikova and Dr. V. Sitnikov</i>, University of St. Petersburg  <i>Natalia Geizheim</i>, Police Academy of St. Petersburg</p>
	<p><b>V. Street Children, Sexual Violence and Sexual Pedagogy.</b>  <i>Dr. A. Schaboltas</i>, Moscow  <i>Dr. Stephane Tessier</i>, International Centre for Children and Family, Paris</p>
	<p><b>VI. Experiences from Street Children Projects in Latin America, Africa, and Asia in Comparison to Projects in Russia</b>  <i>Dr. Manfred Liebel</i>, Berlin  <i>N.N.</i>, Managua, Nicaragua  <i>N.N.</i>, Wologda, Russia</p>
	<p><b>VII. Training and Further Training in Mobile Youth Work</b>  <i>Prof. Rainer Treptow</i>, University of Jena  <i>Prof. Artur Rean</i>, University of St. Petersburg  <i>Dr. Gerrie Smit</i>, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa</p>
	<p><b>VIII. The Role of Local Authorities (City Government) in Handling Street Children and Street Youths</b>  <i>Frans Krasovec</i>, Kerkrade, the Netherlands  <i>Galina Sorokina</i>  <i>François Chobeaux</i>, Centre d'Entrainement aux Methodes d'Education actives, Paris</p>
16:30	<b>Pause</b>
17:30-18:30	<b>Continuation of the working parties</b>

<b>Thursday, 10 September 1998</b>	
	<p><b>Plenary session</b>  Moderator: <i>Prof. Treptow</i>, University of Jena  Location: "Belosselskij-Beloserskij" Municipal Palace  Newski Prospekt 41</p>
	<b>Speakers</b>
9:00-9:30	<p><b>I. Social services for Russian Street Children and Youths</b>  <i>Alexander Hasov</i>, Youth Office of the City of St. Petersburg</p>
9:30-10:00	<p><b>II. Police Work with Street Children</b>  <i>N.N.</i>, Police, St. Petersburg</p>
10:00-10:30	<b>Discussion</b>
10:30-11:00	<b>Break</b>
11:00-11:30	<p><b>II. Mobile Street Work in Europe</b>  <i>Dr. Walther Specht</i>, Charitable Department of the Evangelical Church of Germany, Stuttgart</p>
11:30-12:30	<b>Discussion</b>
12:30-14:00	<b>Midday break</b>
14:00-18:00	<p><b>Visits to Youth Assistance Institutions and On-the-Spot Technical Talks</b>  (Preparation by Round Table  St. Petersburg, <i>Dimitrij Anaschkin</i>)</p>
20:00	<b>Social Evening</b>

<b>Friday, 11 September 1998</b>	
9:00-12:30	<p><b>Plenary session - Forum for government representatives</b>  Moderator: <i>Maartje van Putten</i>  Location: "Belosselskij-Beloserskij" Municipal Palace  Newski Prospekt 41</p> <p>Political Strategies in the Struggle against the Exclusion of Children and Youth from the Point of View of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ENSCW, <i>Maartje van Putten</i></li> <li>- UNICEF</li> <li>- UNESCO, <i>Alphonse Tay</i>, Paris</li> <li>- International Labour Office, <i>Caglar Ayse Sule</i>, Ankara</li> <li>- Ministry for Foreign Affairs, <i>Pekka Haavisto</i></li> <li>- Ministry for Labour and Solidarity, <i>Olivier Chazy</i>, Paris</li> <li>- Ministry of Solidarity, <i>Dr. Rui Cunha</i>, Portugal</li> <li>- Ministry for Social and Youth Affairs, Russia</li> <li>- Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, <i>Jochen Weitzel</i>, Bonn</li> </ul> <p>and final <b>Plenary discussion</b></p>
12:30- 14:00	<b>Midday break</b>
14:00	<p><b>Concluding statements of the organisers</b>  "The Differentiation of Individual Assistance Approaches (Evaluation)"  <i>Prof. Rainer Treptow</i>, University of Jena</p> <p><b>Issuance of an Action Programme</b>  Formation of a Russian network for Street Children  Formation of an Eastern European Network for Street Children</p> <p><b>Resolution</b></p>
16:30	<b>End of symposium</b>

**List of Participants**

International Symposium "Street Children and Mobile Youth Work" in St. Petersburg ,  
8-11 September 1998

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
1	Sabine Etl		Trambauerstr. 10/3/4 1100 Wien	Austria	+43.(0)1.6047548
2	Karin Gruber		Lowengasse 19/2/16 1030 Wien	Austria	+43.(0)1.7105418
3	Veronika Junker-Eferl		Irenentalstr. 58 3011 Untertullnerbach	Austria	+43.(0)2233/53017
4	Birgit Klausser			Austria	
5	Mag.Christoph Möderndorfer		Czapkagasse 15/15 1030 Wien	Austria	+43.(0)1.7152306
6	Stefano Mariotti	Mail and Parcel Delivery Service	102, Shamil Azizbekov Str. Baku	Azerbaijan	+994.12.97.38.38 +994.12.97.38.39
7	Jahangir A.H.M Mainuddin Ahmed	Human Rights First the Child	141 Azimpurroad Dhaka 1205	Bangladesh	+88.02.507.225 +88.02.810.254. cdl@citechco.net
8	Monique Patte	Fondation du Roi Baudouin	Rue Brederode, 21 1000 Bruxelles	Belgium	+32.(0)2.511.18.40. +32.(0)2.549.02.53. +32.(0)2.549.03.11. patte. m@kbs-frb. be
9	Patricia Vandamme	Enda Tiers Monde	Rue du Culot, 35 1341 Ceroux Mousty	Belgium	+32.(0)10.62.01.76 +32.(0)10.62.01.76. patricia.vandamme@eurone t.be
10	Edwin de Boevé	Dynamo a.s.b.l.	Av, Rousseau, 300 1190 Bruxeiles	Belgium	+32.(0)2.332.23.56. +32.(0)2.332.30.25. Dynamo@skynet.be
11	Claudia Arnold	ENSCW	Avenue Albert, 137 1190 Brussles	Belgium	+32.2.347.78.48. +32.2.347.79.46. enscw@xs4all.be
12	Gloria Macias Svensson	Rädda Barnen	Avenue Tervuren, 15 1040 Bruxelles	Belgium	+32.2.732.18.00. +32.2.732.21.15. gloria. svensson@bryssel.lo.se
13	Vania Ivanova		3b Rue du Beau Site 1000 Bruxelles	Belgium	+32(0)2.649.76.83. +32.(0)2.640.65.19.
14	Ilse Miranda Davila	Ecosolidar Bolivia	Casilla 10347 Passaje Inca n°203 Zona Centra La Paz	Bolivia	+591.2.229.196. +591.2229.179. ecosol@caoba.entelnet. bo
15	Dr. Nanko. van Buuren	IBISS Institute Brasileiro de Inovações em Saúde Social	Sete de Setembro 43/5 Qandar 2005992 Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	+55.21.252.44.19.. +55.21.252.09.61. ibiss@ax.apc.org

