

SEX TRADE HUMAN TRAFFIC

CHILD SOLDIERS SLAVERY

SAFE DRINKING WATER PROPER SWEAT SHOPS EDUCATION DISEASE SUPPORTING FAMILIES MENTORS

WAR FAMINE MEDICAL CARE

SHELTER CONFLICT DIAMONDS GENDER EQUALITY GOVT ROLE MODELS AND

COMMUNITY AGENCIES • SCHOOLS * POLICE PARTNERS

CHILD / YOUTH RIGHTS

At our last meeting we discussed issues of importance to young people globally and in Canada. **2**


M.A.D.E. – YOUTH LEAD

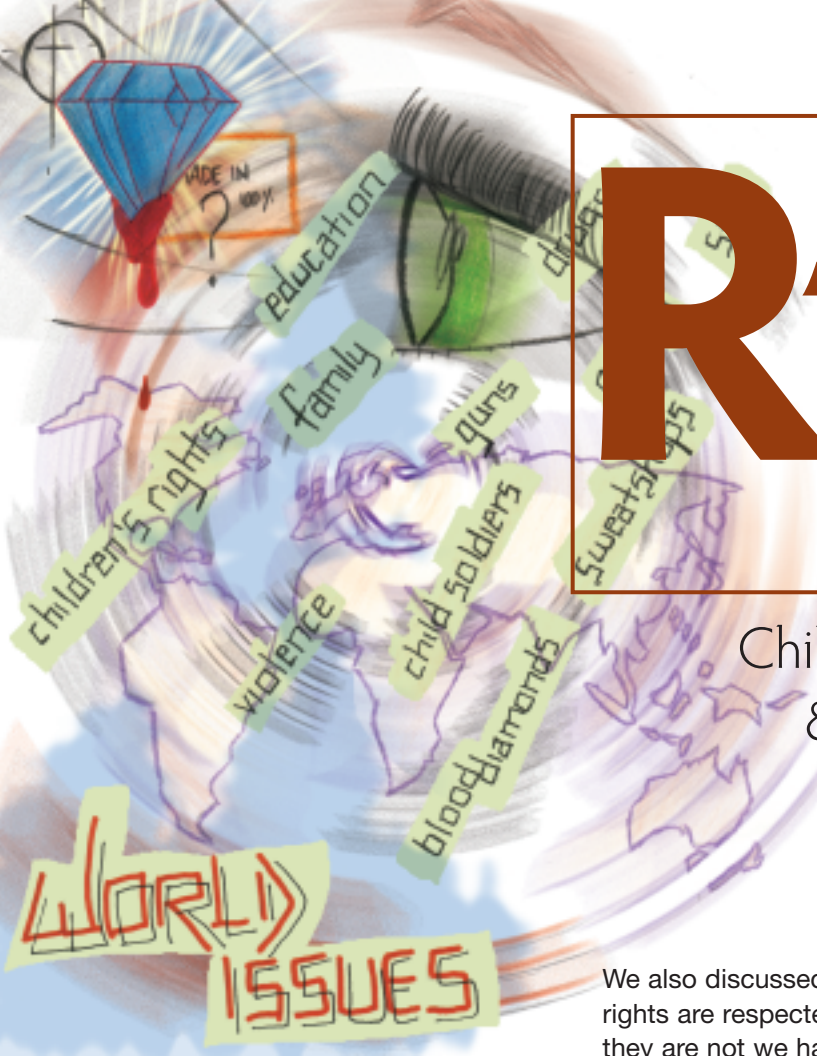
M A D E

Youth becoming better leaders by working together and taking the lead. **3**

I'M TAKING ACTION

We heard from youth about how they're a part of positive change in their community **4**





The **1** Rights of a CHILD

Children's Rights in Canada & Around the World

By: Jena Alma

At our last PEACE

meeting the topic was Positive Enforcement of Child Rights. The overall opinion of the group was that in Canada we are very fortunate when it comes to the rights of children. The Canadian government that is in place ensures that Canadian children and youth have rights, such as:

- The right to education
- The right to free healthcare
- The right to not be discriminated against
- The right to live without violence or abuse

We also discussed how children's rights are respected, and that when they are not we have a justice system in place that will try to address the problem. In Canada we have people that will stand up for children's rights like Police, Social Workers, and Child and Youth Workers. In a school setting, if one child is violating another child's rights by bullying them, there will be disciplinary action taken by an authority figure; either a teacher, principal or guidance counselor will ensure that the problem doesn't persist. Or if it is suspected that a child is being abused at home a school will take it upon themselves to call the CAS (Children's Aid Society) to make sure that the child is being properly taken care of. Our country offers many alternative care options like foster care and group homes, following Article 9 of the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (the UNCRC).

