



The Official Newsletter of the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)

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FOCUS TOPIC:

Review of Current Global Trends in Child Protection Policy and Legislation

One response to child maltreatment is to create a national policy that clearly delineates how institutions and individuals should respond to cases. This article will review the philosophy and evidence that is increasingly being used by nations to develop new policies with a few selected examples from ISPCAN members.

The current positive trends in child protection policy and legislation can be understood in the context of the recent paradigm shift of what it means to be a child and in the increasing recognition that violence against children is a complex phenomenon which needs to be addressed in a comprehensive and holistic manner.

The 15th anniversary of the unanimous adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by the UN General Assembly has just passed on the 20th of November 2004. The Convention is the most universally accepted human rights instrument in history. It has been ratified by every country in the world except two (Somalia and the USA) and national governments have committed themselves to protecting and ensuring children's rights with an obligation that all actions and policies will be in the "best interests of the child." Around the world, nations are building the Convention into their laws and sometimes right into their constitutions.

The Convention reflects a new vision of the child based on human rights. Children are neither the property of their parents nor the passive objects of charity. They are human beings and are the subject of their own rights and not just their needs. The child is seen as an individual and as a member of a family and community with rights appropriate to his or her age and stage of development. The CRC incorporates the full range of human rights – civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights - of all children. The underlying values, or "guiding principles," of the Convention guide the way each right is fulfilled and respected and serve as a constant reference for the implementation and monitoring of children's rights. The Convention's four guiding principles are: non-discrimination (article 2), best interests of the child (article 3), survival and development (article 6) and participation (article 12).

In discussing the CRC, Jaap Doek, the chair of the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the monitoring body for the Convention, states that reference is often, and rightly, made to article 19 of the CRC. According to Dr. Doek, "the full implementation of that article requires a State to take a variety of preventive measures in order to protect the child from all forms of physical and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment." However, he asserts that there are many more articles in the CRC relevant to pre-

vention of and protection against abuse. For example, the CRC calls for a comprehensive and integrated plan of action that includes, in particular, vulnerable groups of children (article 2); measures to provide for an adequate standard of living for every child (article 27); measures to ensure appropriate prenatal and postnatal health care and to develop primary health care (article 24); measures to provide children in need of care with – if necessary – alternative family-type of care (article 20). He summarized that, "In short, the CRC provides a crucial and important framework for comprehensive policies and legal provisions."

An international Study on Violence against Children, requested by the Committee on the CRC and carried out by the UN Secretary-General's Office, is currently underway, with support from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF and the World Health Organization. The Study seeks to draw together in a comprehensive report existing research and relevant information about the forms, causes and impact of violence which affects children and young people under 18 years of age. Dr. Doek suggests that the outcome should lay the basis for a set of concrete time-bound recommendations and targets and create the momentum for increasing world wide efforts to eliminate violence against children. In the creation and maintenance of this momentum, he asserts that NGOs like ISPCAN can and should play a very active role, together with UN agencies and members of civil society.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Report on Violence and Health (2002) recognizes that violence is a global health issue and that it is a complex problem rooted in the interaction of many factors - biological, psychological, social, cultural, economic and political. This ecological model not only helps to clarify the causes of violence and their complex interactions but also suggests that, in order to prevent violence, it is necessary to work at various levels with the individual, family, community and society across disciplines, including justice, education, welfare, employment and health. The report recommends further policy development, stating that governments should assist local agencies to implement effective protection services for children. As Carol Bellamy, outgoing Executive Director of UNICEF, has stated, it is not possible to simply immunize a child against violence. The WHO Report on the Economic Dimensions of Interpersonal Violence (2004) further strengthens the case for investing in prevention by highlighting the enormous economic costs of the consequences of interpersonal violence and reviews the evidence for the cost-effectiveness of violence prevention programs.

Commenting on UNICEF's role in working with governments, Gopalan Balagopal, Senior Adviser in the Child Protection

(Continued on page 4)



Dear ISPCAN Members,
Greetings. Normally we would begin with wishes to all of you for a Joyous, Peaceful and Healthy New Year. However, recent tragic world events, such as the earthquake and tsunami in Asia, the ongoing strife in Iraq, the continuing conflict in Sudan, and other serious problems for children and families world-wide demand that we think of those victims who are lost and of those who need to carry on despite terrible losses.



We are not helpless to stand by. There are actions that we as professionals committed to children and as concerned global citizens can take. ISPCAN has committed to raising funds for the efforts of several of our members leading rescue and rehabilitation efforts for the disaster victims in Sri Lanka (Harendra de Silva) and southern Thailand (Sanphasit Koompraphant and Uthai Dulyaksem). Our members are actively making information available on working with traumatized, displaced and orphaned children and their families. This information is being provided to professionals in impacted countries and

to other members traveling to the impacted countries to support the recovery efforts.

We encourage our members, and the entire international community, to reach out to our extended global family and provide whatever assistance you can. For further information on ISPCAN's efforts, please see www.ispcan.org.

One of the rewarding aspects about membership in ISPCAN is the sense of community, and of family, that develops among our members as they work together across national borders and language barriers, across time zones, and interculturally diverse regions and backgrounds. We quickly find common ground in our work to protect children.