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
16	Jan Daniels	Streetchildren Project Sao Martinho	Rua do Riachuelo 7, Lapa 20230-010 Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	+55.21.221.14.53. +55.21.242.76.29
17	Nadya Nedkova	Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation	24 Venelin Str., Entr. 2, Floor 2. 1000 Sofia	Bulgaria	+359.2.89.17.84. +359.2.98.88.273. +359.2.98.88.273. fdbfound@mail.bol.bg
18	Petkova Maria	Gavroche Foundation	19 Elemag stz bl 309 SOFIA 113	Bulgarie	+359.2.951.52.37. +359.2.951.51.83. MPETKOVA@OSF.ACA D.BG
19	Alain Fabrice Kounga	Association des Promoteurs du Développement	BP 2479. Messa Yaoundé	Cameron	+237.21.54.81 +237.21.54.81
20	Xinia Brenes	Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of YMCA's	Apartado 701 Centro Colon 1007 San Jose	Costa Rica Central America	+506.233.92.13 +506.233.53.94. +506.221.95.01. +506.223.51.92. asocrist@sol-racsa.co.cr
21	Nathan Stirling			Denmark	
22	Ignat Ivanov	Mission Possible	Merineulante4 01450 Vantaa	Finland	+358.9.872.40.82 +358.9.872.07.47 mission.possible.@icon.f
23	Saara-Maria Paakkinen		Rantatie, 86 04400 Varvenpaa	Finland	+358.9.275.45.73. +358.9.273.25.61.
24	Ossi Oinonen	Joint project of the Social Welfare and health promotion Organisations "NGO's for better social Welfare and health"	Finnish Centre for Health Promotion Karjaankatu 2 C 63 00520 Helsinki	Finland	+358.9.725.30.375. +358.9.725.30.318. ossi.oinonen@health.fi
25	Kari Ilmonen	Ministry for Social Affairs and health	Box 267 00171 Helsinki	Finland	
26	Pekka Haavisto	Finish Minister for Development cooperation		Finland	
27	Michel Arnold	Centre d'Aide par le Travail -Wissebourg	81, rue Principale 67240 Kurtzenhouse	France	+33.3.88.72.38.41. +33.3.88.54.83.75.
28	Didier Lapeyron-nie	Centre d'Analyses et d'Interventions Sociologiques (CADIS)	54, Bvd raspail 75006 Paris	France	+33.45.44.93.11.
29	Stéphane Tessier	CIDEF - Centre International de l'Enfant et de la Famille	Chateau de Longchamp 75016 Paris	France	+33.144.30.20.79. +33.1.45.20.81.60.
30	Alphonse Tay	UNESCO	7, place Fontenoy 75352 Paris 7 SP	France	+33.1.45.68.21.18. +33.1.45.68.56.26-7.
31	François Chobeaux	CEMEA Centre d'Entrainement aux Méthodes d'Education Active	76, boulevard de la Vilette 75019 Paris	France	+33.1.40.40.43.87. +33.1.40.40.43.19. daridp@aol.com

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
32	Olivier Chazy	Ministere de l'Emploi et de la Solid a rite Direction de l'Action Sociale	Sous-direction du Developpement Social de la Famille et de l'Enfance Bureau DSF 2 75696 Paris 14	France	+33.1.44.36.96.29. +33.1.44.36.97.23.
33	Maya Kuparadze	UNICEF - Georgie UN House, IV Floor	9 Eristavi Street Vake, Tbilissi 380079	Georgia	+8832.23.23.88. (CIS) +8832.25.11.30. (CIS) +995.32.23.23.88. (others) +995.32.25.11.30. (others) +1.908.888.96.98 geco@unicef.org.ge
34	Merab Sanikidze	Ministry of Education		Georgia	+995.32.35.06.92 +995.32.94.29.23
35	Nino Iashvili	NGO Association "Child and Environment"		Georgia	+995.32.943735 +995.32.94.3735
36	Dr. Detlef Baum		Van-Gogh-Str. 47 55127 Mainz	Germany	+49.(0)6131/7612 +49.(0)6131/7612
37	Benjamin Benz		Bachstr. 7a 45770 Marl	Germany	+49.(0)2365/43312 +49.(0)2365/42076
38	Claudia Dubois-Reymond		Traifelbergplatz 3 70597 Stuttgart	Germany	+49.(0)711/7656368 +49.(0)711/7656368
39	Gerhard Fuchslocher		Hellmundstr. 43 65183 Wiesbaden	Germany	+49.(0)611/408757 +49.(0)611/408757
40	Kai Funkschmidt		Strafibugerstr. 10 42107 Wuppertal	Germany	+49.(0)202/4468655
41	Eva Garrett		Saronweg 53 33617 Bielefeld	Germany	+49.(0)521/140219
42	Präsident Jürgen Gohde		Herkulesstr. 109 34119Kassel	Germany	
43	Gisela Gouriou		Brunnenallee 21 53332 Bomheim-Roisdorf	Germany	+49.(0)2222/936728
44	Peter Grünberg		Sperberstr. 23 42859 Remscheid	Germany	+49.(0)2191/388435
45	Susanne Hessemann		Waterloostr. 24 22769 Hamburg	Germany	+49.(0)40/4392465
46	Prof. Dr. Ernst-Ulrich Huster		Steinstr. 33 35415 Pohlheim	Germany	+49.(0)6403/61415
47	Siegfried Keppeler		Lange Gasse 6 72119 Ammerbuch	Germany	+49.(0)7073/7166
48	Joachim Kleppel		Beethovenstr. 68 71640 Ludwigsburg	Germany	+49.(0)7164/870969
49	Manfred Liebel		Rönnestr. 5 14057 Berlin	Germany	+49.(0)30/3237853 +49.(0)30/31473621
50	Dr. Klaus Münstermann		Am Eickhof 20 32120 Hiddenhausen	Germany	+49.(0)5221/589066 +49.(0)5221/589069
51	Dimitrij Nepomshin		Stuttgart	Germany	
52	Susanne Potratz		Stuttgart	Germany	
53	Gerhard Raith			Germany	

