

Worlds of experience



No. 24 (March 2011)

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'This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.'

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 24th issue of "Worlds of Experience" dedicated to "Youth Empowerment".

At the onset of 2011, the European Year of Volunteering and the IYV+10, the question of "why and how young people should be empowered?" should be answered beyond rhetoric statements and acknowledging that "empowerment" is a concept with many different connotations and manifestations.

Why empower youth? Because, as stated in UNICEF's 2011 State of the World's Children report "Investing in adolescents can break cycles of poverty and inequity." If empowering aims at enhancing young people's self-esteem, sense of responsibility, participation in society, independence and a heightened critical conscience, it should be acknowledged that the ways in which this is achieved are manifold and context sensitive.

Since its inception, ICYE has firmly believed in the empowering effect of long term youth exchange programmes that combine intercultural learning and voluntary service, or in other words: "Volunteering is perfect for tapping into the idealism and drive of young people, and gives them a real space for participating in community development" (UN Programme on Youth). Whether empowerment is achieved through formal or non-formal education (experiential learning), and regardless of which strategies are implemented, concerted efforts are needed to find out "what works" and how processes of youth empowerment can be made more effective and sustainable.

In Volunteers' Voices, an Italian volunteer working in India with Child Rights Trust says, "creating awareness among youth and society contributes to fight child marriage, child prostitution, child abuse, drugs addiction, child labour, and exploitation." Two young British volunteers in Uganda experienced that their work with children has an added empowering effect in that "the children are exposed to cultural differences from a very young age. So is their ability to communicate with different social groups developed." A German volunteer working with young offenders in Colombia realised that to empower young people you have to free yourself from prejudices and re-consider "the things we have or do not have the right to judge." Or, to put with the words of another German volunteer working with youth in Brazil, "I get the feeling as if the project is actually changing the children's lives and I'm very proud to be part of this change."

News from Int'l Organisations feature, among others: UN Programme on Youth - Focus: Youth and Poverty; the EYV Tour schedule; the Gender Inequality Index introduced in the 2010 Human Development Report; and the 2011 Report - The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education.

News from NGOs reports on: various Virtual Volunteering opportunities; the Human Rights Watch World Report 2011; the publication "Designing a World that works for All", and the Global Youth Anti-Corruption Network.

ICYE Programme News feature: the launch of the ICYE Federation new web site; the 2011 EU-China Year of Youth; testimonials of the recent earthquake in New Zealand, the documentation of the EVS project on "Cultural Diversity, Indigenous People and Social Inclusion, and the 4th Networking Conference for Asian and European Young Volunteers.

We wish you an interesting and informative reading, and would like to encourage readers to send us articles and pictures for the next issue of "Worlds of Experience", which will be dedicated to the "European Year of Volunteering 2011" and will be published at the end of June 2011.

Please send your contributions to icye@icye.org, before 31 May 2011.

Warmest regards!
ICYE International Office

This and previous issues of "Worlds of Experience" can be viewed and downloaded from: www.icye.org

VOLUNTEERS´ VOICES

„Working with young offenders in Colombia – should be hard!“



I am Svenja Elsaesser, a German Weltwaerts/ICYE volunteer working with the project "Libertad Asistida" in Bogotá, Colombia. At the moment, we take care of about 80 underaged youngsters, mainly boys. All of them had been in conflict with the law and the government office of youth welfare has given them the chance to serve out the sentence in the project in order not to deprive them of their freedom. Behind the locked doors of Libertad, a house with an open fire place and a hammock in the garden, there is no reason for distrust - you can find room for creativity, interest for different thoughts and time filled with content. Rather than to punish them, the objective is to give them a perspective of the future and to develop their talents. There are seven of us working in the project: two psychologists, a social worker, three teachers and me, the yearly changing ICYE - volunteer from Europe.

