

Report on The National Forum 2000

and National Forum Youth during and after the Conference on War-Affected Children

Research, Reporting and Follow-Up to Children's Rights Violations

What is working

- Researchers are doing their jobs (it's the research that isn't)
- Awareness of children's rights

What isn't working

- No implementation of solutions and research reports or follow-ups
- Not enough prosecution of violators
- Research can be politically biased
- Too much talk, not enough action

Recommendations

- People should not stop youth from receiving education
- Stricter consequences for violators of children's rights
- More awareness among the public
- Children's rights should be taken more seriously by leaders
- Follow-ups should be more frequent (i.e. 2 years maximum) and should not be done by local officials but by impartial NGOs
- UN requires more power to reprimand and prosecute violators and enforce recommendations

Youth opinions should be considered in a higher regard by the UN (Youth are often more candid and impartial concerning the issues)



What actions youth can take

- Youth media to monitor Children's Rights
- More youth involvement in research
- More conferences and youth input to encourage action
- Youth should have more input into what their rights should be
- Youth should be included in the resolution of cases involving children's rights violation
- More awareness of updates to treaties regarding children's rights, so that governments can be confronted when violations occur
- Invite youth from different backgrounds to be involved in decision making processes
- Youth should become active advocates of children's rights