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
54	Margrit Röhm		Pipinstr. 12 52111 Bonn	Germany	+49.(0)228/655751
55	Regine Schäfer		Geschwister-Scholl-Str. 75 14471 Potsdam	Germany	
56	Jürgen Schaffranek		Johann-Sigismund Str. 19 10711 Berlin	Germany	+49.(0)30/8931229
57	Michael Schirmer		Konrad-Adenauer-Str- 4S/26 72072 Tübingen	Germany	+49.(0)7071/760209
58	Anja Schmidt		Babststr. 15 18059 Rostock	Germany	
59	Ingrid Scholz		Industriestr. 7 71706 Markgroningen	Germany	+49.(0)7147/5538 +49.(0)7147/14361
60	Christa Specht		Haugstr. 11 70563 Stuttgart	Germany	
61	Tanja Christine Specht		Rotlaubstr. 2 79106 Freiburg	Germany	+49.(0)761/2925035
62	Prof. Dr. Walther Specht		Haugstr. 11 70563 Stuttgart	Germany	
63	Prof. Dr. Werner Steffan		Tulpenweg,5 90 571 Schwaig	Germany	+49.(0)911/263079 +49.(0)911/261860
64	Hans Steimle		Karlsbader Str. 22 73035 Goppingen	Germany	+49.(0)7161/42243
65	Horst Steinhilber			Germany	+49.(0)711/2265770
66	Peter Stotz		Franziskanergasse 3 73728 Esslingen	Germany	+49.(0)711/359118 +49.(0)711/359118
67	Dr. Gabriele Stumpp		Waldachstr. 3 72202 Nagold	Germany	+49.(0)7452/1750
68	Kordula Thimm		Johanniterstr. 26 52064 Aachen	Germany	+49.(0)241/23758
69	Prof. Dr. Rainer Treptow		Hirschauerstr. 41 72070 Tübingen	Germany	+49.(0)7071/40335 +49.(0)7071/40335
70	Dr. Christa Veigel		Schubartstr. 5 70190 Stuttgart	Germany	+49.(0)711/2625397
71	Jochen Weitzel		BMFSFJ	Germany	
72	Barbara Wink-Keppeler		Lange Gasse 6 72119 Ammerbuch	Germany	+49.(0)7073/7166
73	Lemos Myrto	Support Centre for Children and Family Social and Educational Action	21 Attikis Ano Hikoupolis 16342 Athens	Greece	+30.1.992.23.36. +30.1.996.69.56.
74	Einar Hanssen	Redd Barna	c/o Orszagos Csalad - es Gyermekvedelmi Intezet 1134 Budapest Tuzer utca 33-35	Hungary	+36.1.320.22.06. +36.1.320.22.07. +36.1.320.22.05. einarhanssen@compuserve.com

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
75	Natalia Rakar	UNICEF - Child Care Forum	Tuzeru. 33-35 1134 Budapest	Hungary	+36.1.320.22.00. /112 +36.1.465.60.20. +36.1.465.60.27. +36.1.320.22.00./11 2 nrakar@mail.datanet.hu
76	Eszter Nemenyi	UNICEF - Child Care Forum	Tuzer u. 33-35 1134 Budapest	Hungary	+36.1.320.22.00. /112 +36.1.465.60.20. +36.1.465.60.27. +36.1.320.22.00./11 2 emenyi@mail.datanet. hu
77	Désiré Koukoui	Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance	01 BP 1721 Abidjan 01	Ivory Coast	+225.22.87.07. +225.32.45.89 BICE.CI@africa on line.co.ci
78	Zenite Estere		Riga	Lituania	
79	Natasa Dvoska	JCWE - Journalist about children's and women's Rights and Enviromental in Macedonia	Jane SandanaH 86-2/15 91000 Skopje	Macedonia	+389.91.446.135. +389.91.446.135 dvoska@yahoo.com
80	Tsend Ariuntungulag	Save the Children	P.O Box 1023, Central Post Office	Mongolia	+97.61.327.121 +97.61.327.148 monscf@magicnet.mn
81	Govinda Khatri	CWIN - Child Workers in Nepal Concern	P.O Box 4374 Katmandu	Nepal	+977.1.271658/274.604 +977.1.278.016 cwin@voice.mos.com.np
82	Roberto Garcia Cruz	INPRHU		Nicaragua	+505.278.66.15. inprhu@ibw.com.ni
83	Ronaldo Meléndez	INPRHU		Nicaragua	
84	Malvina Ponce de León			Nicaragua	
85	Blanca Lucy Borja Espinosa	Generacion	28 Julio 740 Magdalena Lima	Peru	+51.1.261.85.62. +51.1.264.33.68. igeneración@lulliteck.com.p e
86	Santos Elvira Figueroa Semperteguin	Instituto de formacion para Educadores de Jovenes Adolescentes Yininos Trabajadores de America Latina y EL Caribe	Tomas guido # 257 LIMA 14	Peru	+51.1.447.97.73 +51.1.242.01.23 postmast@ifejan.org.pe
87	Nelly Susana Torres Almeida	MNNATSOP - Movimiento Nacional de HATs Orgailsados del Peru	Atahualpa 140 LIMA 35	Peru	+51.1.276.52.06 +51.1.440.14.32 +51.1.2901.08.94 torres@charin.rep.net.pe mnnatsop@perudata.pe
88	Dominique Lemay	Virlanie Fondation Inc.	N°1 Mola Street, corner Sunrise Avenue Paz Village Makati city	Philippines	+63.2.896.22.89. +63.2.896.31.12. +63.2.897.25.84. virlanie@vasia.com

