



Children's Rights Centre

**March 2010**

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**OUR 2010 THEME:  
CHILD SAFETY  
&  
PROTECTION**

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## Briefs & Bytes on Children's Rights

***Keep your eye on the ball! Keep your eye on the child!***

### Child Safety & Protection during 2010 - the World Cup and beyond...

Holiday time is always a high risk time for children. Why is this so? Why do reports of neglect, accidents and abuse of children increase at this time? These are some of the answers:

- When parents are at work child supervision is often inadequate.
- Alcohol and drug abuse is more common during holiday periods.
- Children often get bored and wander from home – risk taking is more common.
- Children who are not close to home and not accounted for are vulnerable to injury, abuse and neglect - and trafficking!

**In 2010 children are likely to be on the move to the city, to the fan parks, to be near the games – will they be safe?**

**All children have a right to safety and protection. Everyone should play a role in ensuring that our children are protected from harm, neglect, substance abuse, trafficking, being lost ...**

#### **Be a CHAMPION and stand up for children's rights:**

- Protect children against abuse– keep an eye on them!
- Uphold children's dignity
- Listen to children
- Provide safe opportunities for play and development .
- Be active in creating child friendly environments

**All children must be accounted for - at all times!**

#### **Families & caregivers:**

You are responsible for your own children's safety.

- Keep children close to home.
- Make adequate childcare arrangements for all children (including older children) with trusted caregivers.
- Teach your children to respect the boundaries you set – tell them clearly where they can go, what they can do, when they must be home.
- Arrange for children to be in a stimulating activity programme: either in your own home or in holiday programmes. Support and contribute to community holiday programmes.
- When children go on outing or an event, carefully check that they will be safe. Know where they are going and with whom.

(Adapted from a leaflet published by CRC)

## Briefs & Bytes on Children's Rights

### Communities SCORE for your children in 2010!

**It takes a team to score a goal!**

**It takes a community to raise a child**

#### **GOAL 1: Every child has a holiday plan!**

Provide holiday programmes and holidays clubs! All community organisations including sports clubs, churches, faith organisation, NGO's, libraries and schools are called upon to organise holiday programmes to occupy children in a safe and positive way. These might include sports coaching, holiday clubs, winter schools and arts and culture programmes.

#### **GOAL 2: Play spaces are safe and stimulating!**

Some parks will need to be cleaned up and reconstructed.  
Install a 'Park Watch' to keep children safe.  
Improve sports facilities.

#### **GOAL 3: Child- and family-friendly soccer viewing!**

Ensure safe environments - supervised and alcohol-free – with big screens - in church, school and community halls.  
Child safety and rescue centres must be set up at all Fan Parks and places where crowds will gather.

#### **GOAL 4: Every community has a child-net!**

Every community makes widely known who could help children when they are in need. Where does a mother, a neighbour, or even an older child go to when there is an emergency such as an injury, an abuse or rape incident or some suspicion of trafficking or a missing child.

Make a local referral list and publicise widely.  
Make sure the contacts can deliver!