The process starts with an admission interview where mothers tell the stories of drug abuse, violent offences and robbery of their children, who at the same time stand beside them, partly repentant, partially touched by the unpleasant situation holding their mothers' hands. On average the process takes six month, during which we share at least four mornings monthly with the participant and few hours with their families, who we consider an important part of the process as well. The sessions are used for occupational therapy, such as handicrafts, Capoeira and individual writing. During the activities, they learn to commit thoughts to paper, to reflect and to assess themselves.

The volunteer's role is quite free. We have the possibility to realise various projects according to our interests. For example, as a physiotherapist, I am responsible for classes of body awerness, but the biggest project achieved in the first semester of my volunteer year was a culture class called "Las Culturas Diferentes", which I developed with my friend Anna, a lawyer from Sweden, who is also volunteering in Bogotá.

The class was meant for the participants to discuss about the introductory question "What is culture and what factors influence a culture?" through providing them of examples of culturally different situations in order to cause reactions in them.

Looking at the lives of the boys from a different point of view, they face situations of poverty, violence in the families, boredom and cheap drugs - this is where the vicious circle starts! Once I had to go to Ciudad Bolivar in El Tesoro, a neighborhood in Bogotá. Before I went there, I only knew about it by reading the addresses on the teenagers' files. It doesn't even take an hour from the project to go there, but it feels like another world: displaced families build their houses on the mountains (some of which hardly protect them from the rain). A lot of kids spend most of their time on the streets and a majority don't even attend school. Since then, I've visited different projects in similar areas.



Now I think that something changed in my viewpoint about the "chicos" in my classes even if some of them have done brutal things that obviously never should have been done. As I enter the data of the new kids into the computer and read the adresses (which after a while got a face for me), I encountered a slightly different meaning about the things we have or not have a right to judge.

*Svenja Elsaesser
German volunteer in Colombia*

"Education to empower youth in Uganda"

We are Caroline and Lucy, two British ICYE volunteers in Uganda. We have come to know that the location and the educational opportunities affect a lot the future of young people in Uganda. African families are considerably large and the population predominantly consists of young people. This means that their empowerment is key to the development and expansion of the country and the continent. The opportunities available to a young person living in a more developed area, such as Kampala the capital of Uganda, may be starkly contrasted to those a less developed area of Uganda. Socially, influential pro-social attitudes, role models and parental encouragement can motivate and empower young people to strive to succeed and achieve their ambitions.

These two factors can make the difference between a young person aspiring to be a white collar employee or aspiring to continue to cultivate family land. The former can typically involve the completion of secondary and/or higher education. Therefore, exposure to higher education surely acts as a gateway to future opportunities and employment because young people are exposed to different social groups, learn budgeting skills, time management, how to communicate effectively and

how to live independently completing secondary higher education. Such skills prepare them for the transition into the sphere of employment and modern life. Another problem is that employment opportunities available to graduate students in Uganda are highly in demand. Competition is fierce and employment options within subject areas are difficult to come by. Due to lack of government initiated opportunities young people and adults must increase their employability through voluntary work, the completion of other short courses, even by taking a flexible approach to employment opportunities such as committing to work away from family and familiar territory.



Our voluntary service project, Kiyumbakimu Children's Village (KCV) strives to empower young people to realise and achieve their ambitions. There are a number of different ways this is achieved. For the 21 children residing at KCV they are assured continuity of access to education through an overseas sponsorship programme. The success of this is reflected by the eldest child at KCV now attending secondary School in Masaka due to his educational achievements.

The project also provides a stable environment for the children. The mother of the children is a very positive and influential role model. This heightens the children's individual sense of empowerment. Further to this, there are a number of international volunteers, which contribute to the positive socialisation of the children. This is because the children are exposed to cultural differences from a very young age. So is their ability to communicate with different social groups developed. The positive impact of this is that the KCV children are noticeably high achievers at school and often in the top rankings of their class. Not only does KCV work with the 21 children at the project, it also benefits the community at large. Currently there is a nursery for pre-school children in the local community. It runs Monday to Friday and is attended well. Also, a library is currently being constructed at the project, which will be available to all local children in the community and is the first of its kind in the area. Kiyumbakimu football club is successfully promoting sporting excellence. Players from the community have recently claimed their second trophy. This encourages community spirit and the team acts as a great role model for the younger generation.