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
89	Carlos Padolina	Salinlahi Fondation	80 - A Mapang -Akit Street. Pinyaham Quezon city	Philippines	+63 923.39.82. +63.2.935.425S. +63.2.922.39.82. slnlahi@p.world.com
90	Matilde de Jesus Castro Esteves Sirgado	Instituto de Apoio a Crianca	Rua Antonio Patricio 20-2 Esq. 1700 Lisboa	Portugal	+351.1 7969.790 +351.1 796.96.90
91	Adelina Odete Marques	Instituto de Apoio a Crianca	Rua Antonio Patricio 20-2 Esq. 1700 Lisboa	Portugal	+351.1.796.97.90. +351.1.796.96.90.
92	Jose Antonio Carreiro	Caslas - Centro de Assistencia Social Lucinda Anini Dos Santos	Rossio S. Joao Baptista 8600 Lagos	Portugal	+351.82.762.782. +351.82.768.440. +351.82.764.699.
93	Luis Filipe Norte Dos Santos	CASLAS	Rossio S. Joao Baptista 8600 Lagos	Portugal	+351.82.762.782. +351.82.764.538. +351.82.764.699
94	Maria Ofélia Madureira Gouveia Carreira	Fundacao para a Desenvovimento da Zone Histocicedo Porto	Rua da Reboleira 47 4050 Porto	Portugal	+351.2.339.26.50. +351.2.339.26.59.
95	Joao José Duque Carreira	Fundacao para a Desenvovimento da Zone Histocice do Porto	Rua da Reboleira 47 4050 Porto	Portugal	+351.2.339.26.50. +351.2.339.26.59.
96	Carlos Alberto Scares Caixas	Artenave Atelier - Associao de Solidariedade	Rua Dr. Lima Gomes 3620 Moimenta Da Beira	Portugal	+351.54.52.90.34. +351.54.51.522.
97	Vasc Cunha Ferreira Grilo	Centro Cultural e Social de Sante	Praca Francisco Araujo Maimeiro Da Capela 4710Braga	Portugal	+351.53.269.457. +351.53.269.457.
98	Aldina Maria Santos Cabrol Henriques	Associao De Amigos Da Crinanca e Da Familia "Chao Dos Meninos"	Rua Manuel D'Olival n° 16 7000 Evora	Portugal	+351.66.746.511. +351.66.742.768.
99	Maria Manuela Duarte Neto Portugal Ramalho Eanes	Instituto de Apoio a Crianca	Largo da Memoria 14 1300 Lisboa	Portugal	+351.1.362.17.93. +351.1.362.47.56.
100	Maria Manuela Faria Da Fonseca	Instituto de Apoio a Crianca	Rua Guerra Junqueiro n° 14R/C 3000 Coimbra	Portugal	+351.39.821.280. +351.39.704.765 +351.39.821.280.
101	Ana Isabel Carichas	Centro Paroquial de Ben Estar Social de Arrende	Av. Carlos Oliveira n° 50- C 2840 Argentela	Portugal	+351.1.2223051 +351.1.2216564
102	His Excellency Dr. Rui Cunha	Siate Secretary for Social Inclusion Ministerio do Trabalho e da Solidariedade	Ava. Miguel Bombarda, 1- 5° 1000 Lisboa	Portugal	+351.1.317.60.00. +351.1.354.09.87.
103	Maria Joaquina Ruas Madeira	General Director for Social Action	Praça de Londres n0 2 1000 Lisboa	Portugal	+351.1.317.60.00. +351.1.354.09.87.
104	Edmundo Martinho	President of the Institute for Social development	Rua Castilho n° 5. 3° 1250-066 Lisboa	Portugal	

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
105	Ana Maria Pereira da Cruz Lage	Department to Combat Poverty.(South)	Rua Visconde Valmor, 77 1 st 1070 Lisboa	Portugal	+351.1.797.11.05. +351.1.797.07.68.
106	Maria Armada Franco Pinto	Department to Combat Poverty (North)	Rua Quinze de Novembro, 101. 4100 Porto	Portugal	+351.2.606.92.30. +351.2.600.18.09.
107	Sérgio Fernandes	State Secretary's Cabinet Member.	Praca de Londres n°2 1000 Lisboa	Portugal	+351.1.317.60.00. +351.1.354.09.87.
108	Cinelandia Cocumbreiro	Instituto de Apoio a Crianca	Rua Do Melo n° 27 9500 Ponta Delgada	Portugal - Acores	
109	Irina Dragoni	Saint Stelian Association	Bd. Regina Maria n° 1 Bloc P5B, scara A, etaj. 5, ap. 14, sector 4. Bucharest	Romania	+40.1335.98.80. +40.1.336.19.14. sfs@lx.ro
110	Luminita Vlad	Saint Stelian Association	Bd. Regina Maria n° 1 Bloc P5B, scara A, etaj- 5, ap. 14, sector 4. Bucharest	Romania	+40.1335.98.80. +40.1.336.19.14. sfs@fx.ro
111	Wadim Wladimiro-witsch Twerj			Russia	
112	Emmanuelle Tremblay		Pereulok Obukha 6 Moskow	Russia	+7095/2323018 +7095/2323019
113	Olga Remenets	Unicef Moscow	Obukha PereulokS, Moscow 103064	Russia	+7.095.232.30.18 +7.095.232.30.19 oremnets@ unicef.ch
114	Maria Ternovskaya	Child Care Training and Research Center- Christian Solidarity	Lenin Prospect, 99-524 MOSCOW. 117421	Russia	+7.095.924.76.64 +7.095.935.30.03. mftern@poly4.phys.msu.ru
115	Günther Lochner	ILO		Russia	+7.095.956.36.49.
116	Gil Sergej		Tupolewastr. 1a-162 Omsk	Russia	+7.38/2/144004
117	Elena Iwanowna Alexeeva	Verein "Unterstützung der Fraueninitiativen"	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.430.59.88
118	Roman Wiktorovitsch Annenkow	Verwaltung des Moskauer Bezirkes	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.298.79.28
119	Wiktor Wassiljewitsch Antonow	Filiale des Kinderfonds Rußlands, Pskov		Russia	+7.811.22.2.07.92
120	Stanislav Genadjewitsch Antonow	Lesgafft's Akademie		Russia	+7.812.352.80.22
121	Dmitrij Wladimiro-witsch Anaschkin	Verein "Zentrum der Innovation"		Russia	+7.812.310.04.06

