

FOCUS TOPIC:

Children with Disabilities and Child Maltreatment

Children with disabilities experience child maltreatment significantly more often than their typically developing peers. Permanent disabilities may occur as a result of abuse and/or neglect, increasing vulnerability to further maltreatment. The consequences of abuse may be more pronounced in children with disabilities and, since they are less likely to be identified, they are more likely to suffer longer-term abuse.

Despite variances in methodology and sample of studies, findings have been remarkably consistent. Sullivan and Knutson's (2000) study found children with disabilities to be 3.4 times more likely to be maltreated than their peers.

Children with various disabilities have differential risks for different types of maltreatment. The relative risks for experiencing some form of maltreatment for each disability type in comparison to nondisabled peers are as follows: Behavior disorders: 6.3 times; Speech/language disabilities: 4.1 times; Mental disabilities: 3.3 times; Health impairments: 3 times; Hearing disability: 2.5 times; Learning disabilities: 2 times; Visual impairment: 2 times; Physical disability: 1.5 times; and, Multiple disabilities: 1.4 times.

Among child maltreatment research literature, relatively few articles focus on children with disabilities. Lack of data contributes to the ongoing lack of awareness of maltreatment and severely limits an informed response to these issues. Children with disabilities, seen in terms of their impairment and not as unique human beings, are vulnerable to maltreatment by their caregivers and peers. Family shame may precipitate abandonment, institutionalization and abuse and neglect. Children with intellectual disabilities and specific learning disabilities are more likely to be forced into child prostitution (Lung and Chen 2003).

For children with disabilities the usual risk factors for child abuse are intensified. Their impairments may make it difficult to participate in family and community activities, leading to social isolation. They are more likely to be living outside birth families in foster care, group homes or large institutions, which can mean they are more vulnerable to abuse. Having more caregivers provides a greater probability of encountering one who is abusive, whilst being separated from potential sources of protection. These children may be unable to protest or report when boundaries are crossed during intimate body care. Children with disabilities and their parents/caregivers often have limited access to critical information pertaining to personal safety and sexual abuse prevention.

Parents/caregivers of a child with disabilities may be stressed by ongoing health needs, difficulties in finding suitable childcare, financial burdens and social isolation, along with difficulties relating to depression and marital discord. Although the role of stress is controversial, studies indicate that

severely stressed caregivers are more likely to abuse.

Barriers to effective prevention of abuse towards children with disabilities exist at all stages of the protection process. There is sometimes a reluctance to believe that children with disabilities could be abused, and main presentations of abuse can be misinterpreted. Bruises from physical abuse may be interpreted as accidental. Changes in behaviour may be attributed to their on-going impairment. Children with intellectual or communication differences are vulnerable to being ignored, disbelieved or misunderstood when they report abuse. Communication in non-standard forms often lacks the signs or words relating to sex or body parts.

An assessment to establish whether a child has been abused or neglected is sometimes dominated by the child's medical condition and resulting service response. The medical specialist may have no concerns about the child's safety, and reports of injuries from the school or respite carers are likely to carry less weight. Social workers lacking familiarity with a child's impairment may rely on those in close contact with the child to interpret & explain behaviours or symptoms during an assessment, rather than working with an independent professional who can communicate with the child. The difficulty of finding substitute care may also prevent professionals from taking appropriate action to protect the child. A full assessment would include communication with the child using their preferred method, interviews with all the caregivers and specialists, and a review of all case files held by the service providers. Additional time, however, is often not available for this within existing systems and procedures.

Many cases do not proceed to the criminal justice system because of a common assumption that children with disabilities will not be able to give credible evidence or withstand the rigors of the court process. For convictions achieved for crimes against individuals with disabilities, sentences are significantly lighter.

Recommendations for the Prevention of Maltreatment in Children with Disabilities

A shift in societal values and attitudes is necessary to create awareness that children and adults with disabilities are equal citizens with equal rights. The protection of children with disabilities should become a public health priority.

All agencies involved in the abuse response system should receive training regarding working with children with disabilities. Parents and other caregivers need to have training in the identification and reporting of maltreatment in children with disabilities. The children need to be educated on how to protect themselves and how, and to whom, to report maltreatment if it occurs.



The year 2005 has started with some exciting new challenges and important opportunities for ISPCAN and its members.

In part due to its partnership with UNICEF and the high visibility of the **UN**

Study on Violence Against Children

, ISPCAN has been invited to participate in several related programs and consultations. In addition, projects that ISPCAN has been exploring and developing in the past 3 years have now

advanced to the implementation stages for 2005-2006.