Overall Kiyumbakimu Children's village is well known and highly regarded for its positive work across the district. The capacity at KCV is no way reflective of demand for places at the project. Despite this, KCV strives to empower and reach out to as many young people and adults as possible. Intrinsic motivation can be the most empowering

for a young person. It is imperative for young people to fulfill their own ambitions and realize their true potential. For this, the KCV works exceptionally hard to meet the requirements of young people in the local area and in turn invest in the future of the country.

*Caroline Rowlands and Lucy Bell
British volunteers in Uganda*

"Child Rights Trust"

My name is Marcello Bocchini and I am an Italian EVS / ICYE volunteer in India, working at the Child Rights Trust (CRT), a national Indian NGO with seat in Bangalore, Karnataka. At the beginning I got to know how CRT works around the main child and youth development issues that affect Indian society, visited different projects promoted by CRT, met the members of the staff, and studied the Indian situation.

The main aim of CRT is to protect and promote all the inherent and indivisible rights of children through the training of various target groups, the preparation of action plans, filing complaints and



networking with other NGOs in the region. The organization mandate is to lobby governments and the United Nations, provide training or education, research, work in partnership with organizations, and with media and press.

Also because of the widespread lack of education in India, young Indians are not used to think about their future and about the main social problems they face. The group of people we work with is affected by a serious gap between parents and youth because the parents do not know how to advice and guide the youngsters. It is a vicious circle because the parents faced the same situation when they were young, and they are taught to think that a person after 16 years of age has to take care of him/herself. This is one of the reasons why many young people start working at early age.

With regards to "Youth Empowerment", CRT through networking promotes attitudinal, structural and cultural processes whereby youth gain the ability and authority to make decisions and implement change in their own lives. A lot of Indian young people are affected by exploitation, drug addiction and sexual abuse. Therefore, the main aim of CRT is to sensitize young people to promote their involvement in society, and to give them a positive self-esteem, which would have an impact on others in their communities thereafter. CRT aims at promoting and giving information about skills empowerment programs and courses to link young people to society. These help them to grow, acquire communication skills at take advantage of opportunities. Moreover, CRT uses the youth collaboration on Child Rights during election

campaign, and with their help promotes lobbying action to sensitize election members.



Creating awareness among youth and all society CRT contributes to fight child marriage, child prostitution, child abuse, drugs addiction, child labor, and exploitation that constitute the main social problems around the country.

Marcello Bocchini
Italian volunteer in India

"Two-way empowerment"



I am Cristina Arquero from Spain. I am an EVS / ICYE volunteer at Kwetu Home of Peace, a centre for street children, in Nairobi, Kenya. The centre provides street boys with a home and helps them to reintegrate in society and to build a secure and hopeful future. The children stay for a maximum of 2 years in the centre. My main tasks have to do with the everyday activities of the kids that recently joined the centre: cleaning, washing clothes, playing with them, participating in therapy sessions, non-formal education, among others. At the same time, I develop activities like teaching Spanish, typing and IT classes for other young boys that used to be part of the centre and young people of the community.

For me, the most difficult experiences are related to the difference between cultures, mainly dealing with language and race. One must be aware of the difficulties of interacting in a language so different from yours and be very patient to understand some situations. In my opinion, all these difficulties are closely related with the youth empowerment of the boys that participate in this type of projects. First of all, it allows people to know another reality and to face incomprehensible situations, which will be understood while integrating with the others. Second, it provides space for an immense personal growth that might not be possible to reach otherwise.