Working together, we gain strength and wisdom, insights, courage, and patience from sharing our experiences and learning from one another. We tell our children that they will receive more than they give, and to give selflessly. It's a lesson we learn each time we commit, reach out, and give all we can to help our colleagues, because we always return from our work re-invigorated, more knowledgeable, and richer for the shared experiences and the relationships we build. One important example of this was the first Syrian Symposium in Damascus led by ISPCAN members Adib Essali and Ammar Suliman, which ISPCAN sup-

ported in December 2004. We attended, along with Past-President Marcellina Mian, ISPCAN Faculty Chair Howard Dubowitz and ISPCAN member Ben Saunders. This meeting was excellent. We congratulate the professionals, government, UNICEF, and other supportive organizations for this successful conference. We are confident that Syria will continue in its role as a forerunner in child protection for the Arab region. To further the partnerships among ISPCAN members, and the increasingly close partnership with UNICEF, we are pleased to note that in 2005, UNICEF will enroll 157 of its regional, country and other key offices as members and provide each office with an ISPCAN World Perspectives publication. This enrollment allows each of these offices to learn more about ISPCAN and receive valuable resources, including participation in the ISPCAN member listserv. We believe this is an important step to increasing our collaboration worldwide. We're here to support our members' work on behalf of children at risk. Please plan to be in touch with us in 2005. We encourage you to consider volunteering some time to ISPCAN this year, helping us make the Society ever stronger in this important work.

Barbara Bonner, PhD, ISPCAN President
Kimberly Svevo, MA, Executive Director

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FRANKLIN FARINATI

(March 24, 1935 – Nov 19, 2004)

ISPCAN is sad to communicate to its membership the recent death of Dr. Franklin Farinati, of Porto Alegre, Brazil and an Italian national. Dr. Farinati was a pediatrician and a pioneer in child maltreatment prevention in Brazil. His involvement with ISPCAN began at the VI ISPCAN International Congress in Sydney, Australia, which he attended as an ISPCAN Scholar. Later, he was a key figure in the organization of the VII ISPCAN International Congress in Rio de Janeiro, giving up much of his personal time to ensure its success. He saw the event as a way of drawing attention to children's rights in a country emerging from a repressive dictatorship. His quiet, yet determined approach solved many a crisis and working with him on the challenge of putting the scientific program together (with abstracts in three languages) was an unforgettable experience for those involved and the origin of some long lasting friendships.

It soon became clear that Franklin had much to offer ISPCAN as it began to explore extending its activities in developing countries. As a result, he was elected and served as a member of the ISPCAN Executive Council from 1988 to

(Continued on page 9)

BRANDT F. STEELE

(March 30, 1907 – January 19, 2005)

I am sure that many of you have no idea who Brandt is, or what he did for our field. Some of you may recognize the name (he was the third author on "The Battered Child" paper written by C. Henry Kempe and colleagues). He was an extraordinary man who had an extraordinary career.

Born March 30, 1907, Brandt was Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine where he would consult on cases of hospitalized patients who might have psychiatric disorders in addition to their medical problems. As he described it, one day Henry Kempe grabbed him by the arm in the hall and asked him to see the mother of a 6-month-old baby who had two fractured femurs. Henry was convinced the baby was abused. That case led Brandt to more than 40 more years of work and thought about the problem of family violence.

Key to his success was his belief that "if you don't understand someone's behavior, you don't have enough history." He had infinite patience and compassion for all those who were abused---including all those who were now abusers. He believed in the efficacy of mental health treatment and

(Continued on page 9)

Symposium on Child Protection held in Syria

A Symposium on Child Protection was held in Damascus, Syria, between 9 and 11 December 2004. It was organized by the Rainbow For a Better Childhood Foundation, in association with the Syrian Arab Association of Psychiatrists and under the auspices of the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs, a governmental department linked directly to the Prime Minister.

This symposium was used to introduce the Rainbow Foundation, and ideas about child rights and child protection to the Syrian society. Rainbow is a non-profit NGO established in early 2003. It works within a comprehensive framework designed to promote child protection activities in collaboration with many national and international agencies. Collaboration with ISPCAN has resulted in the planning of the symposium, which was attended by about two hundred Syrian professionals working in preventing child abuse and neglect, as well as other child-related issues. National, Arab and international physicians and scientists were invited to share their expertise. There were large delegations from Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. ISPCAN was represented by several of its councilors.

Funded by UNICEF-Syria and ISPCAN, the symposium started by defining child abuse, and demonstrating that it does take place in Syria, in Lebanon, in Egypt and in Jordan. The medical diagnosis of physical and sexual abuse and the psychiatric consequences of child abuse and neglect (CAN) were then discussed, before proceeding to learn about guidelines for the mental health treatment of abused and traumatized children and to check if remedies of CAN might be abu-

sive. A presentation on health sector prevention efforts was then followed by another on the management of CAN in primary health care. Two presentations on December 10, Inter-viewing Abused Children and Basic Program Evaluation in Child-serving Organizations, were attended by Mrs. Asma Al-Asad, wife of the president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The ultimate aim of this symposium was to propose a national child protection plan for Syria, and this was the hot topic of the three-hour closing session. All Syrian, Arab and international symposium participants were there, and all were given the chance to voice their concerns, ideas and suggestions either verbally or in writing.