"You have the right to live with your parents unless it is bad for you, you have the right to live with a family that cares."

On the other side, sometimes those who are in authority in a school setting may treat a child unfairly. Children need to know what their rights are, so that they can stand up for them and make sure they are not being taken advantage of. If they don't know, they have no way of knowing how and when to seek help. Knowing your rights empowers you. It was suggested that teaching Children's Rights should be a mandatory part of the curriculum at both elementary and high school levels to ensure that everyone is educated on the topic.

Another issue that was brought up was that too many children and youth either don't know about their rights or are unclear about exactly what their rights are. This is a problem because it creates ample risk for children's rights not to be respected. Every child has the right "to know about their rights, adults should know about these rights and help you to learn about them." – Article 42.

We then moved on to talking about children's rights on an international level. We discussed how children's rights in Canada are not in line with children's rights around the world. For example, in Canada there are laws against child labor and sweatshops, whereas in other places in the world entire families and societies are supported by the little bit of money children make under those conditions. As a group we learned that companies would often include MADE IN AMERICA as a part of their label. That doesn't necessarily mean that it is made in the US. The majority of the garment can be made in another country with a small percentage done in the US. As well, some name brand designers will trademark their name and label to

read "Made in Italy". The companies then open factories in other countries like Mexico or China, and add a small tag that will read that country's name.

"You have the right to protection from work that harms you and is bad for your health or education. If you work you have the right to be safe and paid fairly." – Article 32

We also spoke about the benefit of having organizations like Warchild and Unicef, and what they're doing to help. We discussed groups like The United Way that has programs that focus on protection and intervention for girls in Bangkok at risk of exploitation. To close the educational attainment gap between African Americans and the majority population, the United Negro College Fund helps promising students attend college.

We decided the best way to have your rights respected was to know your rights; get a copy of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child or Canadian Charter of Rights. You can use this to promote human rights and educate anyone you know or meet.

What do you think?

WORLD ISSUES



W E D I S C U S S E D

SEX TRADE
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
EXPERIMENTAL TESTING ON KIDS
I.E. MEDICATION
GUERRILLA WARFARE
CHILD SOLDIERS
GOVERNMENT DOESN'T LOOK
OUT FOR YOUTH
WORLD ISSUES CONNECTED
TO CONFLICT DIAMONDS (\$)
GOOD ROLE MODELS AND
PROPER MENTORS
DISEASE OR LITTLE ACCESS TO
MEDICAL CARE
SAFE DRINKING WATER
WAR
FAMINE
SUPPORTING FAMILIES
SLAVERY
SWEAT SHOPS
POVERTY
EDUCATION
GENDER EQUALITY
LACK OF ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT
PROPER SHELTER

Project M.A.D.E. (Making A Difference Everyday)

Back in 2006, I met Joseph Singh for the first time at a Child Rights Conference at Brock University. We became friends and started to meet with groups from all across the world who were working with children's rights and saw how they were making a real difference in their communities. One group we both were fascinated with was a group called Curious Minds. They were a group of young Ghanaians who hosted (and still host) a radio program where they talk about child right violations going on across Ghana. We kept in touch with them for a year and finally last year, we decided that we are going to try to have a "school" of leadership development in Accra, Ghana with the same facilities and standards that we enjoy here. We have been working with this vision since January 2008 and right now we are developing the leadership curriculum that will be implemented in this school /space /whatever it turns out to be. Through this process, the Toronto team is realizing we are becoming leaders ourselves.

The Toronto group meets here at The Students Commission on Wednesday nights and is always looking for more members. The meeting starts at 6 pm, see you soon!

– Romil

UPCOMING EVENTS

PEACE YOUTH MEETING

*All youth 13-25 years of age welcome.

When: Every Thursday from 4:30pm-7:30pm.

Where: The Students Commission office at 23 Isabella Street, Toronto, Ontario.
Tel: (416) 597-8297, Email: savannah@tgmag.ca

PEACE FACILITATOR TRAINING

*All youth 13-25 years of age welcome.

Facilitation Training Session

When: September date to be announced.

Where: The Students Commission office at 23 Isabella Street, Toronto, Ontario.
Tel: (416) 597-8297, Email: savannah@tgmag.ca

MEDIATION STATION

*A radio program presented in partnership with Conflict Mediation Services of Downsview.