Being the only foreign volunteer here, I think has allowed me to integrate much more with the

kids. I have a good relation with them. Besides, my work with the kids is very gratifying because it makes me feel like I am an important part of their lives because some of them share very personal things with me, or they come to me for help and advice. All this gives me responsibility and a clear role, not just as a volunteer that comes and goes. However, I must admit that sometimes I feel impotent and lost regarding my role as confident and adviser. Taking everything into consideration, I feel that the empowerment is not only for them, but for me as well!



Cristina Arquero
Spanish volunteer in Kenya

"Being part of the change"

My name is Lukas Schneider, I'm a German Weltwaerts/ICYE volunteer in Brazil. I have been living here in Porto Alegre for 6 months now and I work in the social project "Casa Madre Giovanna", which is located in the favela Campo da Tuca. Like in every favela, life in Tuca is characterized by unemployment, violence, criminality and poverty.

Because of these problems, the "Casa Madre Giovanna" was founded 15 years ago to prevent children and teenagers of the region from ending up in the streets, where drug traffic and violence form a vicious circle. The institution's mission is to show children that there are other opportunities in life for them. Children and teenagers come to the project in the morning and go to school in the afternoon or the other way round. The "Casa Madre Giovanna" provides food, support classes and other activities for the children. The project is a place where they can play, have fun, meet their friends, learn and have a normal childhood at least a few hours a day.

My voluntary work is not restricted to a certain area: I can give english and informatic classes and I am responsible for a group of younger children between 4 and 6, to whom I teach how to read and write. We also work on educational workshops (sexual education, love, friendship, healthcare and drugs), and we try to strengthen the teenagers' social skills because many of them have problems regarding respect, responsibility, appropriate behavior, in the the hope that with these values they can to find a job and become a respected member of society. For instance, we involve the teenagers to take care of the smaller children by playing and preparing activities for them. This helps them understand the importance of reliability and trust, and also enhances a mutual learning process between the smaller children and the teenagers. We always try to build friendship and mutual trust between the project staff and the

teenagers; we try to help them with their problems or give advice when making decisions, as most of them are lacking support at home.



Besides from my work with the children, it is important for me to involve their parents and the whole community our work at the centre. Most of the children are traumatized or suffer from psychological problems, thus it is of utmost importance to know their personal background to be able to work with them. That's why I visit the families regularly to stay in touch with the parents and to inform them about the activities in the project.

I like working in the "Casa Madre Giovana" and due to the close work with the children and teenagers and their parents, I feel very needed and helpful. Despite the problems and the failures, I get the feeling as if the project is actually changing the childrens lives and I'm very proud to be part of this change.

*Lukas Schneider
German volunteer in Brazil*

"Raising girls to be independent and confident"



My name is Linda Karvonen. I am a Finnish ICYE volunteer working now for six months in the orphanage Hogares Providencia in Toluca in Mexico. It is made for girls in difficult situations, for example girls who are beaten, sexually exploited, ignored by their parents or with some other problem that makes it impossible for them to stay with their families. Some of the girls have been part of street gangs and in real danger of living in the streets permanently. The orphanage is not very big, at the moment there are thirteen girls living in the house, aged 5-19, so it is possible to see it more than a home than an orphanage. Some of the older girls have lived there since they were about ten years old. Adoption is an option, but it's rare that somebody does that because most of them are older than ten years.

Most of the girls who come to Hogares Providencia are referred by the governmental agency Desarrollo Integral de la Familia (DIF). In Hogares Providencia the girls are provided a safe home, education, upbringing, food and somebody who cares about them. The three women that care of the girls, called "tias" (aunts) work in 24 hours shifts, every three days. They hug them, reprimand them if needed, cook, wash, and then help with the homework, as a mother would do. The only difference is that these so called mothers have thirteen children, which makes it impossible to give the girls a lot of attention, but they do their best.

