

# 19 November - World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse<sup>©</sup>



**Call to Action 2008 to more than 922 WWSF Coalition Members and Partners**  
(Governmental, non-governmental organizations, institutions, universities, grassroots groups, etc. in 135 countries)

Dear Members, Partners and Friends,

We wish to thank you for registering either as active or as supporting member in the 2008 campaign, as well as for sending us your activity reports of last year's events, which are published on the Internet ([www.woman.ch/children/1-coalitionimpact.php](http://www.woman.ch/children/1-coalitionimpact.php)).

The objective of the **World Day** campaign is to **raise visibility, mobilize participation and help make prevention of child abuse a global priority.**

**Focus for this year:** we invite you to involve young people and incorporate their creativity and views in your activities to make prevention more effective. By sharing their experiences they can help address gaps in approaches and demonstrate their ability in making recommendations.

**Involving children and youth is of the utmost importance.** If your organization plans to do so this year, please find below selected suggestions for your actions.

We also published this year a **WWSF guide for NGO and citizen's action** to accelerate progress in preventing abuse and violence against children (see page 2, *WWSF Materials and Resources*).

We wish you lots of success with your 2008 events and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Laure Maitrejean, WWSF Children's Section Coordinator

## Call to Action • Call to Action • Call to Action

### I- Invite children and young people to participate in your prevention activities

The concept of **child participation** can be approached from different angles. One definition is "Children influencing issues affecting their lives, by speaking out or taking action in partnership with adults".

The extent of child participation depends on the age, experience and maturity of the child. However, all children should be involved and consulted on matters that affect their lives. Their views should be respected. Child participation is an essential part of good prevention practice and can help meet community needs and reveal new perspectives.

There are many different types of participation. Our **Call to Action** shares selected ideas and tools that may inspire you in your work to integrate young people and children in your prevention activities. We also invite you to read our impact reports on-line, which give examples of activities involving children and young people.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child underlines children's rights to participate.

**Article 12 of the UNCRC** highlights the role of children, according to their age and maturity, as active participants in the promotion, protection and monitoring of their rights.

*"1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child."*

#### ➔ What NGOs can do to help young people to participate

- **Prepare** your organization to ensure that your structures and staff support child participation
- **Prepare** and **empower** children to participate
  - ✓ **Encourage** them to address prevention
  - ✓ **Ensure** that they are well-informed
  - ✓ **Give** an opportunity to express their views and opinions
  - ✓ **Advise** children about the reasons and possible consequences
  - ✓ **Provide** training in schools and communities on prevention measures
  - ✓ **Define** and **enforce** minimum standards of prevention of child abuse
  - ✓ **Open** a dialogue in their language and **listen** to their own perspectives
- **Integrate** children's participation into community life (clubs, movements, networks, etc.)
- **Organize** activities that involve them and **empower** them to participate in your prevention activities
- **Encourage** and **support** them to take their own actions, in partnership with adults
- **Include** them in research, planning, development, implementation and monitoring of prevention activities and programs
- **Enhance** networking and alliance building among children's organizations and civil society, local authorities and governments.

#### ➔ What children and young people can do

- **Raise** awareness of abuse and violence against children and **press** for making prevention a priority
- **Carry out** research on existing prevention measures
- **Help design** new prevention measures
- **Carry out** their own advocacy work for prevention
- **Collaborate** and **develop** better relations with authorities and establish a stronger dialogue with the adult community so that prevention can be addressed in a serious manner
- **Use** peer support and network with other children's group so that they can gain confidence from each other
- **Lobby** youth organizations and local authorities to prevent child abuse
- **Form** committees for the prevention of child abuse
- **Organize** or **participate** in activities using the following methods: Meetings with municipal authorities; discussion fora; conferences; campaigns; demonstrations; signing petitions; workshops on prevention of abuse; preparation and distribution of communication materials, etc.
- **Be** active participants in the planning, implementation and follow-up of activities
- **Use** the media as a possible channel for advocacy
- **Start** radio and television sensitizing campaigns.