When: Every Sunday from 8:00pm- 9:00pm

Where: Tune in to *Voces Latinas* CHHA 1610 AM on the radio dial or to www.sanlorenzo.ca and click on the *Voces Latinas* icon or at Rogers Digital Cable Channel 951.

What do you think?

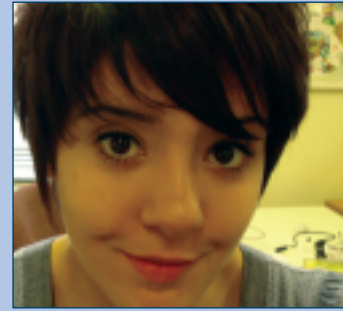
What world issues mean the most to you?

Let us know at www.peace-project.org

Youth Gather to Help Plan Drug Prevention Strategy

On Friday, July 18, 2008, a handful of staff from The Students Commission and a group from Kugluktuk, Nunavut attended a drug prevention conference that was hosted by the **Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA)**. We were gathered in order to develop a new anti-drug strategy for youth. Ironically, the CCSA had never before consulted youth on this subject; this was the first event where the council met with youth from across Canada to create a strategy for the National Advisory Group on Youth Prevention.

There was a large screen PowerPoint presentation, and we listened to various people talk about their ideas for a drug-prevention strategy. Our eyes were opened to many statistics regarding drug use, impaired driving, and related injury/death. We had discussions on what we, the youth, believe are some of the factors that lead teenagers to experiment with drugs and



VANESSA

alcohol. The speeches were very informative. The second half of the conference was more hands-on. We split up into four different groups to discuss the top priorities for the National Youth Advisory Group and for the upcoming meetings. One common theme was the need to incorporate the principles of youth engagement. An example of this would be providing incentives, changing the language and environment, and allowing youth to help develop the program.

– Vanessa



During the TYPSS* (Town Youth Participation Strategies) conference I learned to interact with different individuals from different backgrounds. I learned to better communicate with those individuals and establish new relationships. I was able to grow as a person and better understand myself and connect with others. I feel that this was a good experience for me to learn about our nation and I also learned that even though we all live in one country, Canadians are different in nearly every province.

* TYPSS works with individual youth, youth centres, and youth initiatives to support youth engagement in their communities around issues of their concern.

TENA

Peace Partners

CTI's Breaking The Cycle Youth Gang Exit and Ambassador Leadership Project

1790 Albion Rd., Suite 101 (27 & Albion), (416) 745-1829 or 4500 Sheppard Ave. E., Unit 476 (Sheppard & McCowan / Brimley), (416) 293-1287
www.cantraining.org/BTC/btc.php

Conflict Mediation Services of Downsview

Conflict resolution services for all types of relationships, especially parent / youth and family.
95 Eddystone Avenue, 2nd floor (Jane & Finch), (416) 740-2522,
www.cmsd.org

East Metro Youth Services

The Violence Intervention Project

provides youth with realistic strategies and skills to prevent violence.

1200 Markham Road, Suite 200 (Ellesmere & Markham), (416) 438-3697, www.emys.on.ca

The Students Commission

Project PEACE is developed by youth to decrease gun and gang violence.
23 Isabella St. (Yonge & Bloor), (416) 597-8297, www.tgmag.ca

Operation Springboard

Programs that prevent crime and integrate at-risk people into the wider community.
2568 Lawrence Ave. E., (Lawrence & Midland), (416) 615-0788
www.operationspringboard.on.ca

Leave Out Violence (LOVE)

LOVE trains young people who have experienced violence to become community leaders of violence prevention.

3130 Bathurst St. Suite 212 (Bathurst & Lawrence W.) (416) 785-8411,
www.leaveoutviolence.com

Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS)

Programming for youth who are involved in different stages of the youth justice system.
65 Wellesley St. East, Suite 300 (Wellesley & Church) (416) 924-2100, www.ctys.org

Toronto District School Board

(416) 397-3000, www.tdsb.on.ca

Toronto Catholic District School Board

(416) 222-8282, www.tcdsb.org

Toronto Police Service's Community Mobilization Unit

(416) 808-7080
www.torontopolice.on.ca/communitymobilization

SAY YOUR PEACE

Say Your PEACE is here to give youth an opportunity to share ideas and discuss the things that are important to them and their community. Want to help prevent the negative effects guns and gangs are having? Join the movement.

Call: (416) 597-8297