

Sub Group on Indigenous Children and Youth

Promoting the recognition of
child rights under customary
and international law



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Indigenous Child Rights

- UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recognize that Indigenous children experience rights violations to a degree not experienced by other children world wide
- UNCRC holds **Day of General Discussion on Indigenous Children 2003**
- Until 2005, there was **no** international focal point or database on Indigenous child rights
- UNICEF did some work on Indigenous child rights but only in developing countries.

Formation of the Sub Group

- NGO Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child approved formation of Sub Group on Indigenous Children and Youth (ISG) in 2005.
- ISG officially formed on October 24, 2006 at a meeting at Native CFS in Toronto
- Workplan was developed and agreed to at this meeting and Convenor and Co-convenor were appointed
- ISG is first International focal point developed exclusively for Indigenous Child Rights

Organizational Chart

NGO GROUP OF CRC (GENEVA)

UN Committee
on the CRC

Liaison Function

Other NGO Group Sub Groups

-Sexual exploitation

-Violence Against Children

-War Affected Children etc.

Sub Group on Indigenous
Children and Youth



Key Elements of Work

- Assist the UN Committee with the development of a General Comment
- Prepare an international literature review on Indigenous child and youth rights
- Influence international child rights related processes or treaty bodies
- Promote networking amongst Indigenous child rights NGO's

General Comment: Overview

- General Comments are developed by the UNCRC to provide guidance to States on the implementation of the CRC
- General comments should be evidence based and reflect the worldwide experience of a group of children (in this case Indigenous children)
- ISG will assist with the development of the GC but it is the UNCRC that actually writes and owns the document
- General Comments should be no longer than 15 pages in total.
- Literature reviews that support the content of the GC can be submitted to the Committee provide assurance that the suggested contents of the GC are well supported

ISG Accomplishments

- Development of ISG operating procedures complete (code of ethics, roles and responsibilities and draft membership guidelines)
- Worked with UNCRC to recruit expert writer for General Comment
- Literature review on Indigenous Child Rights completed and available on line
- Website under development www.isg-ngogroup.org
- Expert writer, Margo Greenwood, has begun drafting the General Comment for review by the UNCRC
- First Draft of General Comment reviewed by Committee and final draft to be submitted in January 2008

ISG Next Steps

- Encourage regional consultations and submitting of feedback until September 30, 2007
- Add additional resources to ISG website
- Expand list of ISG members pursuant to membership guidelines (to be approved at next ISG meeting).
- Work with expert writer to complete draft and submit to UNCRC in January 2008 for approval

Want more information on Indigenous Child Rights?

- Day of General Discussion on Indigenous Children

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/discussion/indigenouschildren.pdf>

- United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/>

- ISG website (under development) www.isg-ngogroup.org