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
122	Wiktorija Alexandrowna Balizkaja	Deutschland		Russia	
123	Alexandr Arkadjwitsch Baranov	Staatsuniversität von Udmurtien, Izhevsk	Ordzhonikidse Str. 27-B-7, 42603 Izhevsk	Russia	
124	Saina Issajewna Butukajewa			Russia	+7.095.129.48.00
125	G.S. Batygin	Institut für Sozialwissenschaften der Russischen Akademie der Wissenschaftler	Krzhizhanov Str. 27/35-5, 117259 Moskau	Russia	
126	Elena Jurjewna Berent	Organisation für soziale und medizinische Hilfe "Insel-3"		Russia	+7.812.272.90.05
127	Ludmila Berns	Deutschland		Russia	
128	Nadjezhda Georgiewna Bondarenko	SSSP "Kinder sind in Gefahr"		Russia	+7.812.159.15.56
129	Wladimir Anatoljwitsch Borissow	Rehabilitationszentrum		Russia	+7.812.159.15.56
130	Tatjana Anatoljewna Bodrowa	Filiale des Kinderfonds Rußlands, Pskov		Russia	+7.811.2.159.15.56
131	N.W. Botschkina	Nordwestliche Filiale der russischen Bildungsakademie		Russia	
132	Tatjana Michailowna Budjewa	Verwaltung des Lomonossov Bezirkes	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.422.48.41 +7.812.422.12.36
133	Inna Konstatinowna Buchorina			Russia	+7.095.321.83.54
134	Elena Iwanowna Wesselowskaja	fonds "Rückkehr"		Russia	+7.812.321.83.54
135	Galina Georgiewna Wolkowa	Zentrum "Haus der Liebe zur Arbeit in Malyja Ohta"		Russia	+7.812.18628.64
136	M.O. Wolkowitsch	Verwaltung des Krasnosselskij Bezirkes	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.136.98.11 +7.812.136.86.04
137	michail Wassiljewitsch Woronzow	Minizipalat "Malyja Ohta"		Russia	+7.812.444.98.64
138	Igor Igorewitsch Woronzow	Filiale des Christliche Kinderfonds Großbritanniens		Russia	+7.812.430.59.88

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
139	Nadeshda Wassiljewna Ganina	Verwaltung des Kirower Bezirkes	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.252.33.86
140	Natalja Fjodorowna Gejzhan		Ljoni Gilikow Str. 23/5, 43 198262 St. Petersburg	Russia	
141	Sergej Anatoljewitsch Glusmann	Ärzte der Welt (Frankreich)		Russia	+7.812.346.26.72
142	Julija Walerjewna Gorelikowa	russischer Wohlfahrtsfonds "Nein dem Alkoholismus und der Drogensucht"		Russia	+7.095.126.34.75 +7.095.310.70.76
143	Sergej Jurjewitsch Grischin	Arbeitsbörse für Jugendliche		Russia	+7.812.223.26.72
144	Jeffri Groton	Ärzte der Welt (USA)		Russia	+7.812.346.26.72
145	T.I. Gurowa	Verwaltung des Krasnosselskij Bezirkes	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.136.98.11 +7.812.136.86.04
146	Evgenia Georgijewna Derjugina	Mittelschule N° 9		Russia	+7.812.350.32.69
147	Nelli Romanowna Dmitrijewa	Zentrum für pädagogische Rehabilitation des Krasnosselskij Bezirkes		Russia	+7.812.130.43.45 +7.812.130.10.78
148	Swetlana Leonidowna Jegorytschewa	Zentrum "Innovation"		Russia	
149	Margarita Nikolajewna Sheltowa	Pädagogischer Kollege N° 40		Russia	+7.812.556.31.77
150	Walerija Aljbertowna Zabenkina	Verwaltung des Moskauer Bezirkes	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.298.85.78
151	Inna Alexandrowna Iwanowa	Munizipalitätseinrichtung , Zentrum für Freizeit "Ochta"		Russia	+7.812.224.00.68
152	Marina Borisowna Iwanowa	Regionaler Wohlfahrtsfonds "Generation"		Russia	+7.812.568.33.52
153	Klawdija Wladimirowna Iwtschenko	Kinderheim für Knaben "Fjodor"		Russia	+7.812.183.15.78 +7.812.185.03.79
154	Michail Makarowitsch Iljenkov	Kinderheim "Aljmus"		Russia	+7.812.568.33.52
155	I.G. Ionowa	Verwaltung des Krasnosselskij Bezirkes	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.136.98.11 +7.812.136.86.04

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
156	Ksenija Alexeewna Kalinkina	Verwaltung des Lomonossov Bezirkes	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.422.00.95
157	Klawdija Wassiljewna Karlovskaja			Russia	+7.812.316.13.25
158	Oljga Michailowna Kaschtanowa	Verwaltung des Pawlovskij Bezirkes	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.470.24.02
159	Wladimir Jakowlewitsch Kikotj			Russia	
160	Tamara Antonowna Kireewa	Baschkorstan; Komitee für Bildung und Wissenschaft		Russia	+7.3472.228522
161	Wjatscheslaw Borissowitsch Kozlov	Abteilung für Jugendliche und Sport	Verwaltung des Krasnogwardejskij Bezirks St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.227.46.53
162	Jakov Ljwowsch Kolominskij	Pedagogische Universität, Weißrußland	Lenin Str. 2-23, Minsk	Russia	
163	Ekaterina Iгореwna Kontschakowa	Komitee für Familie, Kindheit und Jugendliche	Stadtverwaltung St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.314.65.21
164	Sergej Pawlowitsch Korosteljov	Wohlfahrtsfonds für Kinder "Barmherzigkeit"		Russia	+7.3616.2.26.54
165	Alexandr Wadimowitsch Kostrikin	Wassiliostrowskij Jugendzentrum		Russia	+7.812.255.79.49
166	Oljga Jurjewna Kotscharjan	Verwaltung des Lomonossov Bezirkes	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.8120.422.98.75
167	Azat Rischatowitsch Kudashev	Akademie für sozialen Dienst in Baschkorstan		Russia	+7.3472.234.801
168	Larissa Alexandrowna Kuzjmina	Komitee für Familie, Kindheit und Jugendliche	Stadtverwaltung St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.235.45.27
169	Elena Kulikowa	Deutschland		Russia	
170	Natalja Nikolajewna Kulinitich	Abteilung für Kultur und Bildung	Wassiliostrowskij Bezirkes	Russia	+7.812.213.04.52 +7.812.218.77.83
171	A.S. Kuratschenkow	Gymnasium N° 295, St. Petersburg, Pr. Slawa 40/5		Russia	
172	Galina Nikolajewna Kurjanowa	städtisches Zentrum "Familie"		Russia	
173	Wladislaw Wiktorowitsch Lawrov	Verwaltung, Puschkin		Russia	+7.812.466.63.08

