
Working together, all of us can bring a prosperous world to the children!

"HELP THE CHILDREN"

**Electronic Newsletter of the Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania
- CRCA / DCI Section ALBANIA**

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IN THIS SPECIAL EDITION:

- GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION TAKES PLACE IN ALBANIA**
- CHILDREN IN ALBANIA FORM CHAINS OF EDUCATION**
- NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CHILD-FRIENDLY SCHOOLS**
- NEWS FROM GLOBAL CAMPAIGN AROUND THE WORLD**

- Overview of the Electronic Newsletter**

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION TAKES PLACE IN ALBANIA

Tirana, 29 April 2007 – This April around the World, including Albania, from 23 – 29 April 2007 took place the Global Campaign for Education under the motto “Education and Human Rights”. During this week organizations that work for education of children, trade unions and teachers ask from governments and politicians to guarantee the right to education for everyone.

In Albania the Children’s Human Rights Centre of Albania – CRCA / DCI Albanian Section joined forces with major national and international organizations and institutions in Albania under the logo of the Coalition for Child Education in Albania. Members of the Coalition include UNICEF, Save the Children, IRCCRA, Sos Children Villages, World Vision Albania, MEDPAK, Albanian Children's Alliance, Diagonia Agapes, Education Trade Unions, Albanian Helsinki Committee and National Institute of Training and Curricula.

The Campaign in Albania was launched on April 21 with a press conference for all mass-media in Albania. The event was designed to raise awareness about the campaign for education in Albania, few days before the start of the campaign. A set of materials, including CDs, posters and printed materials were made available. Press conference was covered by major national and local TV channels in Albania.

Among the the major activities of the Campaign in Albania were: preparation and presentation of Information Letter "Albania and Education of Children" with details for situation of pre-university education; Poster "Friendly schools for every child".

During the Campaign the Coalition asked members of the Albanian Parliament to sign a Letter called "I PROMISE" and to visit at least one school in their own constituency. Meanwhile the Albanian Parliament in the next few weeks will organise a special meeting on the right of the child to education, under the patronage of the Chairwoman of the Parliament.

On behalf of the Coalition, UNICEF, Save the Children and Institute of Training and Curricula organised a national workshop to discuss problems of child education in Albania.

The goal of the Campaign in Albania, under the adapted motto for our country is "A friendly school for every child" aims at raising awareness of the Albanian Government, politicians and wide public opinion for problems of education of children in Albania, especially education of girls and children from vulnerable groups, the phenomenon of drop-out from schools and providing adequate conditions for establishment of child-friendly schools.

If you require further information on the Campaign, please contact:

Mrs. Blerina Metaj
CRCA Programme Coordinator
Tel / Fax: + 355 4 242264
E-mail: bmetaj@crca.org.al
www.crca.org.al

Tirana 22-27 April 2007 - Children from all over Albania have been participating in the activities organised under the framework of the Global Campaign for Education. Organisations like Save the Children, CRCA, IRCCRA, Sos Children Villages, World Vision Albania, MEDPAK, Albanian Children's Alliance and Diagonia Agapes have organised awareness activities on the right of the child to education.

Children throughout Albania have been forming in their schools and premises human chain reactions. The Coalition estimates that some 12 thousand children have been forming human chains and asking the government to do more for child education in Albania.

Meanwhile many debates, awareness seminars and meetings have been taking place in many cities, towns and villages of Albania with the participation of children, young people, teachers and parents.

Info source: CRCA

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CHILD-FRIENDLY SCHOOLS

Tirana, 26 April 2007 – In the framework of the Global Campaign for Education, National Institute of Training and Curricula (NITC) in collaboration with UNICEF, Save the Children and supported by all Coalition members, as part of the campaign for Albania, organized the national workshop “A friendly school for every child”.

The main aim of this workshop was to debate some of the most important issues and problems related to improvement of education system of Albania. Participants in this workshop were representatives from Educational Authorities and Offices from all over Albania and representatives of national and international NGO's / Agencies.

In the first part of the workshop representatives of Ministry of Education, NITC, UNICEF and Save the Children made their presentations which were focused in the importance of reforms in education and the need for friendly and comprehensive schools that will make education system more qualitative and acceptable for children and teachers. The second part of workshop was focused on discussions and group-work.