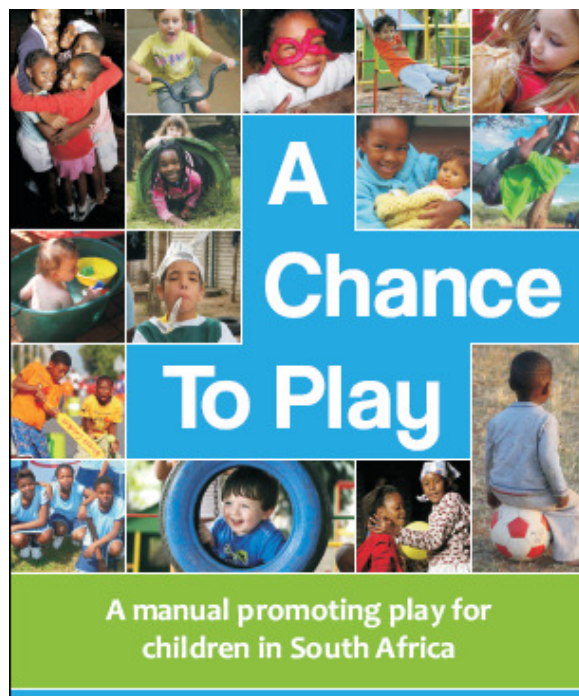
#### **SOME USEFUL EMERGENCY NUMBERS:**

- POLICE: 10111- immediately say it is a child in danger & give area where child is
- CHILDLINE: Toll-Free 08000-55555 - for immediate assistance - and you will be redirected to the appropriate regional office.
- AMBULANCE & FIRE: 10177
- NETCARE MEDICAL EMERGENCY: 082 911 Medical Rescue-0831999-Disasters
- LIFELINE: National Counselling Line- 0861 322 322
- SUICIDE HELP LINE: 0800 567 567
- MISSING CHILDREN: Sup Van Deventer: 012 393 2002 - report immediately, do not to wait 24 hrs
- TRAFFICKING: IOM 0800 555 999
- CRIME STOP: 086 001 0111
- DRUG & SUBSTANCE ABUSE: 0800 150 150

(Adapted from a leaflet published by CRC)

# A Chance To Play

A 'Proudly South African' book that encourages the nation to play.



## CONTENTS:

### Part 1: The Right To Play

1. Children have a right to play! .....
2. Children's play needs at different ages .....
3. Play rights issues .....

### Part 2: Play Activities

4. Using the play activities in this book .....
5. Planning ongoing play programmes .....
6. Energisers and attention-getters .....
7. Games sets .....
8. Water play .....
9. Cooperative and trust games .....
10. Park games and sports .....
11. Outdoor play .....
12. Traditional games .....
13. Indigenous games .....
14. Board games and cards .....
15. Recipes for play .....
16. Drama .....
17. Imagination play .....
18. Musical instruments and music making .....
19. Make your own toys .....
20. Creative art activities .....

### Part 3: Enabling Play

21. Adults as play enablers .....
22. Remembering childhood play .....
23. Training play leaders .....
24. Lobbying and advocacy for play .....
25. Play action in practice .....

**2010:  
Keep Children Safe  
with play programmes  
and holiday clubs!**  
*A Chance to Play* is an all South African resource manual for children's play and holiday programmes. Inspire a team of play leaders to be 'Play Active' in the holidays! See book on [www.achance-to-play.org](http://www.achance-to-play.org) & contact CRC for copies.

**Also contact Children's Rights Centre for the booklet: 'How to run a holiday club'.** 031 307 6075  
email: [janet@crc-sa.co.za](mailto:janet@crc-sa.co.za) [www.crc-sa.co.za](http://www.crc-sa.co.za)

**This book** is full of practical play ideas & games that are being played by South African children with local resources, in both rural and urban areas. There are play ideas for groups, families and individual children. Ideas from all over SA with acknowledgement and thanks to many different organisations.

**The manual** promotes a child's right to play: picks up on issues of inclusion, justice, who is responsible for creating safe play environments and talks about children as leaders of their own play. Several organisations showcase what they do to promote play in their communities. For example toy libraries, park watches; hospital play programmes and organised children's groups such as Scouts.

**Who for:** Adult and child play leaders, families, educators, children's groups, aftercare centres, holiday programmes, community play programmes, play area designers, sports and recreation departments

**Ages:** Pre-school to teenager. Guidance given on scaling play ideas up or down for young & older children.

## ARE CHILDREN SAFE IN SA—A CHECKLIST

### **Do the attitudes, traditions, customs, behaviour and practices of society**

broadly respect the rights of children and condemn all forms of violence against children?

**NO—abuse and neglect of children is still a major problem in South African society.**

### **Is the Government is committed to fulfill protection rights** with laws that prohibit all forms of violence against children?

**YES—the Children's Act, the Sexual Offences Act and the Child Justice Act, together with our Constitution and other laws, provide a good framework for the protection of children.**

### **Does the Government enforce and implement the laws that protect children?**

**NOT WELL!** This is a mammoth task that requires efficient and dedicated civil servants in all state departments and at all levels, and adequate resources. We believe it can only happen with civil society cooperation and support.

### **Is there awareness and openness on child protection issues at all levels?**

Is there knowledge about the risks of child abuse, and neglect, in our society, and is it widely known what measures can be taken to protect children – by families, civil society and NGOs, and also by the local and national government services? Are all media involved and are children free to speak up about their concerns?

