

Report on The National Forum 2000

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

Resolutions/Recommendations

- Refugee camps: laws and rights for the refugees. Qualified personnel and background checks. Media rules asking for the permission of the refugees BEFORE they film. Tighter security. Providing basic necessities within the camp so families don't have to split up and transfers of refugees are avoided. Good food, conditions of the camp.
- Anyone responsible for the violation of the rights of children should be brought to justice internationally.
- Sanctions (not economic, possible political)*
- Swift and precise punishments
- Listening to the people in the situation, not just the government; assistance only when requested; creating communication channels/mediators (Liberia) N.B. there is a line where the situation is too severe and intervention should be conditional (no line determined).
- The UN should enforce the convention of the rights of the child; research every two years into the situation of the country; consequences to follow.
- **The five permanent members of the Security Council should have to ratify all international law or else lose their power/status on the Security Council, because of their leadership/role model position.**
- People in leadership roles should take it more seriously and be trained to carry out the commitments they are responsible for. Incompetent government should be dealt with by means of a referendum?
- Workshops and education to explain what is happening in war affected countries (theatre).
- International organization with posts all over the world that goes to people and asks them what the important issues are and help their voices be heard.

Accountability Mechanisms for War-Affected Children

What's Working

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Non-Government organizations and special projects
- Human rights watch
- UN?
- Amnesty International

What is not working

- Ministries'/government's promises/commitments
- Laws exist in many nations, yet the executors of the law and justice system do not enforce them (child soldiers)
- Governments who sign the treaties are not sincere
- Amnesty for War Lords, leaders, and criminals
- When refugee camps are set up, the administration is not very strong, so what doesn't work is the lack of laws in the camps; they are supposed to be protecting people but they aren't, but no one takes responsibility for this

There is lots of talk and discussion about this but not enough action!

What youth can do?

- Ask questions, get informed
- More events, conferences, round tables, campaigns, awareness raising on all levels, asking for implementation of laws and respect.
- Protests, demonstrations, civil disobedience, pressure government to have your voice heard