January: ISPCAN provided an excellent Global Institute at the San Diego Conference on Maltreatment of Children. Our international speakers from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, UK and USA gave special presentations during the Conference.

With support from ISPCAN members Desmond Runyan (USA) and Michael Dunne (Australia), ISPCAN's Research Working Group on the UN Study on Violence Against Children held a task force meeting on a series of questionnaires and protocols under review.

February: ISPCAN's Executive Director participated in the Preparatory meeting for the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Region UN Consultation for the Study on

Violence Against Children in Egypt.

March: ISPCAN's President and Executive Director met with UNICEF at their New York headquarters. ISPCAN's Congress/Conference Committee Chair Jon Conte and Executive Director met with the 2008 International Congress Organizers at the proposed site in Hong Kong. The Executive Director spent time working with the 2006 International Congress Organizers in York, UK.

April: ISPCAN initiated a Delphi Review Process for the questionnaires and protocol developed for the ongoing project to produce an international research instrument on violence against children. The Delphi Review Process will continue in order to fine-tune the instrument in preparation for a Field Test program later in 2005.

May: ISPCAN's President, Executive Director, and Councillor Tilman Furniss met in Geneva with the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and with other key Partners and Funders. The President and Executive Director next attended the China National Workshop/Consultation on the UN Study on Violence Against Children, a very promising event for the children of China.

May: ISPCAN held a Virtual Issues Discussion (VID) on "Home Visitation." With a Facilitator and Panelists from Australia, Hong Kong (SAR China), South Africa, Sweden, and the USA, the discussion dealt with issues such as the effectiveness of different types of visitation in preventing physical child abuse and neglect before it oc-

curs, and on what basis Home Visitation services should be promoted more widely.

June: ISPCAN Member Desmond Runyan and the Executive Director participated in the North American Consultation on the UN Study on Violence Against Children, leading a group roundtable on "Epidemiology and Surveillance on Child Abuse and Neglect."

ISPCAN also finalized the Co-Chairs and Advisory Groups for its upcoming Curricula Development Project.

ISPCAN has been invited by our major funder, the Oak Foundation, to organize a Strategic Planning Working Group on Developing Country Training and Capacity Building in September in conjunction with our European Regional Conference and annual Executive Council meeting in Berlin.

These events, and the enthusiasm of our members, continue to ensure that ISPCAN is playing a dynamic leadership role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect world-wide, increasingly supporting our members with their direct needs and goals to protect children locally and globally.

As always, if you are interested in getting further involved as an ISPCAN member in one of our projects - please get in touch with us!

Barbara Bonner, PhD
ISPCAN President

Kimberly Svevo, MA, CAE
ISPCAN Executive Director

May 2005: ISPCAN Meets with CRC Committee, UNICEF, WHO

President Barbara Bonner and Executive Director Kimberly Svevo met with Dita Reichenberg, Regional Advisor, Child Protection, Regional Office for CEE/CIS & Baltic States, and her colleague Anna Nordenmark. Ms. Reichenberg confirmed UNICEF's support to provide Russian language translation for the upcoming ISPCAN European Regional Conference and E. European Institute. UNICEF representatives will be actively involved in both the Conference and Institute program as speakers and discussion facilitators, further supporting professional delegates from the region. Further cooperation between ISPCAN and UNICEF-CEE/CIS & Baltics was also discussed in the area of child abuse and neglect curricula development for university students and professionals, and in focused professional training and materials development.

Dr. Bonner and Ms. Svevo also met with member Elly Pradervand, Founder of the Women's World Summit Foundation, and

of the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse, and her colleague Laure Mairejean. They discussed collaboration between ISPCAN and WWSF for the World Day program, and the potential of holding a future European Regional Conference in Switzerland.

Barbara Bonner and Kimberly Svevo were joined by Councillor Tilman Furniss for the next day's meeting with World Health Organization, represented by Alex Butchart, Etienne Kruge and Alison Phinney. The organizations discussed their many areas of partnership: the UN Study on Violence Against Children, ISPCAN Education and Training of Health Professionals, the new ISPCAN curricula development project, ISPCAN's World Perspectives publication, the National Framework project led by WHO (based on the ISPCAN/WHO Guidelines development project), and general cooperation opportunities. Procedures are in place to establish ISPCAN as a more official partner to WHO in the coming year.

