

1. ULUSAL OCUK FORUMU

NATIONAL CONGRESS FOR CHILDREN
20-21 APRIL 2000
TURKEY
DECLARATION

We, the delegates of the 1st National Congress for Children, considering of;

- Malnutrition among children
- Insufficient and irregular medical screening of children
- Children's increasing tendency to dangerous habits
- Problematic children due to parental ignorance, intra-family marriages
- Insufficient education and information of parents and teachers on various subjects such as health, development, violence, etc.
- Inequalities in education, health or economy and gender due to regional disparities
- The intensity of class schedules and learning system
- Violence in education and improper discipline regulations at schools
- Violence in all sections of the community, such as education, media, family, public, or computer games
- Children are exposed to violence (at home, school, media); and as a result, their physical and mental development are heavily affected
- Existence of unacceptable form of child labor
- Insufficient rehabilitation, education, transportation and job opportunities of orphans, working children, child in conflict with law or disabled children
- Insufficient sports activities and facilities
- Restriction of child's social rights due to child labor
- Due to traditional values, marrying girls at an early age causes school drop-out
- Disapproval of male and female relations by society;
- Marriages without registration and as a result, children do not have identity cards;
- Insensitivity of media, distorted and exaggerated news about orphans, working children, children in conflict with law or disabled children;
- Virtual world created by magazine news and as a result children get confused
- Ineffective participation of children at home or in schools regarding the decisions or implementations on behalf of them, both at national and local levels;
- Incomplete legal regulations required for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the disorganized current policies

Make the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increase the consciousness of family and community by collaborating with media,
- Give free health services to all children.
- Ensure the rehabilitation of substance-addicted children. Replace the dangerous substance in the market with volatile substances.
- Prevent vocational high school university candidates from losing points in university exams.
- Ensure equal opportunities in education (economical, female, male, regional and different children groups).
- Totally eliminate physical violence in schools and to ensure discipline punishment.
- Strengthen the education system regarding research, improvement and implementation.
- Raise the awareness of the community, especially parents by organizing panels and seminars.
- Establish Alo Violence line.
- Ensure the adaptation of orphans, working children, child criminals or disabled children to the daily life (city planning, transportation, education, rehabilitation, and job opportunities).
- Increase the number and quality of child courts.
- Create new social activities and to increase the number of activity environments or to help children discover their interests and talents.
- Censor written publications or visual programmes in media containing violence.
- Increase the number of programmes considering child rights development and education.
- Form child committees for written and visual press.
- Increase the sensitivity of local administrators on the issue of children.

THESE PROBLEMS ARE MOSTLY CAUSED BY NOT HAVING ENOUGH INFORMATION ABOUT CHILD RIGHTS.

AS A PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE WE PROMISE THAT WE ARE GOING TO GIVE REPORTS QUARTERLY ON THE IMPROVEMENTS TO ELIMINATE THESE PROBLEMS IN OUR PROVINCES.

WE WOULD LIKE TO STATE THAT WE WILL MEET IN ANKARA ON 20 NOVEMBER TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT.

THE CHILDREN COUNCIL