Every girl has a task to do every day with the goal of learning to be responsible and taking care of the home. It may be about washing the dishes, setting up the table, cleaning the toilets or washing the floor. The tasks change every week. If the girls don't complete their tasks, they have to do a lot more the next week or they are punished in some other way. Many times they are prohibited to watch television for some time or use the computer. All the girls attend school. Many of them are lagging behind in their studies because of earlier problems with their families. Two girls are studying at the university (interior design and economics). Almost everybody else still goes to primary school, including a 14-year-old. The older girls have more freedom; for example, they can go see their friends outside the house. Because the orphanage doesn't have a lot of money, some of the older ones work on the weekends, in order to have some pocket money.

The orphanage relies on the fact that they can trust the girls. If a girl escapes, she can't come back. That's why the girls who stay there normally don't escape. Many times there are problems with girls, who don't want to obey the rules, but they have to speak with the director and in her room they normally come up with a solution.

There are some rules that everybody has to obey and all the adults working there cooperate with the upbringing of the girls like in a big family. With a mixture of love and punishment (never physical) they try to raise the girls in conformity with the goals of Hogares Providencia that are raising them to be independent, confident, well-bred individuals. As I see it, it works as good as it can.



*Linda Karvonen
Finnish volunteer in Mexico*

More on „Youth empowerment“



Youth and the United Nations
www.un.org/youth

Youth and volunteerism – Not every kid dares

Port Vila, Vanuatu: The rain hardly stops in Vanuatu. It's pouring as usual when Jayleen sets out on her daily walk among thatched villages to talk to the local Ni-Van youth face-to-face about HIV and AIDS. She is a Peer Educator who volunteers her time and energy to fight the roots of the disease: ignorance.



Volunteering is perfect for tapping into the idealism and drive of young people, and gives them a real space for participating in community development.

This year, 2011, not only marks the International Year of Youth but also the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers. It's a fantastic opportunity to put words into action and make the potential of youth a reality. Under Resolution A/63/153 (2009), the General Assembly Calls for the United Nations system to "integrate volunteerism in its various forms into their policies, programmes and reports"; and encourages governments to "establish partnerships with civil society in order to build up volunteer potential at the national level."



► [Read more](#)

Empowering Youths through Non-traditional Means



Beyond Skin is an organisation based in Northern Ireland using music, art, multimedia and radio as a tool for cultural education and exchange in an aim to address racism and sectarianism. Established in January 2004 Beyond Skin has been very innovative in creative peacebuilding methodologies with 80 per cent of projects working directly with young people. Beyond Skin develops, manages and facilitates many activities and projects throughout Ireland, some short term and some long term. In 2010 Beyond Skin was directly involved in 172 events, which included being a core organisation in four large festivals.

Three of the biggest resources Beyond Skin has developed are the Motion Project, which is Northern Ireland's largest multicultural music collective using music as a tool for cultural learning and exchange; Homely Planet Radio, which is an Internet Radio Network focusing on cultural education, exchange and world music; and Beyond Skin Global, an initiative developed in 2009/10 linking global development issues to local race relations. For more information please go to:

www.beyondskin.net

Source: UNOY Peacebuilders:

http://www.unoy.org/downloads/newsletter/latest_unoy_news.pdf

unicef

"The State of the World's Children 2011: Adolescence - An age of opportunity" (UNICEF)



UNICEF's Annual Report examines the challenges facing the world's adolescents and includes: Perspectives of young people and adults on issues including the environment, poverty, violence, migration, indigenous people, gender, HIV and AIDS, the media and more. Policy recommendations in the following areas: improved

data collection and analysis, creating a supportive environment for adolescent rights, fostering spaces for youth participation, investing in education and tackling poverty and inequity; Statistical tables on basic indicators - nutrition, health, HIV/AIDS, education, demographic and economic indicators, gender and child protection - as well as new tables on adolescents and equity, with the latest available data for 196 countries and territories. To read the report, please visit:

<http://www.unicef.org/sowc2011/fullreport.php>

As part of its commitment to reaching out to adolescents worldwide, UNICEF today re-launched Voices of Youth (VOY), a youth website on global themes. The platform is youth driven and allows young people to learn, discuss and take action on matters that affect their lives. For more information on VOY visit <http://www.voicesofyouth.org>

News from International Organisations



Youth and the United Nations
www.un.org/youth

UN Programme on Youth - FOCUS: Youth and Poverty

Did you know that nearly 45 percent of all youth globally, aged 15-24, are living on less than 2 dollars a day? This equates to almost 515 million young people. The situation is especially profound for youth in developing countries, particularly for those living in rural areas. Among these youth some groups are even more likely to be poor, such as young women, youth with disabilities, youth living in countries with armed conflict, youth living as refugees or indigenous youth. Through our Facebook consultation we asked young people why their inclusion is important in order to tackle the challenges of poverty. In their view, poverty is something that affects everyone, of all ages, in all parts of the world. Therefore, youth also have responsibility to tackle the problems. Many of them felt that since youth often are among the most vulnerable to poverty, it is no surprise that many have experienced and dealt with its effects in various aspects of their lives.

If you want to find out more about what young people are doing to ensure successful progress of the MDGs go to our facebook page (www.facebook.com/UNyouthyear).

Through the facebook page you can also participate in this month's consultation "**Why do you think young people's inclusion is important in tackling poverty?**" You may come across ideas for initiatives that could make a difference in your city, or find a forum that might help you to develop new skills.



Volunteerism takes to the streets around Europe - EYV2011 Tour schedule

As the European Year of Volunteering (EYV 2011) was launched last December, the Road Show tour set off from Brussels and is travelling through all 27 European Union member countries. The Road Show is an opportunity for organisations and volunteers to exhibit their work, meet each other, discuss key issues for the future of volunteers and share common concerns with citizens and the wider public. It also presents exciting activities for young and adult visitors, such as singing karaoke, taking pictures or learning the folk dance of the country. An IYV+10 stand is already joining the tour throughout the year to showcase worldwide events to celebrate and promote volunteerism. Check out the tour schedule [here](#).

EYV 2011 Alliance website: commit to volunteer!



Commit! Help us meet our target and contribute to the increased recognition of the contributions of volunteers across Europe. Sign up online on the EYV 2011 Alliance website to commit to volunteer for a specific number of hours during 2011. An automatic counter shows the statistics of the committed hours (country/region/gender/age). Make your commitments for 2011 [here!](#)

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS



International Women's Day: A Century of Advocacy

Gender inequality remains a major barrier to human development. The [2010 Human Development Report](#) introduced the [Gender Inequality Index](#) to meet the challenge of measuring the disadvantages faced by women around the world. The Gender Inequality Index is a composite measure reflecting inequality in achievements between women and men in three dimensions: health, empowerment and the labour market. The Gender Inequality Index is designed to reveal the extent to which national human development achievements are eroded by gender inequality, and to provide empirical foundations for policy analysis and advocacy efforts.

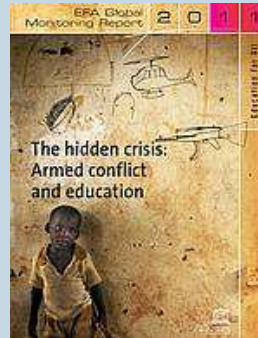
[Read more](#)
[Top 10 Worst and Best Performers of the GII](#)
[Gender Inequality Index \(updated\)](#)
[About the index](#)



2011 Report - The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education

Violent conflict is one of the greatest development challenges facing the international community. Beyond the immediate human suffering it causes, it is a source of poverty, inequality and economic stagnation. Children and education systems are often on the front line of violent conflict.