The ISPCAN representatives met with representatives of a major ISPCAN funder, the Oak Foundation next. The meeting focused on a generous grant that the Foundation will make to ISPCAN in 2005-06 for Strategic Planning, especially focused on their strong recent growth on training, capacity building and support of professional members in developing countries - but looking longer term at the future of ISPCAN. Further, an important continuing grant for ISPCAN in E. Europe was also discussed for 2006-07.

The next day, Drs. Bonner and Tilman, and Director Svevo met with Amaya Gillespie, Secretary for the UN Study on Violence Against Children; with Melanie Gow, World Vision, and with Eyelah Hamouda, Executive Director of the International Federation of Terres des Hommes. These meetings were helpful opportunities for reviewing the missions and programs of each organization, and focusing on common

(Continued on page 8)

ITPI Project profile: Kenya

With funding from ISPCAN and staff support from the Coalition, ANPPCAN Kenya entered Phase II of ITPI with a successful multi-disciplinary team building training seminar held 22-24 September of 2004. The training targeted core members of Child Protection teams (medical, law enforcement and child protection officers) in ten districts.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To enhance participants' knowledge and skills in addressing children's issues
- To identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of child protection teams
- To formulate appropriate strategies for enhancing delivery of child protection services
- To equip participants with team building skills

These objectives resulted from a review workshop held on 21 July 2004 to assess the progress made during Phase I (2001-2003) and to recommend improvements to the multi-disciplinary training.

This workshop was the first to address

children's issues, whereas the previous trainings from Phase I were follow-ups to the Coalition's capacity building initiatives. Therefore, the training plan was modified first to raise awareness and understanding of children's issues before focusing on the goals of the multi-disciplinary teams. Workshop presentations were participatory and activity oriented. Attendees shared their practical experiences from their respective districts and ways to strengthen service delivery. As a result each district group created an action plan with measurable objectives and a vision to form effective child protection teams within the following three months.

The positive effects of this training are already being realized in Kenya:

- Increase in reported cases of child abuse to officials reflecting general increased responsibility to report
- Increased refusal by girls to submit to female genital mutilation and the provision of support from child protection teams countrywide, and increased acceptance of alternative rites of passage. The Children Act in 2001, which

made female circumcision illegal, attests to the Kenyan government's good intention

- Growing refusal by children to be betrothed into forced marriages. Many girls have been rescued from early marriages and arrangements and taken to local rescue centers
- Effective peer education in schools: Child Protection teams are training groups of 15-18 olds to take the lead to educate their peers about issues affecting children
- Formation of Child protection teams at several hospitals, police stations and community groups. Some of these teams were trained in Phase I and have strengthened the delivery of child protection services by collaborating with local community leaders, religious leaders, NGOs and Business Communities

Compiled from ITPI Annual report by

Mrs. Wambui Njuguna, Kenya

ITPI Project Leader

Full report available at: www.ispcan.org/itpi

6th ISPCAN Asian Regional Conference

The Singapore Children's Society will be hosting the 6th ISPCAN Asian Regional Conference in Singapore, under the auspices of the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN). The Conference will be held from 16 to 18 November 2005 at the Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre, Suntec City. The Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports is the Principal Supporting Organisation.

Regional Conferences are organised to focus on child abuse and neglect unique to different cultures. The last Asian ISPCAN Conference was held in Hong Kong in 1999. Since then, Singapore has been chosen to host the 6th ISPCAN Asian Regional Conference in 2005, providing a unique opportunity for professionals from this region to exchange experiences and to discuss new research. In keeping with the belief that there are many similarities despite the varying emphases in different countries, we have chosen to draw on Asian insights with a cross continental exchange of experiences. Hence the confer-

ence theme "Protecting Children: Asian Perspectives and Beyond".

Due to the lapse of time between the last Conference in Hong Kong and this year, it was strongly felt that we needed to refocus on problems unique to Asia, to address the changing climate of how the region addresses child abuse and neglect issues. We now speak of children's rights and not just their needs; we see children as a resource and not a problem and our approach as being a professional obligation as well as a charitable contribution. Increasingly, we are working towards a trend to make children themselves more active in the issues that affect their well-being. How will this affect child protection services in Asia, with its diverse cultures and economies?

The programme lined up for the three-day event reflects the depth and range of issues. Speakers and participants will include professionals, academics, policy makers, caregivers and volunteers from both public and private sectors. Experts from the fields of medicine, education, law

enforcement and child protection will be able to take advantage of such a gathering of like minds to broaden their network.

