

## **Guidelines for participants on registration and submissions**

### *Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of General Discussion 2005*

On 16 September 2005, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child will hold a day of general discussion in Geneva on children without parental care. The discussion day is a public meeting at which government representatives, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, civil society and other relevant organizations as well as individual experts are welcome.

#### **Participation and oral statements**

In order to facilitate the exchange of views between participants and Committee members, participants will be divided into two working groups to discuss the themes of (1) States' role in preventing and regulating separation and (2) meeting the challenges of out-of-home care provision. (Please see the outline for more details on the two working groups and their respective sub-themes). The Committee asks participants to avoid presenting formal statements during the discussion day. Copies of written statements to the Committee may be distributed by participants during the discussion day.

#### **Submission of written contributions**

The Committee encourages the submission of written contributions or case studies on the themes of the discussion day:

##### 1. States' role in preventing and regulating separation:

- practical measures which are or could be used by States to support parents in their parenting role and to prevent the institutionalisation of children, including discouraging unnecessary separation of children from their parents;
- efficacy of different measures in preventing separation and measures which may be inappropriate; that is, not in a child's best interests nor in line with the provisions of the Convention;
- legal and other mechanisms facilitating family reunification, both in situations of migration as well as when separation has occurred due to armed conflict or refugee situations;
- most appropriate criteria and processes to be used in making decisions about removal, including temporary and permanent removal, and children's own participation or contribution to these decisions.

##### 2. Meeting the challenges of out-of-home care provision:

- conditions/safeguards to ensure that an institutional placement decision comply with the rights of the child, including child's right to grow up in safe, stable and trustworthy relationship versus the issue of institutionalisation as a measure of last resort, indicators to assess the conditions of institutions and the impact of institutionalisation on children;
- systems, monitoring mechanisms, including child-sensitive complaint procedures, and minimum standards to ensure that residential care, when used appropriately, will be a positive/constructive experience for the children involved;
- institutionalisation/de-institutionalisation of children at a policy level, a role of the State in regulating the provision of care in such situations, and identification of good practices, including those designed with children, to be applied to children living in institutions;
- most appropriate ways to support informal foster care, including kinship care, and monitoring of the wellbeing and safety of children in these forms of care.

The Committee encourages a wide variety of case studies that reflect the different challenges in implementing the rights of children without parental care.

Authors of written contributions are encouraged to present a maximum of five suggestions for recommendations on the rights of the child in early childhood to be adopted by the Committee following the discussion day. The recommendations, which should be attached to the submission as an annex, must be directly relevant to the themes of the discussion day as described above, and prioritized.

Although the main working language of the Committee is English, written contributions can be submitted in French and Spanish, the other working languages of the UN.

**The deadline for the submission of written contributions is 30 June 2005.** The Committee requests that written contributions be limited to a **maximum of seven pages**. In order to facilitate the exchange of information, the Secretariat will circulate written contributions to registered participants via e-mail. Please note that only written contributions received in **electronic form** (preferably Word, WordPerfect or Adobe Acrobat) will be circulated. Written contributions will be circulated in their original language only. Written contributions will be posted on the Child Rights Information Network website ([www.crin.org](http://www.crin.org)).

Previously published materials may also be submitted to the Committee, or distributed during the discussion day to other participants. Sufficient copies must be provided, as the Secretariat does not have resources for reproduction and distribution.

### Registration

For organizational purposes, all participants are asked to fill out a registration form, which can be downloaded from the OHCHR website (<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/discussion.htm>). Please send it back to the Secretariat by e-mail ([CRCgeneraldiscussion@ohchr.org](mailto:CRCgeneraldiscussion@ohchr.org)) or fax (+41 22 917-9022) **before 31 August 2005**. However, those participants wishing to receive copies of background papers via e-mail should register, and provide the Secretariat with a valid e-mail address, by 2 August 2005.

As this is a public meeting of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, there is neither a registration fee, nor does the Committee send out individual invitations. **The United Nations is not able to provide assistance with visa, travel or accommodation arrangements.** Participants are responsible for all expenses and arrangements related to their participation in the discussion day.



### Logistics

The discussion day will take place on 16 September 2005 from 10:00 am till 6:00 pm (to be confirmed) at the Palais Wilson (52 rue des Paquis) in Geneva. Participants, whose registration has been confirmed, are requested to bring identification, such as a passport, with them to the discussion day in order to obtain a security badge to enter the Palais Wilson.

For any additional information, please contact the Secretariat, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNOG-OHCHR.

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