

4.418  
8/9-11/91  
4.418

ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANISTIC EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
BOARD MEETING  
AUGUST 9-11, 1991  
A H E A D F O R C H I L D R E N  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/CHILDREN'S RIGHTS  
COMMITTEE REPORT

Since the Reno board meeting the AHEAD GRC has remained active in assisting in providing leadership for the establishment and expansion of the National Committee for the Rights of the Child. The AHEAD GRC Committee is presently expanding its membership to assist in the expansion of National Committee. Several individuals have expressed their interest in working to assist the GRC Committee's work with the national children's rights coalition.

Since one of the primary goals of the National Committee for the Rights of the Child (NCRC) is to enlist as many organizations, individuals, and business enterprises as possible, the AHEAD GRC has begun working to expand those joining the coalition (National Committee), and supporting its work with others in attaining the U.S. ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The National Committee is planning its founding meeting on November 20, 1991 in Washington, DC. The 20th is the second anniversary of the adoption of the U.N. Convention by the U.N. General Assembly. Even though the U.S. is dragging its feet on ratification most of the more developed countries of the world have already ratified the Convention (over 80).

By delaying ratification the U. S. is maintaining company in the ranks of Iran, Iraq, South Africa, and Bangladesh.

The AHEAD GRC has gradually been contacting and requesting other organizations to join the coalition and support the activity toward U.S. ratification of the U.N. Convention. As reported at Reno, ASCA has joined the process which helped with a joint motion before the AACD Governing Council for their endorsement of the National Committee and support of ratification of the U.N. Convention at its summer meeting. Thanks to Jean Wilson's AHEAD representation with the AACD Governing Council for a joint motion with ASCA and passage of the motion (mentioned below).

Since Reno the AHEAD GRC has:

- 1) has participated in another major planning meeting in Washington, DC on May 17, 1991, along with Nancy Perry, and Beverly O'Bryant of ASCA, and Helen Stidham of AACD (assistant to Ted Remley);
- 2) attended two working group meetings in Indianapolis during June and July;
- 3) assisted in getting the above proposals on the AACD Governing Council summer meeting agenda, as mentioned above. AACD has passed the motions:
- 4) attended the AACD summer Government Relations Committee meeting, and requested the AACD GRC to add the U.S. ratification of the U. N. Convention on the Rights of the Child to its legislative agenda-- it was added with the second highest ranking for inclusion and action:

- 5) attended the most recent AMHCA board meeting in Washington, DC to request adopting the above proposals--both were passed by the AMHCA board;
- 6) made arrangements for the proposals to be on the fall meeting agendas of the New Hampshire ACD, the Alabama state division of ARVIC, and the ARVIC national board meeting;

Also: Thanks to Joey White, the Guidepost is planning to include an article on AHEAD's and ASCA's involvement in helping to establish the NCRC.

#### AHEAD GRC PLANS FOR 1991:

Continue to assist in providing leadership for the NCRC and strategize and plan for expanding the involvement both internally to the different AACD branches and divisions, and externally to other child oriented organizations, individuals, and business entities.

See the attached report to the AACD Government Relations Committee for the summer meeting in July.

ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANISTIC  
EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

AHEAD GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
FISCAL YEAR END REPORT  
AND  
1991-92 ACTION PLAN

Y E A R   E N D   R E P O R T

Since the February meeting of the AACD GRC, AHEAD's GRC has continued to assist in providing leadership for the establishment of the National Committee for the Rights of the Child (NCRC). This has included several working group teleconference calls, working with ASCA and AACD to endorse the Committee and the U.S. ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, a meeting in Washington, DC in May, a couple of small working group meetings in Indianapolis, and numerous individual contacts with others involved.

The AHEAD GRC has also initiated the beginning stages of the action plan by working to expand the number serving on the AHEAD GRC Committee, and making contacts to enlist the support of additional child oriented organizations for the NCRC.

A C T I O N   P L A N  
1 9 9 1 - 9 2

The 1991-92 AHEAD Government Relations Committee Action Plan is a straightforward continuation of its activity to

assist in providing leadership in the establishment and expansion of the National Committee for the Rights of the Child.

We are in the final stages of the planning process with the founding meeting scheduled to occur November 20, 1991 in Washington, DC. The planning committee has decided the first issue to address is working to obtain U.S. ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The founding meeting is set for November 20th because it is the 2nd anniversary of the adoption of the Convention by the U.N. General Assembly.

The founding is all but established. It is now time to progress to what could be considered phase 2. One of the primary goals of the National Committee is the inclusion of as many national, state, and local organizations, and individuals, businesses, and corporations as possible. The purpose is to create a "critical mass," sometimes referred to as a 500 pound canary, of support for the establishment and implementation of rights for children to healthy physical, emotional, social, and educational development.

For the 1991-92 year the AHEAD GRC plans to shift focus toward:

1. The expansion of members involved in the National Committee.
2. Join other National Committee members, other AACD divisions and branches, and other organizations in strategizing for and achieving U.S. ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The AHEAD GRC will work to accomplish these goals by:

1. Increasing the number of AHEAD GRC members to assist in the process.
2. Developing a plan and contacts for expanding the number of national, state and local organizations supporting the National Committee and/or participating in seeking U.S. ratification of the U.N. Convention including:
  - a. Internally -- contacting AACD divisions and branches, and
  - b. Externally -- contacting any organization, individual, or business entity who may be interested in improving the quality of life for children.
3. Establish an AHEAD GRC network.
4. Contact, enlist and cooperate with the networks of other organizations who decide to participate and agree to use their network.
5. Work with the AACD GRC to seek the GRC endorsement of the National Committee and inclusion of ratification of the U.N. Convention of the Rights of the Child on the AACD GRC Legislative Agenda.

# NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

## NCRC

This is a list of some of the original and subsequent organizations who have participated in the planning of the NCRC.

American Association for Counseling and Development  
American Psychological Association  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Bar Association  
Association of Junior Leagues, International  
Association for Humanistic Education and Development  
American School Counselor Association  
Catholic Charities USA  
Chesapeake Institute  
Christian Children's Fund  
Defense for Children International  
Girl Scouts of America  
Human Rights Internet  
National Association for the Education of Young Children  
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
National Council of Catholic Women  
National Foster Parent Association  
National Organization of Forensic Social Work  
National Task Force for Children's Constitutional Rights  
Kiwani's International  
National Association of School Psychologists  
International Association of School Psychologists  
Interaction International  
National Association of Child Advocates  
National Child Rights Alliance  
Office for the Study of the Psychological Rights of the  
Child  
Child Welfare League of America  
Save the Children  
Transformational Institute  
U.S. Committee for UNICEF  
U.S. Catholic Conference