Our two Keynote speakers include Mr Kishore Mabubhani (Dean of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy) and Professor Kim R. Oates (The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Australia). Other experts who will be presenting papers are:

Mr Sanphasit Koompraphant (The Center for the Protection of Children's Rights, Thailand); Dr Irene Cheah (Kuala Lumpur Hospital, Malaysia); Mrs Priscilla Lui (Against Child Abuse, Hong Kong); Ms Ang Bee Lian (Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports, Singapore); Associate Professor John Elliott (National University of Singapore); Mr Richard Magnus (Subordinate Courts of Singapore); Professor Jiao Fu-Yong (Shaanxi Provincial People's Hospital, China); Professor Toshihiko Yanagawa (Wakayama Medical University).

Further details are available at the Conference website at: www.ispcansingapore.com

ISPCAN Executive Council: Call for Nominations

ISPCAN will be accepting Nominations for the 2006-2012 Executive Council positions (seven vacancies) as of August 1. Nominees must have been a member of ISPCAN in good standing (paid) for a period of one year prior to the closing of Nominations. The Council should reflect the international and multi-disciplinary nature of the society. Nomination/nominator applications are available on our web: www.ispcan.org. Nomination forms must be received by the Nominations Committee by November 2005. For further information, please contact: ispcan@ispcan.org

2005 Global Institute - San Diego

The 2005 Global Institute held on January 24 in San Diego, USA welcomed participants from 8 countries.

The event opened with the framework for the 2005 Institute and the evolution and successes of ISPCAN, presented by Dr. Barbara Bonner, ISPCAN President. She was followed by Deb Daro, ISPCAN Executive Officer, who provided participants with strategies to build community efforts and multidisciplinary and multiprogram connections for preventing child abuse. Kimberly Svevo, ISPCAN Executive Director, presented the current state of the United Nations Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children on behalf of Rimah Salah of UNICEF.

ISPCAN member and ITPI training partner, Dr. Evelyn Einstein of Brazil, presented current prevention strategies being implemented by CEIIAS. She introduced the concept of social deprivation as a major factor leading to the abuse and neglect of children in Brazil and presented current work supported by ISPCAN including training materials, a website, and a CD-ROM of resources of which 50,000 will be distributed throughout Brazil with additional assistance from the Brazilian Pediatric

Society.

Evidence to support prevention programs in China was the focus of the next presentation by ISPCAN member Michael Dunne, PhD, of Australia. The research outlines the reality of abuse against youth and hopes to spark institutional response in China.

ISPCAN member and ITPI Coordinator, Dr. Tufail Muhammad of Pakistan, offered the Pakistan Pediatric Association's approach to CAN prevention, which includes the creation of a national network of professionals and organizations working to prevent child abuse. He detailed its successes since its inception five years ago.

ISPCAN member Dr. Bernard Gerbaka of Lebanon discussed the importance of a regional network in the Middle East region to address child abuse and neglect, citing from the 2004 World Perspectives.

ISPCAN member and chair of BASPCAN, Jonathan Picken offered prevention strategies in use in the United Kingdom. The overview informed participants of a model that is working in the UK and may be applied to prevention programs in their own countries and regions.

Buki Ponle, ISPCAN member and senior

editor of the News Agency of Nigeria, spoke about child protection and the role of the media in Nigeria. As the country is continually developing and communication is becoming stronger, Ponle stressed the influence of the media and its role in informing and sensitizing the population of Nigeria, and around the world, on the prevention of child maltreatment.

The final presentation was by ISPCAN member, Dr. Harriet MacMillan of McMaster University in Canada. Prevention methods used in Canada were discussed using the public health model. Home visitation models were also discussed. Dr. MacMillan closed her presentation by highlighting challenges and solutions in designing programs based on the public health framework.

The institute concluded with a summary of the day's activities by Barbara Bonner who facilitated an open discussion among participants, allowing professionals to exchange ideas and contact information to support and expand the growing network of individuals and organizations working to prevent child abuse and neglect.

James Hazen

10th ISPCAN European Regional Conference

The International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) and the German Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (GESPCAN) are collaborating to present the Xth European Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (11-14 Sep. 2005, Berlin, Germany).

The conference theme is "New Developments in Science and Practice: Influences on Child Protection." The event will be open to professionals from all disciplines involved in child abuse and neglect prevention including psychologists, social workers, physicians, educators, legislators, and law enforcement officers.

We encourage interested participants to register online for the conference. Information and registration are available at: www.ispcan.org/euroconf2005. English inquiries should be directed to euroconf2005@ispcan.org and inquires in German should be sent to euroconf2005@dggkv.de

The 16th ISPCAN International Congress

The 16th ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect, entitled "Children in a Changing World: Getting It Right," will take place from 3 to 6 of September 2006 in York, United Kingdom.