### ➔ What authorities can do to empower child participation

- **Empower** young people to participate in the elaboration of prevention measures
- **Create** spaces for young people to contribute to prevention of child abuse
- **Make** their voices heard and be taken into consideration
- **Support** activities organized by youth associations, organizations, groups and local centers
- **Provide** support and **develop** skills to enable adults who work with young people to develop better processes and systems for meaningful and ethical participation of children in prevention of child abuse
- **Adopt** policies and programs enabling young people to become actors in prevention
- **Develop** special training policies for youth and youth leaders involved in prevention work
- **Provide** financial and other support to enable the participation of young people in prevention activities
- **Contribute** to the creation of children and youth networks or projects promoting prevention of abuse and violence against children
- **Make** special budget allocations.

## 2- Involve your City Mayor and municipal authorities to develop “Cities/Communities for Prevention of Child Abuse CCPCA”

We suggest that you include, in your prevention activities, a visit to your City Mayor and community leaders and invite them to join the CCPCA campaign. We thank you for informing us of your plans and results ([wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch)).

### ➔ What City Mayors can do

- **Adopt** a broad range of prevention of child abuse policies at local level
- **Establish** permanent mechanisms to promote prevention measures
- **Grant** visibility to prevention policies in municipal agendas
- **Monitor** the implementation of strategies and plans for preventing violence against children
- **Develop** fora for prevention of child abuse, city-wide strategies, units to coordinate policy, prevention impact assessments and evaluations, budgets, regular reports on the state of the city's prevention programs, etc.
- **Allocate** a budget for CCPCA
- **Mark** the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse - 19 November with a special communication

*Adapted from the Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI)*

## 3- Declare “13-19 November Prevention Week” in your organization and country

The idea of a “Prevention Week” evolved from discussions about how to increase attention and activities preceding the World Day - 19 November, the WWSF rallying call to action for prevention of abuse and violence against children. We are empowered to learn that several coalition members have already extended their programs over several days and we wish to propose to our members and partners the idea of a “Prevention Week” (13-19 November). If you include the idea of a week, please indicate it in your activity report 2008 to us.

## WWSF Materials and Resources

### ➔ WWSF Guide: Prevention is Key – a new publication

A Guide for NGOs and citizens with suggestions for action. Objective: to inspire and mobilize active NGO and citizen participation. It is aimed at all citizens - men, women and children. This embraces all civil society organizations, in particular non-governmental organizations, educational settings, grassroots groups, faith-based organizations and networks dealing with children's rights and development issues (Download pdf file from [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)).

### ➔ WWSF TV Spots



Message:

*"19 November is World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse.  
But one day is not enough.  
Every day, all together, let us unite for better prevention."*

TV spots are available in English and French on the WWSF website [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch). DVDs can be obtained for a cost of US\$ 20 per copy. [www.woman.ch/children/1-introduction.php](http://www.woman.ch/children/1-introduction.php)

### ➔ WWSF Sticker campaign



Message:

*"YES to prevention of child abuse!"*

The sticker is an illustrative reminder for parents, adults and youth that child abuse and violence are unacceptable. WWSF invites you to use the sticker in your organization and home to make every house and institution safe for children. (25 CHF / 17 € / US\$ 20 for 30 copies). [www.woman.ch/children/4-campaign.php](http://www.woman.ch/children/4-campaign.php)

### ➔ WWSF Posters, Calls to Action, Brochures, Newsletters, Impact Reports, Conference Reports, Postcards

Available upon request and on our web site: [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

**Attention! 2008 Call to Action and Posters are available in English, French, Spanish and German  
Download at [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) and at request from [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch)**

# NGO Group for the CRC Resources

## ➔ Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Toolkit

- Published by the NGO Group for the CRC (Working Group on the Human Rights Council of which WWSF is an active member)

**A tool for Child Rights Advocacy:** The UN General Assembly Resolution (60/251) establishing the Human Rights Council charges this body with the responsibility of "Promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner" - including the rights of the child. The UPR is a new mechanism under which the Human Rights Council will examine the human rights situation in every Member State of the UN (every four years). Civil society through its lobby activities can positively influence the final recommendations and ensure that the rights of the child are a central tenet of the UPR process ([www.upr-info.org](http://www.upr-info.org) - website entirely dedicated to the UPR).