By the end of this session, it became clear that Syria has enough committed people to proceed. It also became clear that, in order to propose ideal solutions fitted to Syria's realities, careful consideration should be given to guidelines used in other countries, or proposed by international organizations. Syria's realities also need to be taken into consideration. There is no systematic research into prevalence rates of CAN and mental health outcomes for children in Syria. However, available data show that Syria is not different from other countries. Cases of child abuse and neglect are seen within the health and the criminal justice systems, and violence against children is practiced at home, at school and on the streets. Syrian laws include some child protection items, but there is no Child Protection Act. Child protection is offered by official agencies and NGOs, but is not systematically organized. There are no guidelines for the detection,

(Continued on page 9)

African Child Policy Forum Holds Two-day International Policy Conference

'What can we all do to provide a future and an Africa fit for children?' 'How can we make laws concerning children more effective?' These were among the questions addressed by a two-day conference of the African Child Policy Forum, held 21-22 May, 2004 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was attended by over 300 participants and brought together high-level political figures, renowned African and international scholars, diplomats, international organizations, national and international NGOs, and youth representatives.

Legal Standards

Detailed presentations were given on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (by Professor Jaap Doek, Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child) and on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (by Justice Joyce Aluoch, Chairperson of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child). The UN Convention had been ratified by 192 states and the African Charter, which calls for more affirmative action, had been ratified by

only 33 of the 53 African states. It was pointed out that ratification would not be enough; what was needed was implementation. Reports to the UN Committee continued to highlight major problems of implementing the provisions of the Convention. And, even more importantly, neither of the Committees dealing with these legal instruments had any power to impose sanctions on governments.

Implementation

What should be done? Participants at the Conference were challenged as to how they could associate themselves with this process. With so much to do there was a role for all actors in society:

- harmonizing customary laws with modern legislation;
- making the conventions better known in schools and throughout the NGO community;
- increasing outreach initiatives by the African Committee of Experts;
- using the two committees to make strong recommendations to State parties and to mobilize civil society efforts to pressure national governments to

follow the recommendations;

- pushing national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers to include provisions for children and vulnerable families;
- increasing sharing of information on children's bill of rights, children's parliaments and other similar initiatives;
- increasing collaboration and networking among NGOs at the African regional level.

Translating Policies and Laws into Action

Implementing policies and laws remained a major hurdle, at the national and community level. Identifying the barriers that prevent implementation, policy dialogue and advocacy should be combined in these efforts. To this end, the Forum was called upon to develop strategies, tools, and mechanisms to help partners at the country level to implement comprehensive child rights and welfare policies.

Dr Assefa Bequele, Executive Director
The African Child Policy Forum
Full conference report available at:
www.africanchildforum.org

Review of Current Global Trends (continued from page 1)

Programme Division at UNICEF, states, "The programs [UNICEF Country Programs] are formulated and implemented in close consultation with the governments in each country that UNICEF works in. Other partners, including non-governmental organizations, other civil society representatives, the media and children and young people themselves, are active participants in this process. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the priorities identified by the Board provide the framework under which UNICEF programming for children is undertaken." Mr. Balagopal goes on to say, "In the work that UNICEF does for protection of children around the world, we see increasing concern about child abuse and neglect and interest in addressing these issues. Professionals working in the area of child abuse and neglect and organizations like ISPCAN have a major responsibility in responding to these concerns and in working with governments and other partners in finding effective remedies."

ISPCAN's 2004 World Perspectives on Child Abuse (6th Edition) gives an indication of global trends in responses to child maltreatment from a recent survey. Only 46% of the respondents, from 63 countries, reported that physical discipline is considered an abusive act in their country, suggesting that it is still widely used and considered by many to be an appropriate form of discipline. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has stated that the physical punishment of children breaches children's fundamental rights to respect for their dignity, physical integrity and equal protection under the law. Since 1979, at least 13 nations (12 of them in Europe and Israel) have explicitly abolished all forms of physical punishment. Similar reforms are being debated in several other countries, including South Africa, Brazil and Costa Rica and there are active campaigns in countries in all regions. Peter Newell, Joint Coordinator of the Global Initiative to End Corporal Punishment of Children, says that this human rights imperative, coupled with the increasing visibility of the corporal punishment of children, will accelerate long overdue reforms.

Overall, 81% of respondents to the ISPCAN survey reported that their country has an official policy regarding child maltreatment. Most of these policies include criminal penalties for abusing a child and provisions for removing a child to protect them from further abuse. Child protection policies included mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect (CAN) in 65%, and voluntary reporting in 85% of countries. About one-third indicated that their countries had longstand-

ing policies (i.e. pre-1980) and another 41% noted their country established their policies between 1990 and 2000.

Selected Examples of Policy Development

Sanphasit Koompraphant, a member of the ISPCAN Executive Council, has served as the director of the Center for the Protection of Children's Rights in Bangkok since 1985 and is the primary author and champion of Thailand's new Child Protection Act, adopted in 2003. The Act is founded on the key principles of the CRC. He says that the Act was originally drafted in 1994 by many professionals but the focus was on prosecution of caregivers rather than supporting the family. The spirit of the present legislation is to serve and support families in their efforts to nurture their children and less to penalize parents. The act encourages a multidisciplinary and multiagency approach involving local child protective services, schools and local community agencies as a best practice response to child maltreatment. Professionals are mandated to report CAN and new formal procedures, such as a risk checklist, are being instituted to guide an agency's assessment of a child and family.