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
174	Wiktor Borissowitsch Lapan	städtisches Zentrum "Familie"		Russia	+7.812.113.13.19
175	Tamara Wladimirowna Latschina	Medizinberufsschule beim Krankenhaus "Tshudnowskij"		Russia	+7.812.420.51.52 +7.812.427.98.38
176	Igorj Dawydowitsch Leljtschizkij	Twerj		Russia	
177	Kirill Ilgorewitsch Leljtschizkij	Twerj		Russia	
178	Lija Lerner	Deutschland		Russia	
179	Liwschitz Ejwira	Deutschland		Russia	
180	Oljga Borissowna Lissitschkina	Abteilung für Jugendpolitik und Sport	Verwaltung des Zentralen Bezirk	Russia	+7.812.274.87.14
181	Natalja Genadjewna Lukaschewitsch	Zentrum für Jugendliche "Kolpinetz"		Russia	+7.812.484.11.43 +7.812.484.19.88
182	Wladimir Aljfredowitsch Lukjanow	Wohlfahrtsverein "Nevskij Angel"		Russia	+7.812.183.51.56
183	Raissa Stepanona Ljadowa			Russia	
184	Sergej Wladimi- rowitsch Ljamkin	Zentrum "Innovation"		Russia	+7.812.560.37.95
185	Galina Wladimirowna Mayer			Russia	
186	Walentina Makuschina	Verwaltung des Sowjetskij Kreises	Omsk	Russia	+7.3812.24.37.95
187	Irina Evgenjewa Markelowa	Munizipalitätseinrichtung , "Zentrum für Freizeit"		Russia	+7.812^252.05.07
188	Alexandr Wiktorowitsch Martow	städtisches Zentrum "Familie"		Russia	
189	Walerij Maximowitsch Minjarow	Universität, Samara		Russia	+7.8462.41.07.58
190	Swetlana Postislawowna Michailowa	Wohlfahrtsverein "Nevskij Angel"		Russia	+7.812.315.20.33 +7.812.183.51.56
191	Gerassim Amirowitsch Mkrjtschan	Pädagogische Hochschule, Nizhnij Nowgorod	Wanew Str. 203, 603600 Nizhnij Nowgorod	Russia	

## List of Participants

141

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
192	Anna Grogorjewna Moltschan	Komitee für Familie, Kindheit und Jugendliche	Stadtverwaltung St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.235.45.27
193	L.A. Mussienko		Stadtverwaltung St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.277.19.84
194	Swetlanna Pawlowna Mjasnikowa	Abteilung für Jugendpolitik und Sport	Verwaltung des Zentralen Bezirk	Russia	+7.812.277.19.84
195	Wladislaw Michailowitsch Nikitin	Soziales Rehabilitationszentrum "Haus der Barmherzigkeit"		Russia	+7.812.327.61.52
196	M.W. Nikolajenko	Abteilung für "FKST und MP"	Wassiliostrowskij Bezirk	Russia	+7.812.218.07.08
197	A.A. Nikiforowa	Abteilung für "FKST und MP"	Wassiliostrowskij Bezirk	Russia	+7.812.218.07.08
198	Ljudmila Georgijewna Nowikowa	Verwaltung des Kurortnyj Bezirkes	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.437.02.66
199	Ljubowj Dmitrijewna Ognewa	Fiilale des Kinderfonds Rußlands	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.113.49.44 +7.812.319.92.93
200	Alexej Grigorjewitsch Pawlij	Jugendklub "Orljonok"		Russia	+7.812.464..31.49
201	Oljga Michailowna Pawlij	MU, "Jugendzentrum Kolpinez"		Russia	+7.812.484.11.43 +7.812.484.19.88
202	Lidija Georgijewna Pawlowa	Sozialdienst		Russia	+7.812.543.47.68
203	Ljubowj Borisowna	Pädagogischer Kollege N° 4		Russia	+7.812.559.25.78
204	L.E. Penjkowa	Abteilung für "FKST und MP" des Wassiliostrowskij Bezirk		Russia	+7.812.218.07.08
205	N.A. Petscherskaja			Russia	+7.812.314.59.64
206	Angelina Alexandrowna Polozowa			Russia	+7.812.249.65.03
207	Sergej Georgijewitsch Podgajezkij	Verwaltung des Kirower Bezirk	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.252.31.95 +7.812.252.01.83
208	Irena Leonidowna Ponizovskaja	Verwaltung des Kurortnyj Bezirk	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.437.12.15 +7.812.437.15.90

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
209	Nikolai Alexandrowitsch Pokatov	Verwaltung des Pawlovskij Bezirkes	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.470.21.19 +7.812.470.17.15
210	Georgij Iwanowitsch Pöljukov	Schulungs- und Ausbildungsnetzwerk		Russia	+7.812.249.65.03
211	Leana Popowa	Deutschland		Russia	
212	Evgenia Iwanowna Russak	Zentrum "Innovation"		Russia	
213	Maja Michailowna Russakowa	Filiale des Instituts der Russischen Akademie der Wissenschaftler	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.316.05.71 +7.812.316.29.29
214	Elena Alexeewna Sadownikowa			Russia	+7.812.294.50.34
215	Ewgenij Jurjewitsch Sazonov	städtisches Jugendzentrum		Russia	+7.812.310.44.68
216	Ljudmila Petrowna Siljachina	Prawoberezhnyj Haus der Kreativität der Jugendlichen		Russia	+7.812.446.75.74
217	Walerij Leonidowitsch Sitnikow	Staatsuniversität des Leningrader Gebiets		Russia	+7.812.526.01.37
218	Pjotr Wassiljewitsch Slezawin	Filiale des Kinderfonds Rußlands	Gebiet Stawropolj	Russia	+7.865.2.23.15.04
219	Natalja Nikolajewna Spetschinskaja	Soziales Medizinzentrum "Insel"		Russia	+7.812.350.41.85
220	Tatjana Awramowna Sultanowa	Pädagogisches Zentrum "Jugendliche"	Schafiev Str. 12-2, 450083 Ufa	Russia	
221	Alexej Witaljewitsch Syrzew	Projekt "Lazaret"		Russia	+7.812.484.11.43 +7.812.484.19.88
222	Irina Wladimirowna Tabakowa	MU, "Jugendzentrum Kolpinez"		Russia	
223	Elena Trasler	Deutschland		Russia	
224	Natalja Walerjewna Teodorowitsch	Pädagogischer Kolege N°6		Russia	+7.812.319.593.28.83
225	Larissa Turner	Deutschland		Russia	
226	Michail Nikititsch Tolstoj	Parlament	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.319.93.79
227	Ljudmila Tremba	Deutschland		Russia	