From discussions and group-work aroused some suggestions and recommendations for the working group of the National Institute of Training and Curricula, which will help them to find ways and methods to implement objectives and make them measurable, in order to have child-friendly schools in Albania.

Info source: IRCCRA

NEWS FROM GLOBAL CAMPAIGN AROUND THE WORLD

Friday April 27th

GAW 2007 is reaching a climax- thousands and thousands of chains clamouring for education rights around the world!!! By JOINING UP your voices will be heard! Today will be a big day for many countries so watch out for more news.

Argentina

In Argentina children, teenagers, parents and teachers are making human chains surrounding schools and monuments across the country including the following provinces: Ciudad de Buenos, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Jujuy, Misiones, Chubut, Salta, Mendoza, Neuquén, Corrientes, Santa Fe, Formosa. Their chains are called "abrazos" in Spanish or hugs.

Canada

Manor Park Public School in Ottawa hosted a launch of Global Action Week activities on April 17, 2007. Approximately 600 students from grades 1-6 participated in the launch after weeks of learning about the right to education in their classrooms. A selection of students from grades four, five and six presented statements about the right to education based on their research. Students then unwound a huge paper chain that stretched around all four walls of the school gymnasium. Every student in the school had contributed to the chain in a sign of solidarity with children around the world.

"You have the power to change a child's life, so do it!"

Irene Adanusa, President of Education International Africa Region and General Secretary of the Ghanaian Teachers' Association spoke about the state of education in Ghana and about what students there will be doing for Global Action Week. Irene congratulated the students for their hard work and commitment to the rights of children around the world. During action week there have been many activities in schools and members of the Canadian coalition are holding a forum on the right to education during conflict.

Colombia

In Colombia the central forum took place midweek with 350 girls, boys, teenagers and adults in the Senate with senators who form the Education commission. At the end of this forum at 4pm, a human chain was formed in front of the National Capitol building, the seat of Congress involving everyone who participated in the forum. This included two youth advocates from Global March Against Child Labour who were taking the results of the Colombian coalitions' activities to the High Level Donors Conference in Brussels next week Luz Enith Lemos Zabala and Brillith Mallely Serrano Leon. Finally it was Brillith who was able to travel to Brussels, but Luz will continue to support from Colombia. They participated in the US event as well. (see below)

Chile

Through a virtual chain, Corporation Opción is aiming to obtain the largest possible number of participants to this movement, which will be registered by an electronic counter via the following link : www.opcion.cl/educacion

In addition, the theme of the right to education will be used as a base for discussions by pupils in the classrooms of various schools all over the country, coordinated by Corporation Opción. Pupils will present their own conclusions to these debates, in various creative forms, which will be collected and made into reports. These reports will then be delivered to the regional authorities in public ceremonies.

In the city of Santiago, as the central act of the campaign, Yasna Provoste Campillay - the Minister of Education in Chile - will hold a meeting with a delegation of pupils who will deliver the final results of this initiative. Also, Corporation Opción will install a huge banner outside the official government building showing the total number of people who joined the virtual chain.

Corporation Opción´s electronic counter: www.opcion.cl/educacion

Democratic Republic of Congo

The GAW launched in Kinshasa Monday 23rd April at a run down and poorly equipped school in the presence of several ministers : the Minister of Primary, secondary and professional education, social affairs , tertiary education and youth. This poignant event was followed over the next 2 days with a workshop on school fees with different leaders responsible for education and the coalition. A delegation of students made an important declaration in favour of compulsory free primary education. The same ministers were involved in a televised debate with the national EFA coordinator. The Big Chain Reaction will happen today from parliament where the dossier on violations to the right to an education will be handed into officials.

Greece

More than 100 schools have taken part across Greece - from Corfu and Crete- to the very North of Greece). Events started earlier this week with a primary school stopping traffic and handing out leaflets, and a large chain at a school in Crete - with lots of other creative things being organized by schools. Around 20 schools are meeting this week with politicians - a combination of some high profile MPs, MEPs as well as some local mayors. Greece will be launching the report on the 1 st May ahead of the donor conference.