Authors who are interested in submitting a paper, a workshop or an interactive poster presentation are encouraged to submit abstracts online at www.ispcan.org/congress2006. The online abstract submission will open at the above website as of 30 June 2005. The abstract submission deadline will be 31 January 2006.

For more detailed information on the call for abstracts, the types of presentations, registration and all other inquiries about the Congress, visit its official website at www.ispcan.org/congress2006 or write to us at congress2006@ispcan.org

National Consultation on Violence against Children: Beijing

The People's Republic of China conducted a National Consultation on Violence against Children in Beijing on 16-17 May 2005 as part of the United Nations Study on Violence against Children. The Consultation was organized by the All China Women's Federation with support from the

Country Offices of UNICEF and WHO and included over 100 participants from China and around the world, including children from several parts of China.

As one of the speakers at the opening of the workshop, ISPCAN President Dr. Barbara Bonner spoke about ISPCAN's leader-

ship in obtaining international data and its work with governments and international agencies (including UNICEF) world-wide to strengthen child protection systems.

A Conversation with ISPCAN Councillor Kim Oates



How did you initially get interested in child abuse and neglect?

I became involved in child abuse and neglect in 1970 when as a Resident at The Children's Hospital in Sydney I cared for a group of children with non-organic failure to thrive, publishing the results in 1971. I then did further paediatric training in London and Boston, returning to Sydney in 1974 as the newest and youngest consultant paediatrician in the Hospital. Child abuse had become more widely recognised. It was of little interest to many paediatricians at that time and, as the newest kid on the block, I was given the responsibility of handling this "somewhat distasteful" field, along with my other responsibilities.

Apart from a year in 1993 when I was Acting Director of the Kempe Center in Denver, I have never worked full-time in the area of child abuse. I have combined a clinical and research interest in the field with my other work in developmental, behavioural and general paediatrics and more recently, as Chief Executive of a large children's hospital.

How long have you been a member of ISPCAN?

I was one of the early members of ISPCAN, my membership card being signed by Henry Kempe. I was elected to the ISPCAN Council at the Amsterdam Conference in 1981, served on the ISPCAN Council until 1992, including a term as President from 1988 to 1990. In 2002, after a gap of 10 years, I

stood for re-election and am currently Chair of the ISPCAN Membership Committee. It has been interesting to watch ISPCAN develop from a small, enthusiastic volunteer organisation with no paid staff, no resources, a fledgling journal and a conference program into the highly successful organisation which ISPCAN has now become. It is also reassuring to know that the enthusiastic commitment is still there in full measure.

Have you noticed any major changes since you first got involved in the field, and if so, what is one example?

I have seen many changes in the field of child abuse. These include an increased professionalism, an increasing awareness of the size and complexity of the problem, a backlash in some areas and increasing international recognition of the scope of the problem.

What do you think are the major challenges professionals face in addressing problems of child abuse and neglect in Australia?

Amongst the major challenges we face are to work at the highest possible professional level, to pass on our knowledge and experience to the next generation, to have the courage to rigorously evaluate our treatment programs, to avoid being sidetracked and to never lose our focus on why we are involved in this work – a focus based on helping children.

**Kim Oates, Chair
Membership Committee**

ISPCAN's National Partners

- Against Child Abuse (ACA), **Hong Kong**
- Association Française d'Information et de Recherche sur l'Enfance Maltraitée (AFIREM), **France**;
- African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), **Ethiopia**;
- African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), **Nigeria**;
- African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), **Uganda**;
- American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC), **United States of America**;
- British Society for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (BASPCAN), **United Kingdom**;
- Cameroon Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CASPCAN), **Cameroon**;
- Danish Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (DASPCAN), **Denmark**;
- German Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (GESPCAN), **Germany**;
- Italian Network of Agencies against Child Abuse (CISMAI), **Italy**
- IUS et VITA (I.E.V. - Justice and Life), **Congo**
- Japanese Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (JaSPCAN), **Japan**;
- Malaysian Association for the Protection of Children (PPKM), **Malaysia**;
- National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN), **Australia**;
- Nordic Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NASPCAN), **Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, Finland, Norway, and Sweden**;
- Singapore Children's Society, **Singapore**;
- South African Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (SASPCAN), **South Africa**.

New National Partner Profile: Italy

The Italian Network of Agencies against Child Abuse (CISMAI) was formed in 1993, as a result of a collaboration between 5 centers involved in child protection. It was inaugurated at the Fourth European ISPCAN Conference in Padua with the purpose of creating a center of a cultural and educational nature for the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect with special emphasis on abuse within the family. The organization aims to develop the knowledge and competencies of the different range of professionals involved in prevention and treatment of all forms of abuses and neglect.

