

Report on The National Forum 2000 and National Forum Youth during and after the Conference on War-Affected Children

Gimli, Manitoba Recommendations

Team one

- Make sure media gets daily coverage about international news daily and in depth
- Allow more refugees into Canada and improve system for immigration *
- **educate children within schools about current events and refugees*
- student welcome committees for refugees at schools*
- projects i.e. awareness week, presentations teleconferences correspondence (e-mail, chats, mail)
- letters to the editor instead of by media
- stricter consequences for bullying by teachers and youth
- co-op system for refugees to get better jobs
- Canadian government increasing programs like ESL and FSL
- More conference and Roundtable discussions

Team three

- More media attention on conflicts and on actions being taken
- More awareness in schools and the general public
- In schools teachers should address these issues as part of the curriculum
- Helping people in communities get more involved
- Youth in schools doing projects to get connected with other countries
- People from wealthier countries should re-prioritize so that more money can be spent on helping other, instead of personal gain
- No physical intervention to stop wars but should support the people trying to make peace within the country by providing opportunities for discussion and negotiation of fighting parties

Team two

- Stop selling arms
- Continue to maintain humanitarian programs and should not expect anything in return
- All assistance should be humanitarian unless military or political intervention is requested. i.e. economic sanctions should be avoided.
- Raising awareness in Canadians by having more international and national roundtables and conferences.
- That Canada stops producing and exporting weapons that will be used in under-developed countries

Team four

- Programs should be created that include both immigrants/refugees/war affected children and Canadian kids so that they can learn from one another, share their culture, history, etc.*
- Summer school to help refugees learn English*
- Find teachers for ESL programs that are devoted to teaching it
- Make information on scholarships more readily available to immigrant and refugee youth.
- Have more support people to help with counseling and social skills
- Make more summer jobs available to refugees and remove the barriers that children are facing in terms of accessing higher education because of lack of immigration papers.*
- There need to be national standards created for all ESL programs
- Have an NGO, funded through government and private sectors, that would provide programs for, and monitor, schools with immigration/refugees/war affected children and ESL programs

* denotes points already brought up by roundtable discussions.