**IMPROVING!** This is not adequate – it needs a 'social movement' that we should all support!

### **Are there programmes to build the capacity to protect among those around children,**

such as health workers, teachers, police, social workers and many others who interact with children? Are they being equipped with the **motivation, skills and authority** to identify and respond to child protection abuses? Is the capacity of families and communities to protect their children recognised as essential in a protective environment?

**VERY FEW!** This again needs a partnership between government & civil society.

### **Are children encouraged to develop life skills and to participate** in building the society they want? Children are less vulnerable to abuse when they are aware of their right not to be exploited, and can access the services available to protect them. Children can also make a valuable contribution to safety policies and programmes.

**IMPROVING but not adequate!** Listen to the children and include them as partners!

### **Is there effective monitoring and reporting:** that records the incidence and nature of child protection abuses and allows for informed and strategic responses?

Are these systems participatory and locally-based to ensure that they are effective?

**NO.** There are no accurate statistics available on child abuse in South Africa. There is also a lack of consistency in data from the Justice system, where for example statistics on children over 14 are not classified under 'children'.

### **Are there services for recovery and reintegration** of child victims of any form of neglect, exploitation or abuse? They are entitled to care and non-discriminatory access to basic social services. These services must be provided in an environment that fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child.

**Unfortunately the articles relating to services to children for recovery were deleted from the Children's Act before it was passed by Parliament!**

(Checklist adapted from UNICEF

[http://www.unicef.org/protection/index\\_environment.html](http://www.unicef.org/protection/index_environment.html)

with comments on its application in South Africa, in red, by the editor)

## CHILD TRAFFICKING: PREVENT! RESPOND! SUPPORT!

### What is child trafficking?

Child trafficking is when children are removed from their homes (under false pretences or by force) and taken to another place or other places – inside the country or outside the country - in order for them to be exploited.

Children are trafficked for different purposes including sexual abuse, forced labour and the removal of body parts. This is often done by convincing their parents that, if the child leaves with the trafficker (who might even be a relative) the child will have better educational and other opportunities at their destination. Other means used include abducting or kidnapping children.

### Who falls victim to the crime?

Children, young people and adults alike, particularly the unemployed who are looking for opportunities to improve their life conditions are all vulnerable.

### What does the law say about human trafficking?

The law on sexual offences, formally referred to as the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and related matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007 makes it a crime to traffick an adult or a child in order to exploit them sexually. This includes where the trafficking is for the production of pornography.

**Consent by the victims is not a defence to the crime of human trafficking.** The law protects victims of trafficking from being charged and prosecuted for any offence they commit as a direct result of being trafficked, for example, using false travel documents.

Minimum employment standards, such as the number of working hours per day, can be found in the Basic Conditions of Employment Act 75 of 1997. Labour inspectors must be contacted to report employers who do not follow the standards required by this law.

**The Children's Act** 38 of 2005 protects children from being trafficked for all purposes. The law prohibits property owners from hiring their properties out for criminal and exploitative activities involving children, including those who have been trafficked. South Africa uses asset forfeiture as a means of ensuring that such owners and traffickers do not benefit from the proceeds of their criminal and exploitative activities.

In this country, it is illegal for any child below the age of 15 years to be out of school and to be employed. These are just some of the laws that can be used to investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking in South Africa.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT CHILD TRAFFICKING?

The Department of Labour in your area can help you validate job offers, particularly those outside your province or the country. Any suspicious conduct by prospective employers or their agents must be reported to the police.

Look out for people – both men and women – who say they have job or education or sport-scholarship opportunities that promise children a bright future!

Teach your children to be careful of adults who try to befriend them, whether in person, through cell phone or Internet chat rooms

Adapted from: "South Africa's National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking"

#### How can you help someone who has been trafficked?

Contact your nearest Social Worker to arrange counselling services for the victim of trafficking, so that they can deal with the experience they have gone through.

Information on shelters in your area will be provided by the Social Worker or the Department of Welfare in your province, where the victim can be given a place to stay.