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
228	Witalij Petrowitsch Tretjakow	Analytische Abteilung	Regierung St. Petersburg	Russia	
229	J.W. Trifonov	Verwaltung des Krasnosselskij Bezirkes	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.136.98.11 +7.812.136.86.04
230	Regina Trjuchina	Komitee für Familie, Kindheit und Jugendliche	Stadtverwaltung St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.232.89.72
231	Alexandr Pawlowitsch Fein	"Institut des Jugendlichen"		Russia	+7.812.235.45.27
232	Evgenij Pawlowitsch Fjodorov			Russia	+7.812.100.89.87
233	Nodari Lotariwitsch Chananaschwill i	RBF NAN		Russia	+7.095.126.34.75 +7.095.310.70.76
234	Natalja Zwetkowa	Stadtverwaltung, Omsk		Russia	+7.3812.24.37.95
235	Alexandr Alexandrowitsch Zechanowitsch	Ärzte der Welt (Frankreich)		Russia	+7.812.346.26.72
236	Alla Wladimirowna Schaboltas	Staatsuniversität, St. Petersburg		Russia	+7.812.218.94.19
237	Georgij Michailowitsch Scharkov	Soziales Hotel "Wera"		Russia	+7.812.114.79.78
238	Bula Schamiliewitsch Schirgalin	RBF NAN		Russia	+7.095.126.34.75 +7.095.310.70.76
239	Resede Genadjewna Schadrina	Abteilung für Jugendpolitik und Sport	Verwaltung des Zentralen Bezirk	Russia	+7.812.274.23.50
240	Oljga Schulz	Deutschland		Russia	
241	Aljira Schulz	Deutschland		Russia	
242	Swetlanna Stschetnikowa	Deutschland		Russia	
243	Swetlanna Rodionowna Zelikowa	Zentrum für Waisenkinder		Russia	+7.812.316.08.11
244	Ljudmila Witaljewna Jastrebjewa	Verwaltung des Moskovskij Bezirk	St. Petersburg	Russia	+7.812.298.79.28
245	Maja Jachko	Deutschland		Russia	
246	Dieng Alioune	Défense des Enfants International	Pikine Parcette n°7188 Quartier Touba. Pikine. Dakar	Senegal	+221.837.38.24. +221.822.07.02.
247	John Kanu	Catholic Relief Services	West Africa	Sierra Leone	

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
248	Gerrie Smit	University of Stellenbosch	26 Pison Avenue Stellenbosch 7600	South Africa	+27.21.808.23.06. +27.21.808.20.21. ags@maties.sun.ac.za
249	Julia Zingu	Street Children Forum	Po Box 2443 Durban 4000	South Africa	+27.31.300.30.93. +27.31.300.31.78. zingu@iafrica.com
250	Fabiola Alonso Ga'mir	Comunidad Humana	Tres Peces 103. 3 Madrid 28012	Spain	+34.91.528.71.60 +34.91.528.71.60 fabiolaalonso@hotmail.com
251	Veronica Hernandez	Conemund	Avenida Bonn n°121 28028 Madrid	Spain	+34.91.3966390 +34.91.3966785 vhernandez@teleco.es
252	Emilia Plaza	Conemund	Gran via 80 28013 Madrid	Spain	+34.91.5590094 +34.91.54744035
253	Benny Marcel	Radda Barnen	Torsgatan, 4 10788 Stockholm	Sweden	+46.8.698.91.36. +46.8.698.90.13 benny.marcel@rb.se
254	Monika Lundgren	Radda Barnen	Torsgatan, 4 10788 Stockholm	Sweden	+46.8.698.92.18 +46.8.698.90.13
255	Gorel Thurdin	Radda Barnen	Torsgatan, 4 10788 Stockholm	Sweden	+46.8.698.90.00. +46.8.698.90.13
256	Erja-Lusa Petrova	ECPAT International	Nybrokajen 7 1148 Stockholm	Sweden	+46.8.611.99.34. +46.8.611.34.99 ecpat@swipnet.se
257	Nils Skansberg	The Swedish Radio Stockholm	Bredangsvagen. 120 Stockholm	Sweden	+46.8.46.477.02 +46.8.662.4181 goran.skansberg@ekot.sr-se
258	Werner Blenk	International Labour Organization - IPEC	4 route des Morillons CH-1211 Geneva 22	Switzerland	+41.22.7997.689 +41.22.7998.771 blenk@ilo.org
259	Dieter Grünenfelder	ECOSOLIDAR Switzerland	Langstra&e, 187 Postfach 131 4 8031 Zurich	Switzerland	+41.1.272.42.00.) +41.1.272.42.00. ecosolidar@swix.ch
260	Maristela Monteiro	World Health Organization programme on Substance Abuse	20 avenue Appia 1211 Geneva	Switzerland	+41.22.791.47.91 +41.22.791.48051 MONTEIROM@WHO.INT
261	Joel Mermet	Henry Dunant Institute	114, rue de Lausanne 1202 Geneva	Switzerland	+41.22.731.53.10. +41.22.732.02.33. institut.henry-dunant@itu.ch
262	Renato Maurer		Hoizmattweg 17 3274 Merzligen	Switzerland	
263	Maartje van Putten	ENSCW	RoemerVisscherstraat, 21 1054 EV Amsterdam	The Netherlands	vputten@xs4all.nl
264	Annelies Heesakkers	Circustheater Elleboog	Passeerdergracht 32 1016 XH Amsterdam	The Netherlands	+31.20.623.53.26. +31.(20.623.53.26.
265	Frans De Meyer	Gemeente Kerkrade	Postbus 600 6460 AP Kerkrade	The Netherlands	+31.45.567.67.67. +31.45.567.66.95.