Plans for a new national child protection policy are under discussion in Syria after a major symposium on child protection in Damascus in December 2004, partnered by UNICEF, ISPCAN and the newly formed Arab Professionals Network for the Prevention of CAN (APNPCAN). ISPCAN member, Dr. Adib Essali, one of the symposium organizers, says, "There are no guidelines for the detection, reporting and management of cases of child abuse and neglect. Syrian laws include some child protection items, but there is no Child Protection Act." He notes that many professionals do not receive even "hints" about CAN in their training. He recognizes the need for a national policy based on the principles of the CRC that is multidisciplinary in approach and evidence based. He says that the latter concept is new to many professionals in his country but it is increasingly being accepted as the standard of practice for developing guidelines for CAN policies.

In Nigeria, the government enacted the Child Rights Law in 2003, which was based heavily on the CRC and the African Union's African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Buki Ponle, Assistant Editor-in-Chief of the News Agency of Nigeria and ISPCAN member, stresses the key role that media and media advocacy can play in shaping child protection

(Continued on page 10)

Call for Nominations for 2006 ISPCAN Awards

ISPCAN members are invited to submit nominations by 31 July 2005 for the following awards, to be presented at the 16th ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect.

C. Henry Kempe Award: Presented by ISPCAN to an outstanding young professional or organization working in any discipline in the field of child abuse and neglect. Nominees must be ISPCAN members of good standing for 2 years at the time of nomination.

Kempe Lectureship: Following the example of Dr. Kempe, the individual

selected to deliver the Kempe Memorial Lecture must be someone who has made significant contributions to the welfare of children, and demonstrate teaching experience. A major feature of ISPCAN's international congresses, the 2006 Lecturer will speak at ISPCAN's 16th International Congress.

Multidisciplinary Team Award: Given to recognize a multidisciplinary team which has made substantial progress in the treatment or prevention of child abuse and neglect in its community.

Distinguished Career Award: Given by

ISPCAN to recognize an outstanding professional for longstanding dedication, expertise, and contributions to the field of child abuse and neglect.

The Distinguished Service Award: given by ISPCAN to recognize an individual for commitment and dedication to ISPCAN or an ISPCAN National Partner.

Nomination forms available from ISPCAN after 15 March, 2005. For more information, please see www.ispcan.org or contact ispcan@ispcan.org

Deinstitutionalization Program Observed in Belarus

Druya is a small village far in the northwest of Belarus. You can see Latvia from across the river that runs near the village of 3000. Since 1998, just outside Druya are several buildings, once a technical school, that have been the Druya orphanage. On the day I visited, several of the 50 children who live there set off in vans to go on a camping trip. Others were assisting the teacher build a wooden awning to cover a newly built "quiet" place where children could go to have some time alone.

The children, ranging from 6 to 17, were well dressed and bright-eyed. The older girls ran to meet Natasha Ivaniuk, a psychologist from Minsk who comes regularly to consult with the staff. Inside, the bedrooms for 6-7 children were perfectly clean with tall windows overlooking the countryside of fields and gardens. Each room had colorful matching pillows and bedspreads made by students in sewing classes. A study hall room was also perfectly organized.

"This room is usually a mess as the children use it every day," said the Director, Alexander Voroshen. He has been the Director for two years and is described by the Ponimanie con-

sulting staff from Minsk as having made many positive changes for the children. "He is a progressive educator who has an excellent reputation," said Andrey Makhanko, Director of Ponimanie, an NGO in Minsk that provides training and technical support to the orphanage staff.

A pilot program to deinstitutionalize children is being implemented at the orphanage. The program has three phases for children to be integrated into the community. Phase I is for the children to visit Hosting Families; Phase II is for children to be with Adaptation Families; and Phase III is for some children to go to Foster Families.

"Hosting families will take children from the orphanage to their homes for weekends and holidays," said Natasha Ivaniuk. "The families will also come to the orphanage to attend the children's programs and celebrations." Ten families from the village have been recruited to serve as Hosting Families and will receive compensation only for the children's meals when they visit. Professional trainers from Ponimanie provide four seminars a week for four weeks for these families, and a psychologist works with the children to prepare them for the visits.

The second phase will be to train Adaptation Families. These will not be long-term placements but will teach the children how to build family relationships, have a normal social life, and live in a community. The families will receive specialized training and on-going support from specialists at Ponimanie.

The third phase will be longer-term placement either through placement in Foster Families or adoption. "We must have support from the community to get children out of institutions," said Makhanko. "This is a small first step that can be accomplished without a large financial commitment. We are bringing the community and families to the orphanage."

During the Soviet period, orphans, "social orphans", i.e., abandoned children, and children whose parental rights had been terminated or whose parents were imprisoned were placed in institutions. In addition, parents of children with disabilities were advised to give up their parental rights to the State and to place these children in special institutions where "better care" would be provided. These policies led to thousands of children in Russia and other former Soviet countries being placed in state institutions. There are 18,500 children in residential care in Belarus (UNICEF, 2003) and the development of deinstitutionalization programs is extremely important.