Remember that a person who is suspected of trafficking can be charged with the crime and even brought back to South Africa in order to stand trial, so report human trafficking! "in the spirit of Tshireledzani! (which means "protect" in TshiVenda)"

#### For more information contact:

Human Trafficking Programme Coordinating Unit (PCU); Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) Unit; National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa

Tel: +27 12 845-6000 e-mail: [tip-pcu@npa.gov.za](mailto:tip-pcu@npa.gov.za)

### **BOOK:**

#### **Children's right to be heard and effective child protection.**

**This book is subtitled: A guide for Governments and children rights advocates on involving children and young people in ending all forms of violence**

It is published by © Save the Children Sweden, 2010 Author: Carolyne Willow

Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children, writes in the foreword of the above book:

*The Study calls on member states to 'actively engage with children and respect their views in all aspects of prevention, response and monitoring of violence against them'.*

*Indeed, child participation is critical for the development of any child sensitive national strategy designed to prevent violence and ensure children's protection, recovery and reintegration.*

*Child participation helps to widen the outreach of advocacy and awareness raising initiatives, and empowers children to gain confidence and trust and promote peer education towards violence elimination.*

*Children's perspectives and experiences help to support efforts to consolidate effective child protection systems and uphold a culture of respect for children's rights in society.*

*Children's views and recommendations enrich the design of policies and the enactment of legislation.*

*Joining hands with young people and listening to their views and experiences also provides a better understanding of the hidden face of violence and, more importantly, to become better equipped to prevent its occurrence, to develop child sensitive counselling, recovery and long lasting reintegration strategies, and to monitor progress and impact.*

**Children as advocates** — *Children express a strong sense of impatience when they voice their deep concern at the very high levels of violence affecting their lives and question the insufficient steps taken to address it. When they speak on behalf of the many victims who remain invisible in their experience of violence, stigma and exclusion; the many children who lose trust and hope, when abused in settings designed to protect them; the many who fear reporting and reprisals, and those who dare to speak up and yet see their suffering forgotten in a pact of silence **they ignite us with a call for urgent action!***

#### **QUOTE FROM THE BOOK: 'All appropriate measures': children's roles in implementing the UN Violence Study— Recommendations**

- 1. Strengthen national and local commitment and action**
- 2. Prohibit all violence against children**
- 3. Prioritise prevention of violence**
- 4. Promote non-violent values and awareness-raising**
- 5. Enhance the capacity of all who work with and for children**
- 6. Provide recovery and social reintegration services**
- 7. Create accessible & child-friendly reporting systems & services**
- 8. Ensure accountability and no impunity**
- 9. Address the gender dimension of violence against children**
- 10. Develop and implement systematic national data collection and research**
- 11. Strengthen international commitment**

## BRIEF on the CHILD SUPPORT GRANT

### Children's Institute briefing & Department of Social Development and Deputy Minister's report on 2008 audit issues

By *Tandile Delihlazo*

Created 1 Mar 2010 - 11:24

[Social Development](#)

Date of Meeting: 24 Feb 2010

Chairperson: Ms Y Botha (ANC)

#### Summary:

The Children's Institute gave a presentation on the Child Support Grant and the new regulations. The presentation focused on two main areas.

**Whilst the extension of the grant to children up to 18 years old was welcomed, it was noted that there was a trade-off in that although the two main children's grants had increased, the increases were below inflation, which meant that the caregivers would struggle to meet basic needs.**

The Institute asked the Committee, firstly, to consider how many children were affected, whether the trade off was worth it, and, if so, whether it was possible to achieve it through another part of the budget that did not have to do with children.

**In response to a comment that another increase might be approved mid-year, the Institute said that the Committee should perhaps include this as a firm recommendation.**

**The Institute also discussed the requirement (at the moment ambiguously called a "condition" since a final term was not yet agreed upon) for enrolment and attendance of children at schools in order to access grants, pointing out that some children with mild disabilities were not accepted by mainstream schools in the area, or were not attending for other reasons, which should be investigated by social workers.**

**Members asked the Social Security Agency to comment on liaison between itself and the Department of Education, in view of the apparently conflicting regulations about the age at which children could leave school,**

(From the Parliamentary Monitoring Group website)

## Briefs & Bytes on Children's Rights

### THE RIGHT TO PLAY AND MAKE A RACKET!

**Children in the German capital Berlin are to be exempt from strict laws on noise pollution. An amendment to the city's law now makes it "fundamentally and socially tolerable" for members of the younger generation to make a racket.**