**Aim of the UPR Toolkit:** to help users understand the Universal Periodic Review, and how NGOs can participate and contribute to make the UPR child-focused. Please note, this information is subject to change as the UPR is a new process, with evolving guidelines ([www.crin.org/resources/infodetail.asp?id=17366](http://www.crin.org/resources/infodetail.asp?id=17366)).

## ➔ Reporting on Violence Against Children - A thematic guide for NGOs reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

- Published by the NGO Group for the CRC / With the support of Save the Children and The African Child Policy Forum

Most NGOs working on issues related to child rights and/or prevention of child abuse are familiar with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The NGO community actively participates in the monitoring of the CRC by providing reports and oral presentations to the **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** which meets in Geneva three times a year. These guidelines are designed to help NGOs include comprehensive information on the incidence of violence in their reports to the Committee ([www.crin.org/docs/NGO\\_Guidelines\\_reporting\\_VAC\\_to\\_CRC\\_2008.pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/NGO_Guidelines_reporting_VAC_to_CRC_2008.pdf)).

## Updates: Conferences, Prizes and Reports

### ➔ WWSF Geneva Conference - 19 November 2007

The World Day was commemorated for the eighth consecutive year with a **Conference** on progress in preventing child abuse on the theme "**Television, Advertising, the Internet: What is the influence on our children?**" Many experts, including a judge, a lawyer, a politician, a policeman, NGO representatives and journalists answered the question by sharing with the audience their knowledge, experience as well as recommendations to be transmitted to the government and the media. The Geneva conference was also an opportunity for WWSF to announce and honor the four laureate organizations that received the **WWSF Prize for Prevention of Child Abuse in 2007** ([www.woman.ch/children/1-coalitionimpact.php](http://www.woman.ch/children/1-coalitionimpact.php)).



### ➔ WWSF Prize for Prevention of Child Abuse 2007

Each year, WWSF receives many applications from active coalition members. Despite a difficult selection process, the WWSF jury selected four organizations mentioned below for their innovative activities (description of their work and programs are published on the Internet [www.woman.ch/children/2-laureates.php](http://www.woman.ch/children/2-laureates.php)).

We sincerely hope the Prize will continue to empower them in their activities.

#### First Prize (US\$ 3000)

➔ Society for Empowering Human Resources - SEHER, Pakistan

#### Second Prize (US\$ 1000)

➔ Association Mondiale pour les Orphelins et les Enfants Abandonnés - WAO Afrique, Togo

#### Two additional awards (US\$ 500 each)

➔ Observatorio sobre Infancia de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia

➔ Organisation Nationale des Femmes Rurales "Fleurs de Centrafrique" - ONFR/FC, Central African Republic



### ➔ World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 25-28 Nov. 2008)

The main goal of the World Congress is international mobilization to ensure the protection of children and adolescents, in order to:

- **Analyze** the new challenges and the dimensions of contemporary sexual exploitation
- **Identify** advances and gaps in the legal framework and attributing responsibility
- **Share** experiences on the implementation of inter-agency policies in fighting sexual exploitation of children and adolescents
- **Develop** strategies and goals that can be agreed upon in international cooperation.