N°	Name	Organisation	Address	Country	Telephone Fax e.mail
266	Maria Gertruda Jozefina Deserno- Thomas	Gemeente Kerkrade	Postbus 600 6460 AP Kerkrade	The Netherlands	+31.45.567.67.67. +31.45.567.66.95.
267	Frans Krasovec	Gemeente Kerkrade	Postbus 600 6460 AP Kerkrade	The Netherlands	+31.45.567.67.67. +31.45.567.66.95.
268	Andrea Nederlof	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	DSI/SB Po Box 20061 2500 EB Den Haag	The Netherlands	+31.70.34.84.376. +31.70.34.84.883.
269	Matheus Hermans	Stichting Redt de Kinderen (Nederland) Save the Children Netherlands	Eisenhowerlaan 77 m 2517 KK Den Haag	The Netherlands	+31.70.338.44.48. +31.70.350.12.79. save@xs4all.nl monmat@open.net
270	Jeroen Rovers	Stichting Attak - Tilburg	Telefoonstraat 29 5038 Tilburg	The Netherlands	+31.13.543.01.40 +31.13.543.40.47. ATTAK@BART.nl
271	Henk Bakboord		Boeninlaan 226 1102 TP Amstredam	The Netherlands	+31.20-695 10.94 hbakbo@euronet.nl
272	Sevil Atauz	Hacettepe University School of Social Work	06290 Kecioren Ankara	Turkey	+90.312.467.71.43 +90.312.355.57.71
273	Angeline Burchett	Karsiyaka Drop in Centre	6045 Sokak No. 19/9 Karsiyaka, 35560 Izmir	Turkey	+90.32.3723235 +90.32.372.32.35 105715.1574@compuServe .com
274	Sevda Ulugtekin	Hacettepe University School of Social Work	06290 Kecioren Ankara	Turkey	+90.312.355.21.30 +90.312.355.57.71.
275	Caglar Ayse Sule	Internation Labour Organization - IPEC	Ataturk Bulvan n° 197 Kavaklidere Ankara	Turkey	+90.312.468.79.22 +90.312.427.38.16 caglar@ilo-ankara.tr-net.tr
276	Atauz Sevil	Hacettepe University School of Social Work	Alacam Sok, 13/5 6690 Cankaya, Ankara	Turkey	+90/312-4677143 +90/312-3555771
277	Trudy Davies	All Party Group on Population Health and Development	room 301 Norman Shaw South Victoria Embankment SW1A2HZ London	UK	+44.171.219.24.92 +44.171.219.26.41. trudiedavies@easynet.co.uk
278	Penny Dean	The Children's society	Margery Street WCIXOJL London	UK	+0171.837.4299 +0171.837.0211 social-policy@the-childrens- society.org.uk
279	Graeme Brown	The Children's society	Margery Street London WCIX OJL	UK	+0171.837.4299 +0171.837.0211
280	Davel Patel	Childhope UK	Lector Court 151 Farrigdon Road London EC1 R 3AF	UK	+44.171.833.08.68. +44.171.833.25.00. chuk@gn.apc.org
281	Kate Schecter	World Bank	1818 H. Street, NW Washington DC, 20433	USA	+1.202.473.32.39. +1.202.477.33.87. KSCHECHTER@World Bank.org

## **The European Network on Street Children Worldwide**

### **Who are we?**

The European Network on Street Children Worldwide unites European non-governmental (NGOs), governmental, multilateral and international organisations individuals and cities that are committed to address the rights and needs of street children all over the world.

### **Why do we exist?**

- Street children are a global social phenomenon and many of them are denied the basic human rights laid down by the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights conventions.
- The UN Convention needs to be fully implemented, which requires full commitment and a strong concerted effort by all actors involved.

### **Which are our aims?**

- To raise public awareness of the rights and needs of street children
- To facilitate the exchange of information between members, to intensify working contact, to share experience.
- To encourage the establishments of national and regional networks
- To assist its members to build-up know-how and expertise and to promote good practice.
- To raise political awareness of the rights and needs of street children and thus intensify informed political debate, in particular at European level.
- To increase the financial resources available for assistance to street children programmes, without acting as a fund-providing body.

- To increase the financial resources available for assistance to street children programmes, without acting as a fund providing body.
- To develop and promote effective preventive and supportive strategies of action and through socio-economic analysis to influence policy making and provide political pressure in favour of street children within international, national and local authorities.

**What are our main activities?**

- We keep our members informed about each others activities, via the Internet and a quarterly Newsletter
- We provide information on European Budget lines and fundraising
- We encourage and facilitate joint action such as Public Information campaigns
- We advise and brief politicians, official and other key decision makers
- We organise workshops and seminars
- We seek increased budget allocations

**Who can become member?**

ENSCW's full membership is open to legally constituted non-governmental organisations as well as recognised but not legally constituted organisations, movements and individuals and cities. The full membership implies the acceptance of the content of the Mission Statement and Constitution and the payment of a membership fee.

**International Society for Mobile Youth Work, e.V., (ISMO)**

Increasingly greater numbers of the world's children are living on the street. These children must struggle for their survival on a daily basis, perform underpaid hard work, and are constantly endangered by violence, abuse, hunger, and cold.

UNICEF estimates that a worldwide total of 80-100 million children live entirely or partially on the street. These children (up to 18 years of age, often much younger, particularly in the Third World) desperately seek a way out of a situation of exclusion in which they are treated with abuse, violence and exploitation. The way out often leads to prostitution and drug abuse, criminality and extreme right or left-wing oriented violence, and in organised groups and gangs in which they sometimes find a substitute for the security which they missed in their families. Social work and charity must perceive its particular responsibility with regards to these children and youths.

For the above reasons, the International Society for Mobile Youth Work e.V. (INSMO) was formed in 1992. It is a professional association within the Charitable Department of the Evangelical Church in Germany. The object of the Association is to improve the living conditions of street children and youths in Europe as well as worldwide, through the exchange of experiences and know-how in the fields of social work, street work, and mobile youth work, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The ISMO has, thus far, held six symposia on the topic of mobile youth work, in which scientists and practitioners from all over the world participated and exchanged their experiences.

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium for Mobile Youth Work, held in Santiago, Chile, was the first held outside of Germany. The 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium was held in

Solothurn, Switzerland, the main emphasis of this symposium being the situation of street children in Europe.

One important aspect of the symposia, next to the exchange of experiences, is the networking of social workers, street workers, and scientists concerned with children's problems. Informal exchanges are just as important as the official exchange of experiences.

The approach of the ISMO in relation to working with street children and youths consists of mobile youth work. Inasmuch as possible, this includes the children's environment: the family, neighbourhood, community, district. The children are visited in their own environment and assistance takes place as directly as possible. The most important precondition for mobile youth work is the basis of trust between the street worker and street children and youths.

This is, however, still not enough. In addition to this basic work, the gaining of political influence and legal support for street children is extremely important.

On the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium in Santiago de Chile, the participants issued a resolution in which the governments of Latin American countries were encouraged to transpose the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by them, into their national legislation.

On European levels, strong networking and an action programme are needed to improve the situation of street children and youths.

Support to families, especially isolated single parents, is required, as well as a strengthening of institutions working with street children. It is furthermore necessary to create a political and public awareness of the problems of street children.