Tatiana Balachova, PhD, USA

Barbara Bonner, PhD, ISPCAN President, USA

ISPCAN WHO Framework to Address Child Maltreatment

ISPCAN has been collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop a framework to address child maltreatment by parents and other caregivers. The framework aims to promote a systematic, evidence-based approach to the prevention of child maltreatment and provision of services for victims by helping policymakers to:

- Understand the factors influencing child maltreatment using an ecological model to highlight the interaction of factors at the individual, relationship, community and societal levels;
- Understand what systems and services need to be in place in order to implement scientifically-testable preventive and victim service interventions and to evaluate their effectiveness;
- Familiarise themselves with the more common types of prevention approaches being used to prevent child

maltreatment and what is presently known about their effectiveness;

- Understand the roles of the health, legal and social sectors in planning, implementing and evaluating prevention programmes and victim services;
- Understand how they can improve inter-agency coordination of prevention activities and provision of services.

Much is being done to address child maltreatment around the world, but there is little information on how effective these efforts are. By providing technical guidance on developing systematic and evidence-based responses to child maltreatment, this framework should both enable policymakers to improve their responses to the problem and facilitate expansion of the global evidence base. The framework will be published in the second half of 2005.

Alison Phinney, World Health Organization

Intersectoral Guidelines

In a companion project, ISPCAN plans to follow this WHO/ISPCAN Framework document with an Intersectoral Practice Guidelines publication in 2005-06, based on the best available evidence-to-date for the health, legal and social sectors.

Professionals in all parts of the world will then be able to test these interventions with an evidence-based methodology and thereby confirm or refute their efficacy. Such focused evaluation activities will greatly enhance the level of professional knowledge on effective child maltreatment prevention strategies worldwide.

Marcellina Mian, MD,
ISPCAN Past-President, Canada

The 15th ISPCAN International Congress

The 15th ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect "Working Together for a Child-Safe World" took place in Brisbane, Australia on 19-22 September 2004.

About 1,100 delegates from 67 countries arrived at the congress with the commitment of 'working together' to advance the goal of a 'child-safe world'—a world where children are free from all forms of abuse and exploitation by adults, other children and young people while receiving adequate care, resources, and attention. The congress program offered plenty of opportunities for such collaborative work: keynote and plenary sessions, concurrent workshops, poster presentations, breakfast research sessions and special interest groups. The networking and effective collaboration continued informally: at lunches and tea breaks, the "Taste of Australia" evening and the congress dinner as well as the welcome reception and the farewell lunch.

Both informative and challenging, keynote presentations set the tone of the congress. Prof. Geraldine MacDonald (University of Bristol, UK) highlighted common problems associated with 'evidence-based practice' as a means for improving decision-making in child protection, offering specific and effective solutions. UNICEF Deputy Director, Mr. Gautam, outlined the strategies that the United Nations and UNICEF in particular are engaging in to improve the lives of children around the world, stressing the importance of protecting children from violence, abuse and exploitation if the world were to meet the millennium development agenda.

The 2003 Australian of the Year, Prof. Fiona Stanley, shared about interrupting pathways to child abuse and neglect. The Henry Kempe Memorial Lecture Awardee, Dr. Astrid Heger, at the conclusion of the congress, challenged delegates to build

an appropriate community-based response to child abuse and neglect that maintains the child's safety within his/her own home or community whenever possible and guarantees that the child is not subjected to more harm than good.

Themed "Working Together Creatively with Limited Resources for a Child-Safe World," a two-day ISPCAN Developing Country (DC) Forum provided a rare and very valuable opportunity for child protection practitioners and scholars working in the context of limited infrastructures and modest resources to exchange views and share experiences, knowledge, practices, concerns and research findings on the prevention of child maltreatment. The Forum was attended by over 75 participants representing over 30 developing nations from around the world who found it highly relevant for their future work.

An ISPCAN Master Class was held on the Opening Day of the congress. This session by experts in the field was extremely well attended by delegates from various countries eager to expand their knowledge in the field of child abuse and neglect prevention.

The congress provided delegates from different parts of the world with a unique opportunity for the exchange of knowledge and best practices and for forging effective responses to many facets of child abuse and neglect worldwide. Abstracts from the Congress remain available at www.ispcan.org. We invite all our readers to attend the next (16th) ISPCAN International Congress "Children in a Changing World: Getting It Right," to be held in York, UK (3-6 September 2006). More information about the upcoming congress can be found on its website: www.ispcan.org/congress2006.

Tatyana Bessonov, MA
ISPCAN Congress/Conference Manager

Working Group Convened on Violence Study Instruments

In coordination with the ongoing UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children, ISPCAN, the Study Secretariat, and UNICEF held a 3-day meeting in Brisbane, from September 22-24, 2004, to begin developing a set of instruments to measure violence against children, and also to discuss a proper protocol for collecting data from children. The goal of the meeting was to begin designing widely applicable instruments that could be incorporated into other research, thereby providing comparable data across studies. The information gained may then be used to inform policy development.