Ireland

Schools and youth groups across the country have been making chains to be sent to An Taoiseach (Prime Minister), the Minister for Development Cooperation and the Minister for Education. One school has created 3 human-sized figures named "Ed", "Kay" and "Sean"! They are being used for photoshoots, displays amongst other things. Young activists are sending letters to politicians; giving local radio station interviews; joining hands in human chains with teachers, Boards of Management and local politicians; whole-school talks and video shows to inform both teaching staff and students. On April 24th, students met with the Minister of Development Conor Lenihan. See the photo on the website !

Mexico

Global Action Week 2007 started with a radio spot which has been played in 8 different states of Mexico and has gained a lot of media coverage including an important state radio programme on the GWA which reaches the

whole country. There has been research and a "parade of the Professions" in which children under five have demanded the right to education in order to become who they want to be. Today Friday 27th of April they were expecting 25 000 people to participate in the Big Chain Reaction.

Norway

The Action Week inbox has been inundated with chains happening across schools in Norway. Thousands have taken part ! See all the chains on Norway's country page on the website.

Portugal

This year the campaign involved around 600 pupils from primary and secondary schools of the district of Viana do Castelo. They were received by the local mayor after an introductory session at the School of Higher Education. An human chain was formed between the School of Higher Education and Liberty Square in downtown.

Uruguay

Several schools have joined the campaign by making human chains around the schools or at the playgrounds . The biggest one registered up to this point, took place in the city of José Enrique Rodó, in Soriano Province where 150 people joined hands. A rally is planned in this city for April 28 th. Today in the beautiful city of Colonia, the Women and Family Bureau is organizing consecutive human chains, every half an hour, from 2pm to 4pm, in different parts of the city! In other schools, for example, in the city of Melo, workshops on this issue have been carried out with students and teachers. In Treinta y Tres province in the area of Vergara, a Workshop-Seminar is organized, within the framework of this campaign, on education without violence, and a Big Human Chain is planned for April 28 in the Main Square of Vergara.

United Kingdom

A TV star is urging young people from across the West Midlands in the UK to come together and join hands on Friday (27 April) to call for free education for children worldwide. Dani Harmer, who plays a popular children's TV character in the UK, will be joining students in Birmingham city centre to form a human chain around Victoria Square to symbolise some of the millions young people worldwide who cannot attend school. During the event, which begins at 10am, children will have the chance to create their own chains and also take part in a student parliament with pupils from Germany, Ghana and Kenya to debate the theme of education in developing

countries.

United States

High school students from across the U.S. and their teachers joined child labourers from Colombia, Ghana and India, republican and democrat senators for a two hour conference during the Global Campaign for Education's Action Week for Global Education. The conference focused on U.S. students sharing what they hope their leaders will do. It was also a moment of truth to hear the inspiring stories of child labourers and their vision of the future world. President of the GCE Kailash Satyarthi and Chair of the US GCE chapter Gene Sperling also address this conference.

Another boost to action week was given by none other than actress and activist Angelina Jolie on Thursday when she called on the U.S. and other G-8 countries to increase their funding for orphans worldwide. At a news conference, Jolie, along with members of Global Action for Children, an orphan advocacy group, sought \$2.5 billion from the U.S. government for programs that would support children suffering from disease and poverty and provide free primary school education in developing countries. The news conference was held in conjunction with Global Campaign for Education Week.

For more news on Global Campaign for Education, please check

<http://www.campaignforeducation.org/>

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Overview of Electronic Newsletter

This Electronic Newsletter is prepared by the Information and Research Centre for Children's Rights in Albania - IRCCRA on behalf of the Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania - CRCA / Defence for Children International - Albanian Section.

More than 450 NGO's, international organisations and agencies, state bodies, donors, individuals, and other partners of CRCA - IRCCRA receive this Electronic Newsletter. If you would like to publish your news, reports, announcements, invitations, or other documents

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Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania - CRCA
Defence for Children International - Albanian Section
Mail address: Kutia Postare 1738, Tirana / ALBANIA
Phone / Fax: + 355 4 242264
E-mail: crca@crca.org.al
www.crca.org.al

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Information & Research Centre for Children's Rights in Albania -
IRCCRA

Address: Kutia Postare 1403, Tirana / Albania

Phone / Fax: ++ 355 4 24 22 64

E-mail: irccra@crca.org.al

www.crca.org.al
