

Youth workshops brighter future

Laura, ON

This past week, the youth media team has done an amazing job of organizing both French and English workshops on war affected children, which they presented to Winnipeg high schools students with the goal of creating awareness and promoting understanding of what goes on in conflict-affected countries.

In small groups, they traveled to different schools to talk about military weapons, landmines, and several disturbing statistics, which often shocked the majority of the students. During these workshops, they asked the students to draw pictures of their perspectives on war, visualize themselves in war-affected areas, and answer multiple choice questions about money spent on military weapons and percentages of young children affected by war.

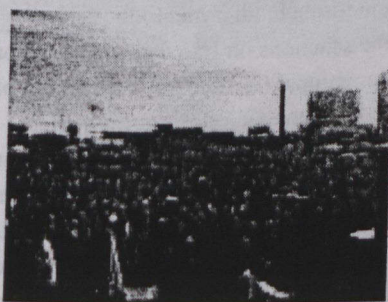
"Once they started hearing the facts and learning more about it, their faces dropped," explains Courtney, a 16 year old student at Elmwood High. "Most kids don't watch the news so they don't really know what's going on."

Although this may be the case, many youth claim that the media doesn't cover half of what's going on in the world. "The media wants a gritty story and will only cover things they know people want to hear about," explains Destiny, who is also a Winnipeg student attending St. Johns High school.

Several of the presentations including a slide show consisting of pictures taken at the National Youth Forum and during the International conference. Some of the pictures showed youth creating silhouettes, which were decorated to represent the physical and emotional scars of children who are victims of war. Other pictures showed the media team interacting with ministerial leaders, getting active online, and interacting with other youth from around the world.

"Because of doing the workshops," says Jenna, a 16 year old who traveled from Sioux Lookout, Ontario for the conference, "we know that future youth are more informed and hopefully will get involve to create a brighter future for us all."

**We're gonna F-I-G-H-T
for the P-E-A-C-E,
We're gonna fight for
the rights of the
children of the war ...
GOOOOOO YOUTH!**



**Fighting together
for a better world**

Armando, ON, Ryann, ON

On Thursday, September 14th, the youth went to a delicious dinner and discussion with Olara Otunnu, Special Representative to the UN Secretary-General of the UN, at the brand-new Thunderbird House in Winnipeg. "I think it's very important for young people to believe in themselves," said Olara while discussing with the youth ideas and issues on the topic of war-affected children. During the discussion, youth were able to express themselves and to ask questions. Mr. Otunnu clearly believes that this Winnipeg conference is an opportunity for youth to create a movement that will take the words of youth and turn them into actions. To the youth, Mr. Otunnu's proposals are a positive piece of the conference puzzle. With Olara Otunnu's power in the UN, charisma, and desire to put these proposals into action, youth of the world can look forward to a better future.