Fifty child abuse experts and researchers from 35 countries came together to work on the development of three instruments. One instrument could be administered to parents asking about their own acts or acts of violence that they knew had been directed to their children, another to older children asking about their experiences with violence, and the third, to young adults asking about their childhood experiences. Each instrument would consist of three modules, relating to violence in the home, school and the com-

munity respectively

Meeting participants were assigned to working groups based on the three types of survey participants and the three modules, with instructions to develop between 20 and 40 questions for each module. For example, the group developing an instrument for parents developed a questionnaire with a module about child discipline in the home, a module about violent behaviors that the child had experienced in the school, and a third module on violence in the community. The groups working on questions for children and questions for newly independent adults developed their questionnaires in a similar manner. During the workshop, each group was given opportunities to review and provide feedback to the other groups.

There was considerable discussion about the importance of, and need for child participation, especially in presentations from Save The Children representatives. Some participants raised concerns about including child participation in the instrument design because it was felt that the technical nature of the design of the instruments did not easily lend itself to

child participation. Others felt that child participation would have strengthened the meeting. It was widely agreed that child participation should be included in the steps of piloting the instruments, in focus groups of potential respondents, and in the design of studies that would use the instruments.

Work is continuing on this project. Following feedback and revision, a manual on the use of the instruments will be produced. Work will then need to be undertaken with child and adult focus groups. Given that the instruments are likely to be used in many languages, careful attention will also need to be paid to translation issues. In moving forward, ISPCAN will seek to identify scholars interested in designing and performing self-funded pilot studies that incorporate the instruments.

Desmond Runyan, MD, MPH, USA
ISPCAN NGO Liaison to the Study on
Violence Against Children

Further information on the Study available at:
www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/crc/study.htm

ISPCAN members interested in information on involvement, please contact: training@ispcan.org

A Conversation with ISPCAN President-Elect Danya Glaser



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

I stumbled into paediatrics early in my career as a doctor. This coincided with the birth of my first child and I developed a consuming, deep affection and concern for children which is still with me. In about 1970, I joined a discussion group for professionals working with children led by an inspiring child analyst, Bianca Gordon, who first introduced me to the subject of child abuse. I also met Henry Kempe through her.

What are the key problems facing children in your country in regard to child protection?

The problems are probably similar to those in other (so-called) developed countries- young infants and children affected by and neglected due to parental drug and alcohol abuse; being cared-for in nuclear families with transient, changing and single parent-persons; witnessing and enduring inter-parental violence; relative poverty; migrant, sometimes traumatised and some unaccompanied children and children living in a society which is simultaneously risk-averse and liberal with children's access to violence in electronic media.

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

These are complex issues. The key professionals charged with responsibility for child protection – mainly social workers, are underpaid and under-resourced, not always accorded sufficient training and often blamed for child maltreatment of which they are clearly not the perpetrators. Child protection is practised in a social context which continues to find difficulty in truly believing that parents can and do

harm their children, even if they do not intend to do so, and often deny that they have. Children can only be protected if abuse or neglect are recognised and protection depends on those in primary contact with children to bring maltreatment to attention. There is still a belief, and possibly sometimes evidence, that intervention may not solve the child's predicament. The onus of proof of abuse, or of the harm which neglect causes, continues to be placed on professionals working in the field.

If you could improve upon one aspect of child protection policy in the UK, what priority change would you make?

Policy is not the problem. We are awash with initiatives and procedures and have good law. What is lacking is a real increase in resources, especially for social work and better interprofessional communication – the obstinate obstacle.

How do you see the vision, scope and mandate of ISPCAN developing in the past 10 years, and what direction would you like to take upon assuming the ISPCAN Presidency?

The most informed answer to this question can be found in the ISPCAN history book. Based on my own experience and observations, ISPCAN has expanded in both absolute staff size and in scope, while the membership size has remained relatively stable. It has become a mature and professional organization for professionals in the field. Quantitatively, we have linked with professionals from more countries and expanded our training activity. Qualitatively, we have turned our attention to include children in different situations of adversity which make them much more vulnerable to maltreatment. We have also become recognised by major national and international Children's Rights advocacy and aid organizations as a resource for information and expertise on child abuse and neglect.

As well as continuing in our present direction, I would like ISPCAN to focus on local multidisciplinary capacity-building of work with child abuse and neglect in developing countries. We will also need to develop and strengthen our use of the ISPCAN faculty as a resource for other, allied, organisations.

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;
- 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.

ITPI Project Profile: Malaysia

The Malaysian Association for the Protection of Children (MAPC), supported by a grant from the International Training Project by ISPCAN (ITPI), carried out professional training in two Malaysian states in 2004. These trainings continuing ongoing ITPI work begun in Malaysia in 2001. Targeting workers of the various agencies involved in the management of child abuse and neglect, the approach for this phase was the management of abused children who had been brought to hospitals. As all official cases of suspected child abuse in Malaysia are brought by public, welfare and police to hospitals, it was felt that management from the point of contact at hospitals would cover most official cases of suspected abuse.

As an example, the first training, successfully conducted on 25-27 May 2004, included collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Royal Malaysian Police, and Legal Affairs Division. In a concrete outcome of the training, Kota Bharu Hospital, a local hospital which collaborated in the training, agreed to form a SCAN (suspected child abuse and neglect) team and activate a One Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC) following the training. Designated members of the future team formed the training participants. Participants stated their commitment to the team and planned a subsequent meeting to continue the work.