Organizational Structure

CISMAI currently consists of 240 members and maintains voluntary, public membership open to services and single professionals engaged in the work of helping abused children and their families. Their members work throughout Italy and belong to both the public sector (city councils, regional health services) and the non-profit sector. Members are required to pay an annual membership fee and the Board of Directors is elected by an assembly consisting of all associate members. The organization was recognized as a partner in two governmental commissions (1998-2000), as well as appointed as a member

of the National Observatory on Childhood and Adolescence held under the Ministry of Welfare.

Programs

The educational programs of CISMAI range from conferences and training to research and practice oriented publications, including their newsletter, Il Raccordo. CISMAI runs a biennial conference for the training and education of professionals. The most recent conferences were held in Cosenza (2001) and Florence (2003). Members of the organization also participate in study groups, some of which include: the Sexual Abuse Study Group, the Witnessing Violence Study Group, and the Training Study Group. Through their educational programs, CISMAI intends to promote the coordination of public and private institutions and services that work in the field of prevention and treatment of child abuse; draw up operational guidelines and protocols for the different services; and promote meetings, seminars, debates, research, publications, and training courses and to supply counseling.

For more information please visit:
www.cismai.org

DONOR RECOGNITION

Recognizing Contributions of Time and Resources during January 2005 - June 2005

ISPCAN Honorary Ambassador
(contributions of US \$50,000 & above)

The Oak Foundation

ICCO: Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation

Global Ministries/Children at Risk

UNICEF – New York (International)

Alcoa Foundation

ISPCAN Distinguished Benefactors
(contributions of US \$15,000 - \$49,999)

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

ISPCAN Donors

(contributions of US \$2,500 - \$14,999)

UNICEF Child Protection Regional Office for CEE/CIS and Baltics

Public Health Agency of Canada

ISPCAN Individual & Corporate Donors
(contributions of US \$500 - \$2,499)

GW Medical Publishing (in-kind donation)

Save the Children — Sweden

Children's Chadwick Center for Children and Families, San Diego

Community Shares of Illinois

Lufthansa (in-kind donation)

Mrs. Ruth Kempe

ISPCAN Friends (contributions of \$35 - \$499)

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Gloria Varona-Williams

In Appreciation: Outgoing LINK Editor Deborah Daro

ISPCAN would like to thank Deborah Daro, Ph.D. for her important role as editor of the ISPCAN LINK Newsletter from 2001-2004. During her recent Executive Councillor term she managed her role as Chair of the Publications, Research & Information Committee, editor for the ISPCAN LINK Newsletter, and over and beyond this, was also the ISPCAN World Perspectives Editor. Deb's important contribution in raising the quality of our publications is appreciated. (Note: as ISPCAN Treasurer she will continue to edit the World Perspectives publication [next issue: 2006]).

The 2005 editor of the LINK Newsletter is Executive Councillor Jenny Gray, DipSW, supported by Associate Editor Susan Bennett, MB

NEW ISPCAN MEMBERS

ISPCAN warmly welcomes new members joining from January 2005 - June 2005

Australia

Silva Luz Clara
Rinkje Boothman
Haines Brad
Josephine Calleja
Myra Craig
Michael Dunne
David Fanning
Elizabeth Fraser
John Lawrence
Linda Mallett
Graham R. May
Chris O'Connor
Eija Roti
Lila Stephens
Peter Walsh
Choo Wan Yuen

Austria

Christina Radner

Bangladesh

Hasan Mahamud Khan

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Aramis Antonio Lopes Neto

Bulgaria

Harieta Manolova

Canada

Tashana Aziz
Burke Baird
Lynn Barry
Annunziata Caprara
Marie-Eve Clement
Emma Cory
Norah Dougan
Jasmine Tamara Eliav
Marcie Milroy
Janice Robinson

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Huiying Zhang

Colombia

Lyda Guarin Martinez
Julia Cimarra Torres

Costa Rica

Maria Jose Meza

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Branka Obersnel
Sena Puhovski