Inform your network, join the World Congress III and find out more at:  
[www.iiicongressomundial.com](http://www.iiicongressomundial.com) ; [www.sedh.gov.br](http://www.sedh.gov.br) ; [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net); [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org); [www.ngo.org](http://www.ngo.org)

## ➔ World Report on Violence against Children

### 2007 Report of the Independent Expert for the UN Study on Violence against Children

This report, submitted to the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly, provides information on the dissemination of the UN Study and on progress made in the initial phase follow-up to the Study. It also sets out the necessary strategy to further promote the implementation of the Study's recommendations. Less than one year after the Study's release, it demonstrates that many relevant measures are already being implemented by States, international organizations and civil society entities. But this process is only in its initial stage. Sustainable results in the protection of children from violence are only achievable through strong and comprehensive initiatives and continuous high-level attention to this dramatic reality ([www.crin.org/docs/Progress\\_report\\_07.pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/Progress_report_07.pdf)).

### Progress in implementing the 3<sup>rd</sup> overarching recommendation: Prioritizing prevention

"In some countries, action plans and programs for the prevention of violence have been launched. There have been some examples of efforts to promote better parenting practices as a means to prevent violence against children. Some countries are disseminating alternatives to physical punishment and promoting a harmonious family environment, positive discipline and an understanding of child development and children's rights. Some of the most visible progress in respect to prevention has been within the education sector. [...]"

**Appointment of a Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Violence against Children - Follow-up.** A Special Representative will be appointed at the level of Assistant Secretary-General and will report directly to the Secretary-General. Located in New York and provided with administrative support by UNICEF, the Special Representative will chair the Inter-Agency Group on Violence against Children.

## WWSF World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse – Campaign information

- WWSF annually prints 10'000 Calls to Action, posters and relevant information (in 4 languages), which are mailed to all active and supportive coalition members. In addition, each year, WWSF publishes a global activity report of programs and events by coalition members, a global newsletter, brochures and as of 2008 a Guide for NGOs and citizens. All documents are available on our website.

- **Definition:** Child abuse includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse as well as neglect, violence and exploitation of a child.

- **Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**Article 34:** States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

**Article 35:** States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.

### Sponsor acknowledgement:

WWSF is most grateful for support received in 2008 from the **OAK Foundation, the Principality of Liechtenstein Foreign Affairs, Vivre Autrement, Geneva Commune Plan-les-Ouates**, among others for their financial contributions toward the World Day campaign and the WWSF Prize award for prevention program.

**Use of the World Day logo:** Reproduction of the 19 November logo for information sharing is permitted provided that the name of the global convener WWSF is mentioned (without any modification). Reproduction of the 19 Nov. logo for fundraising purposes requires written permission. WWSF declines all responsibility for legal, financial, administrative or moral liabilities, which may result from events organized by coalition members on the World Day and during the Prevention Week.

## WWSF Children's Section Programs



### World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse – 19 November

#### *A global campaign to prioritize prevention*

Created in 2000, the World Day has as its main purpose to create a culture of prevention of child abuse worldwide. Every 19 November, an international coalition (more than 900 organizations in over 130 countries) commits to support the Day and to organize local and national activities.



### WWSF Prize for Prevention of Child Abuse

#### *An award to active organizations in the field of prevention of child abuse*

Created in 2003, the Prize is annually given to four WWSF coalition member organizations that carry out innovative prevention of child abuse activities (so far 16 prizes - US\$ 5000 p. year).



### WWSF International Clearinghouse for Prevention of Child Abuse and Violence against Children

#### *A database of Internet links to prevention programs*

Created in 2007, the Clearinghouse database has as its main purpose to give links to good practice prevention programs, as well as sharing innovative measures. As of today, 40 programs are published on the Internet.



### WWSF Sticker campaign "YES to Prevention of Child Abuse !"

#### *A tool to make every house and institution safe for children*

Created in 2005, the yellow ribbon symbolizes our/your stand for prevention of abuse, to treat all children with respect and to protect them from potential abusers.

WWSF Women's Section Programs are published on [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)



## Convener of the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse – 19 November

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