Compiled from ITPI Annual Report by
Irene Cheah Guat Sim, MD, Malaysia,
ITPI Project Leader
Full report available at www.ispcan.org/itpi

DONOR RECOGNITION

Recognizing Contributions of Time and Resources during August 2004 - December 2004

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

The Oak Foundation

ICCO: Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation

Alcoa Foundation

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

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

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UNICEF – New York (International)

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University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Center

UNICEF – MENA

UNICEF – Nigeria

World Vision International

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

College of Health and Human Sciences, Georgia State University

The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

LaSalle Bank (in-kind donation)

Terre des Hommes

Estrel Hotel, Germany

Mrs. Ruth Kempe

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

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ISPCAN HAS MOVED!

Effective 15 December 2004, the new location is:
245 W. Roosevelt Road, Building 6, Suite 39
West Chicago, IL 60185, USA
Tel: +1.630.876.6913 Fax: +1.630.876.6917

NEW ISPCAN MEMBERS

ISPCAN warmly welcomes new members joining from August 2004 - December 2004

Australia

Judy Benfer
Patricia Brown
Judith Burton
Tony Cecchin
Christabel Chamarette
Theresia Citraningtyas
Jan Connors
Lindy Courtney
Maree Crawford
Gayle Davies
Peter Eastaugh
Jo Herbig
Jann Marshall
Sharon McCann
Christine Phillips
Barb Power
Beverley Ramsay
Bryan Rodgers
Nicole Schultz
Anne Smith
Rae Walter
Mamoru Watanabe
Veronica Willmott
Peter Young

Barbados

Katrina Smith

Belarus

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Brazil

Zelia Maria Biasoli-Alves

Canada

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Christian Hackbusch
Anne Niec
Lil Tonmyr

China

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Congo, DR

Annie Kenda

Croatia

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Daphne McKerras

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Akunna Oledinma Uchechi

Papua New Guinea

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Philippines

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Ruby Ann Punongbayan

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Syria

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Thailand

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Sharon Landesman Ramey
Robin Ianzi
Mark Lukoff
Lindsay Malloy
Shelly Martin
Q. Thomas Novinger
Rayna Rogers
Michael Sexton
Amy Shadoin
Roland Tadoum
Myra West

Vanuatu

Jesse Dick
Pakoa Maraki
Adeline Welin
Maria Lee Yoringmal

Vietnam

Jullie Bergeron
Thu Thao Bui
Thuy Lan Hoang
Phung Ngoc Hung
Dinh Phoung Nguyen
Hai Huu Nguyen
Manh Te Nguyen
Thuy Hong Nguyen
Thanh Truc Nguyen

NEW Presidential Scholar Award

ISPCAN is pleased to announce the creation of the ISPCAN Presidential Scholar Award. This award, given by each outgoing ISPCAN President, recognizes a new professional in the field from a developing country, who exemplifies the mission of ISPCAN, has a career commitment to work in child abuse and neglect, and has promise to make substantial contribution to the field. Named by outgoing President Marcellina Mian at the 15th ISPCAN Congress, the 2005-2006 award was granted to Sarah Asad Ullah of Pakistan. ISPCAN congratulates her and looks forward to her participation in the Society.

Tsunami Relief—Donation Effort

ISPCAN is collecting donations to support two organizations, involving local members, in Thailand and Sri Lanka who are working in support of children affected by the tsunami. Further information and online donation is available at www.ispcan.org

Conference and Training Calendar

ISPCAN Congresses/Conferences 2005-2006

Event: Arab Regional Educational Program on Child Abuse and Neglect

Dates: 30 June–1 July, 2005 **Venue:** Egypt

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 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: Warsaw, POLAND **Date:** January – October 2005

Contact: Maria Keller-Hamela, fdn@fdn.pl

Venue: Ebolowa, CAMEROON **Date:** 3-4 March 2005

Contact: Dr. Daniel Mbassa-Menick, caspcan@yahoo.fr

Venue: Lisbon, PORTUGAL **Date:** 11-12 Mar., 3-4 June, 16-17 Sept.

Contact: Carla Antunes, amcvportugal@hotmail.com

Venue: Dhaka, BANGLADESH **Date:** March 2005

Contact: Dr. Yeameen Akbory, yameen@dhaka.net

Venue: Valga County, ESTONIA **Date:** March-April, 2005

Contact: Kristel Altosaar, ch.abuse@online.ee

Venue: Comodoro Rivadavia ARGENTINA **Date:** 1-3 April 2005

Contact: Dr. Silvia Luz Clara, lovecc@infovia.com.ar

Venue: Congo **Date:** 24-26 May 2005

Contact: Dr. Marcel Tshibangu, maditshibangu@yahoo.fr

Venue: Malaysia **Date:** May 2005

Contact: Dr. Irene Cheah, igscheah@streamyx.com

Venue: India **Date:** May and August 2005

Contact: Dr. Sibnath Deb, sibnath23@rediffmail.com

Venue: Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL **Date:** June 2005

Contact: Dr. Lidchi and Dr. Eisenstein, ceias@yahoo.com.br

Venue: Nairobi, KENYA **Date:** July 2005

Contact: Ms. Wambui Njuguna, regional@anppcan.org

Venue: Bangkok, THAILAND **Date:** July 2005

Contact: Mr. Sanphasit Koompraphant, cpcrheadoffice@yahoo.com

Brandt F. Steele (Continued from page 2)

multidisciplinary approaches to recognition and treatment. From the beginning, he recognized that many parents parent their own children as they themselves were parented, but he also knew that not all abused children became abusive parents. He knew about "resiliency," "protective factors" and "sensitive parenting" before the field even had words and definitions for those things.