Berlin has become the first of Germany's 16 federal states to adopt such legislation. But all Berliners - children included - must continue to respect the official quiet time at night and all day Sunday. Until now, only church bells, emergency sirens, snow ploughs and tractors have fallen outside the stringent rules on excessive noise in Germany. In Berlin alone, hundreds of complaints are made each year about noise levels in kindergartens and children's playgrounds. Some day-care facilities have even been forced to close after local residents have gone to court in search of a quiet life. Now Berlin's local government, the senate, has passed a law giving children the right to be noisy, the first law of its kind in Germany. Axel Strohbusch, from Berlin's Department of Noise Protection, said it was

**"the first time we have it written in law that we have to consider the rights of children to shout and make noise while they are growing up and this must be considered by all the neighbours".**

Germany's organisation for child protection told AFP news agency it welcomed the move, saying: "We live in a city and children should be allowed to play and make noise."

[Source: BBC [17 February 2010]

### WHAT IS THE RIGHT TO PLAY (From: Child Rights Information Network)

*"Play is a child's first claim on the community. No community can infringe that right without doing deep and enduring harm to the minds and bodies of its citizens".*

(British Prime Minister, Lloyd George, (1926))

There is substantial evidence in support of the need for children to play safely and freely. Many research studies have been conducted which emphasise the importance of the role of play in the development of children, both educationally and in terms of their health and well-being. In societies which are emerging from conflict, play takes on an additional role in ensuring that children overcome the trauma of war.

*"Play is the means by which children explore their environment, their world, their roles and relationships."*

Article 31 of the CRC refers to the child's right to leisure, play, recreation, culture and the arts. Whilst some of the concepts are problematic, it is clear that the right encompasses a wide range of activity. In particular, play has been defined by the playwork profession as behaviour which is "freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated i.e. performed for no external goal or reward' (PlayEducation, 1982).

### 2010 - The INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY

*Young Hands Together for Diversity* is a new learning and activity programme on biodiversity being prepared for participants in *The Green Wave* and other youth initiatives. And as a first activity we're running an art contest.

**The winning entry will be used for the design of a challenge badge** – a special badge to be awarded to young people who complete a number of challenges set out in the programme. Other entries will be used for illustrations in a booklet, posters and other information materials.

**The theme of the competition is “biodiversity” – and what it means to young people around the world. Artwork could explore the amazing variety of life on the planet, the richness of ecosystems, the reasons why biodiversity is being lost, or the things people are doing to protect biodiversity.**

Entries are invited from children and young people in three age categories: 6-10 years, 11-15 years and 16-20 years. There'll be an overall winner, as well as winners and runners-up for each of the age categories. A variety of art materials may be used, for example pens, coloured pencils or paints. The use of bold colours is recommended. Artwork should be prepared on white A4-size paper within a square frame (18cm x 18cm) or a round frame (18cm diameter).

The competition is now open and entries must be received by 15 June 2010. For more information on the contest rules, prizes, templates for artwork and where to send your entries, click here to read or download the official rules in [English](#), [French](#) or [Spanish](#).

**So, what are you waiting for? Put on your artist's cap, start creating and send us your best artwork. Have fun!** (From *The Green Wave* part of the Convention on Biological Diversity)

**In 2010, a year-long celebration of the variety of life on earth is driven by the Secretariat of the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD), under the slogan**

***Biodiversity is life, Biodiversity is our life.***

South Africa became a party in 1995 to this important convention. The 10th conference of the parties, known as [COP 10](#), takes place in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010.

### PLAY FOR LIFE

**Football stars at the Soccer World Cup are also supporting the environmental campaign run by UNEP (The UN Environment Programme) in partnership with PUMA.**

**For the future of our children -**

## **2010 - The INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY**

Bio-diversity, having many different forms of life, is vital to our beautiful world. If we allow any species to become extinct, whether it is the tiger or an endangered butterfly, we are changing nature for ever. And our planet is in its greatest extinction crisis since the dinosaurs became extinct 65 million years ago!

When an animal species is endangered, there are so few left that any weaknesses in their genes are spread among them — there is 'inbreeding' and offspring may be weak and prone to disease. When a plant species becomes extinct, we may be missing out on vital benefits it could have provided—we are just beginning to explore the benefits of natural herbs and medicinal products from plants and trees—and racing to do so before they become extinct!

**In 2010, a year-long celebration of the variety of life on earth is driven by the Secretariat of the [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#), under the slogan *Biodiversity is life, Biodiversity is our life*.**

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