Denmark

Rikke Juul Astrup

Egypt

Fatma Hassan
Moushira Khattab
Youssef Waheeb

Ethiopia

Elizabeth Mekonnen

Fiji

Laisani Petersen

Germany

Lutz Goldbeck
Detlef Schoreder

Guinea

Nema Mathieu Kolie

Haiti

Gertrude C Sejour

Honduras

Maria Esther Artilles

Hungary

Roland Csorba
Bea Paszthy

India

Rajat Mitra

Iran

Fatemeh Adili
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Libby Robins

Nigeria

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Emoviano Rueben Udolu

Norway

Jen s Bernhard Groegaard

Pakistan

Syed Ansar Hussain
Mohammad Anwar Dar
Mohammad Ismail

Palestine

Samih MO. Abu Zakieh

Peru

Maria Elena Iglesias Lopez

Poland

Beata Kolska-Lach

Portugal

Tania Figueiredo Ribeiro
Paula Cristina Martins

Romania

Tirnacop Valentin Cristinel

Samoa

Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop

Senegal

Cisse Abdoul Aziz Lina

Sierra Leone

Shiaka Kallon

Slovenia

Petra Tovornik

Somalia

Zamzam Abdullahi Abdi

South Africa

Niresh Ramklass

Syria

Mouta Barakat
Aref Sheikh

Tanzania

Mashaka Mgeta

Thailand

Stephanie Delaney
Weerawat Meekaew

Turkey

Didem Salt Peker

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ISPCAN Congresses/Conferences 2005-2006

Event: 10th ISPCAN European Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

Theme: New Developments in Science and Practice: Influences on Child Protection

Dates: 11-14 September, 2005 **Venue:** Berlin, Germany

E-mail: euroconf2005@ispcan.org

Web: www.ispcan.org/euroconf2005

Event: 6th ISPCAN Asian Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

Theme: Protecting Children: Asian Perspectives and Beyond

Dates: 16-18 November, 2005 **Venue:** Singapore

Contact: Sue Lee, slee@childrensociety.org.sg, and Ginny Lim, glim@childrensociety.org.sg

Event: ISPCAN 16th ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse & Neglect

Theme: Children in a Changing World: Getting It Right

Dates: 3-6 September, 2006 **Venue:** York University, UK

Contact: Tatyana Bessonov, +1.630.876.6913

E-mail: congress2006@ispcan.org

Web: www.ispcan.org/congress2006

Further events information available at www.ispcan.org.

ISPCAN Training Events 2005

Venue: ARGENTINA **Date:** September 2005
Contact: Dr. Irene Intebi, ireneintebi@ciudad.com.ar

Venue: COLOMBIA **Date:** June - October 2005
Contact: Dr. Isabel Cuadros Ferre, afecto@afecto.org.co

Venue: Democratic Republic of CONGO **Date:** 22-24 July 2005
Contact: Dr. Marcel Tshibangu, maditshibangu@yahoo.fr

Venue: ETHIOPIA **Date:** June - November 2005
Contact: Mr. Ayalew W. Semait, anpp-eth@ethonet.et

Venue: INDIA **Date:** August 2005
Contact: Dr. Sibnath Deb, sibnath23@rediffmail.com

Venue: Nairobi, KENYA **Date:** 27-29 July 2005
Contact: Ms. Wambui Njuguna, regional@anppcan.org

Venue: MALAYSIA **Date:** August 2005
Contact: Dr. Irene Cheah, igscheah@streamyx.com

Venue: PAKISTAN **Date:** 1-3 September 2005
Contact: Dr. Tufail Muhammad, tufailm@brain.net.pk

Venue: Lisbon, PORTUGAL **Date:** 16-17 September 2005
Contact: Ms. Carla Antunes, amcvportugal@hotmail.com

Venue: SOUTH AFRICA **Date:** 1-3 August 2005
Contact: Ms. Joan van Niekerk, childlinesa@iafrica.com

Venue: SYRIA **Date:** 21-25 August 2005
Contact: Dr. Adib Essali, adib-essali@net.sy

Venue: Bangkok, THAILAND **Date:** July 2005
Contact: Mr. Sanphasit Koompraphant, cpcrheadoffice@yahoo.com

Situation and Advancements in the Field of Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect in Armenia

When considering CAN in Armenia, two key aspects of its past are relevant: it is an ex-soviet republic which has experienced transitional difficulties; and traditionally it has been regarded as a child and family oriented society, where family life and the child's best interests were always highly valued. Unfortunately the phenomenon of child maltreatment is present in Armenia as well. This has been recognised as a result of the collection of more precise statistics and also by the general public.

The year 2002 was a turning point for Armenian child protection specialists. They joined the international movement on prevention of child abuse and neglect through membership of ISPCAN; and the Intergovernmental task force on prevention of child abuse and neglect was

established.

Since then a national survey on violence against children in Armenia has been conducted. Its report was discussed widely within the authorities and by the general public.