Child psychiatrist Ruth Kempe, widow of Dr. Henry Kempe, said: "Brandt was able to see them [parents] not as traditional psychiatric patients, but simply as distressed people who often, because of their own childhood history, had a particularly difficult problem with parenting. This approach enabled Henry and Brandt to provide treatment programs that addressed the parents as much as the children."

Brandt was nearly 98 when he died. He asked me to tell others to "keep up the good work." He also said "I expect that I have helped a few people along the way," which was quite an understatement. But that was Brandt: quiet, understated, but enormously insightful and kind. He will be missed.

Richard D. Krugman, MD, USA

Full text available in *Child Abuse and Neglect*, March 2005

Franklin Farinati (Continued from page 2)

2000, and then as ISPCAN's 12th President from 2000 to 2002. Franklin was a quiet man whose dedication to children pushed him beyond his family and community where he was most comfortable. His conversations on the subject of children, their rights and well-being are remembered by many who had occasion to meet him. Together with his family, ISPCAN mourns the loss of this child advocate and friend.

Howard Levy, MD, USA;

Margaret Lynch, MD, UK; Marcellina Mian, MD, Canada

Child Abuse and Neglect, February 2005

Symposium in Syria (Continued from page 3)

reporting and management of cases of CAN. Child mental health services do not exist in Syria, and there are no treatment programs for the offenders. Syrian families are loving and caring for children, but the concept of children's rights is unfamiliar; child labor may be the norm for some. Basic education is compulsory up to the age of 15, and physical health care has improved greatly in Syria over the past decades, but the challenges of children's rights and maltreatment prevention are yet to be tackled. Facing these challenges requires a comprehensive national child protection plan, and a draft of such a plan was the most important result of the 3-day Damascus Symposium.

Adib Essali, MD, PhD, MRCPsych, Syria
President, Syrian Arab Association of Psychiatrists

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.

Review of Current Global Trends (Continued from page 4)

policy. He states that media advocacy, based on sound data, provides opportunities to inform and educate the public responsibly. He asserts that the media should not be a tool for propaganda, but rather act as a vehicle and forum for education, dialogue, debate and discussion. He offers the example of a media plan in Nigeria, which was put in place to the benefit of child welfare advocacy, with support from UN agencies such as the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labor Organization, and UNICEF. At its core is the training of journalists who are committed to children's issues. Forums have also been created to allow stakeholders and the public to ask questions and air their concerns, while journalists have had freer access to investigate stories.

Reforms have also been undertaken in the United Kingdom, with the passing of "The Children Act 2004," in response to concerns about improving the wellbeing of all children and, in particular, the safety of vulnerable children. Commenting on the new legislation, ISPCAN Councillor Jenny Gray states, "The Children Act 2004 is the legislative spine on which the UK Government intends to build its reforms of children's services. It places a duty on local authorities and key partners to cooperate to improve children's wellbeing. It also places a duty on key agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and on local authorities to set up local statutory Safeguarding Children Boards, which will be responsible for ensuring that agencies work together effectively to safeguard and promote children's welfare. There is an emphasis on early intervention and high quality, integrated universal services, working together with targeted and specialist services to meet the identified needs of children."

In two other examples of changing policy, UNICEF has specifically noted the advances made by Canada and Russia in

the area of youth criminal justice and young offenders. "Prior to the passage of the Youth Criminal Justice Act" says David Sandor, a Canadian barrister, "Canada was jailing more young offenders per capita than any other western nation. The passage of the Act in Canada has acknowledged the impropriety of employing the criminal justice system and police to achieve child welfare ends that should be left to specialized courts and rehabilitation services." Russia has implemented similar legislative guidelines in dealing with their young offenders.

Summary

There appears to be an increasing trend for countries to have policies on child maltreatment. Specifically, there are global trends towards the mandatory reporting of children suspected to be at risk of abuse with an awareness that neglect or risk of neglect is a separate and distinct ground for protection. While corporal punishment remains a debated issue, a growing number of countries are taking further steps to outlaw this practice. Despite the fact that many nations' policies have a reactive criminal justice focus, there is an increasing recognition that a more comprehensive, child rights and research-based approach to this complex social problem is necessary as a response to child maltreatment.

Non-governmental organizations like ISPCAN and UN Agencies like UNICEF and WHO play an important role in raising awareness and promoting efforts to prevent and combat child abuse on national and international levels. The Convention on the Rights of the Child provides an important and comprehensive legal basis for these actions.

Susan Bennett, MB, ChB, FRCP, Canada

ISPCAN members with examples of new or changing policy in their own countries are invited to submit a brief description for possible inclusion in The LINK or ISPCAN webpage. Please send submissions of approximately 400 words to ispcan@ispcan.org by 15 April, 2005.

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

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