The efforts of the Intergovernmental task force on prevention of CAN led to the preparation of two basic documents which were submitted to the government: An Interagency protocol on the prevention of CAN and a draft law on the Prevention of Child Maltreatment in Armenia.

With the help of UNICEF in Armenia, handouts were printed on the identification, reporting, assessment, investigation, treatment and prevention of child abuse. The first substantive book in Armenian on CAN Child Abuse: Assessment

and Prevention was written by Karen Harutyunyan and published on 1 June 2005 with the financial support of World Vision-Armenia. This organisation has the largest child protection programme in Armenia, involving 7 regional community support programmes and programmes for institutionalised children in special educational settings.

With the support of the EC, the Armenian government has started the development of a new child protection system that will be operational from the end of 2006.

Karen Harutyunyan
Ex-Coordinator of the Intergovernmental Task Force on CAN in Armenia

Please Welcome ISPCAN's New National Partner: Congo

IUS et VITA, translated as Justice and Life, became registered as an organization in April of 2000 in Congo with the goal of fighting against child labor and sexual abuse, and protecting human life. Its mission is to promote Human Rights (especially those of children) and to create a new social culture of justice and humanism.

Programs

In 2000, I.E.V. initiated a campaign of sexual abuse prevention in secondary school in Kinshasa. In the same year, they produced research on the topics of the sexual abuse of children (2000-2001) and child labor (2000). In 2001, they participated in the 2001 WWSF World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse as a Coalition Member.

I.E.V. has been active in the field of education and protection

of children's rights through partnerships and collaborations with both national and international level organizations, such as Save the Children - UK and the Global March Against Child Labor. Currently, Dr. Muka, president of I.E.V., serves as President of the National Committee of the Global March Against Child Labor.

Organizational Structure

I.E.V. is an interdisciplinary organization with professionals from medical, legal, governmental and religious groups. It consists of a Management Committee, a Consultative Committee and Commissions. As described in their constitution, the Management Committee is made up of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General, and the Treasurer. Each position carries a renewable term of 5 years.

Children with Disabilities and Child Maltreatment (Continued from page 1)

Integrated multi-agency data collection within the child protection system is necessary to quantify the problem, identify areas of need, guide the development of services and evaluate the outcomes of interventions or reforms. Reporting forms must uniformly identify whether the victim has a disability and define the presence and type of disability.

The United Nations and International Human Rights Organizations play a vital role in:

- ensuring that all countries define violence uniformly for children with and without disabilities;
- gaining commitments from all countries for equal protection of the lives and welfare of children with disabilities;

gaining commitments from all countries to ensure equal prosecution of crimes committed against children with disabilities, including equal sentencing;

- conducting research to determine the nature and extent of unequal treatment of crimes committed against children with disabilities

The primary approach to addressing the needs of children with disabilities is to address the protection needs of every child.

Susan Bennett, MB, ChB, FRCP, Canada
Nora J. Baladerian, Ph.D.

ISPCAN Meets CRC, WHO, UNICEF

(Continued from page 2)

objectives and opportunities for cooperation and support internationally in upcoming ISPCAN and affiliate organization programs and activities.

Prof. Jaap Doek, Chairman of the CRC Committee, Drs. Bonner and Furniss, Ms. Svevo, and Boia Efraime, Head Children & Talents, UBS Optimus Foundation, met to discuss several international priorities regarding child abuse and neglect internationally, and potential strategies to support professionals working with reduced resources in developing countries.

ISPCAN had been invited by Prof. Doek and CRC Committee Director Paulo David to make a presentation to the Committee members about ISPCAN and its members' work in countries around the world, as well as providing important information about the issue of child abuse and neglect.

Dr. Bonner presented an overview on Child Abuse and Neglect and Dr. Furniss presented the Fact Sheets prepared by ISPCAN on Child Development, Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse and Sexual Abuse, emphasizing the need for governments to address these issues through policies, institutionalized mechanisms for responses, and trained professionals. The Committee addressed specific issues arising with Country Report Reviews requiring further thought and feedback, and identified several priorities that would support their work, and the governments and professionals working to implement the CRC in their countries. Ms. Svevo provided an overview of the discussion, identifying key potential areas for ISPCAN support of the Committee's work in future, including the ISPCAN Faculty as technical resources to the Committee and government representatives. Prof. Doek will discuss this further with the Committee and Mr. David, and will then explore future collaboration further with ISPCAN.

Kimberly Svevo, MA, CAE
ISPCAN Executive Director

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Mission: To support individuals and organizations working to protect children from abuse and neglect worldwide.

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