The 2011 Global Monitoring Report – launched on 1 March 2011 - examines the damaging consequences of conflict for the Education for All goals. It will set out an agenda for protecting the



right to education during conflict, strengthening provision for children, youth and adults affected by conflict, and rebuilding education systems in countries emerging from conflict. The Report will also explore the role of inappropriate education policies in creating conditions for violent conflict. Drawing on

experience from a range of countries, it will identify problems and set out solutions that can help make education a force for peace, social cohesion and human dignity.

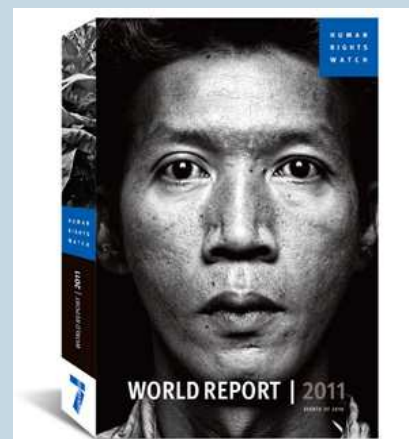
News from NGOs

Virtual Volunteering



A [recent study](#) by the Pew Research Centre has shown 75% of all American adults are active in some kind of voluntary group or organization, and internet users are more likely than others to be active: 80% of internet users participate in groups, compared with 56% of non-internet users. The increased engagement of internet users demonstrates that the internet is great resource for volunteers, and one that has yet to be fully tapped. Nearly all volunteer agencies and nonprofits use the internet for information and recruitment. Websites such as [Sparked](#) help people take advantage of these opportunities. Sparked, which considers itself a “micro-volunteering” platform, allows volunteers to help nonprofits based on their specific skills and interests. On the site, nonprofits from around the world post “challenges” that volunteers then take on, i.e. supporting a Swedish non profit looking for help with Twitter, a Cameroonian organization looking for revenue ideas, or a Canadian non profit looking for help with event planning. Volunteers can do as much or as little as they would like—all without leaving their home! Also the [United Nations Volunteer](#) (UNV) website has virtual volunteering opportunities that can be searched by skill or interest area. Next time you’re bored online, remember this simple fact: A little time volunteering completely offsets a day spent Facebook stalking.

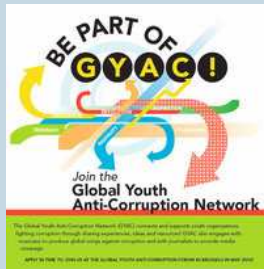
Human Rights Watch World Report 2011



The Human Rights Watch 21st annual World Report summarises human rights conditions in more than 90 countries and territories worldwide.

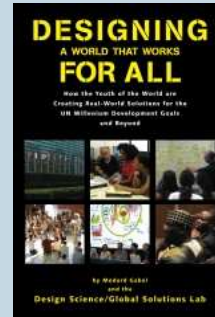
The report features three essays on worldwide trends: The tendency for governments to “soft talk” rights abusers rather than pressuring them to change, the use of schools as battlegrounds, and the roles of nongovernmental organisations in a changing media landscape. [Download](#)

Global Youth Anti Corruption Network (GYAC)



GYAC is a global network of youth organizations working on anti-corruption issues. It aims to establish a global youth network of emerging leaders that nurtures and is nurtured by the expansion of country-level initiatives to improve transparency and accountability; and create an enabling environment for youth to tackle corruption, in which youth themselves will set priorities to inform the follow-up activities of the network. The program will bring together youth between the ages of 18-35 active in anti-corruption efforts, youth journalists and young socially responsible musicians to increase awareness among youth about the impact of corruption on development in their countries; and create country level youth networks to promote concrete initiatives for greater transparency and accountability. [Read more](#)

"Designing a World That Works for All" Design Science Lab



Over the last five years youth and young professionals from around the world have come to the Design Science Lab where they have been briefed by UN experts and then worked on developing viable and sustainable solutions for the most critical problems confronting humanity- all in the context of reaching the MDGs. This body of work has now been published, in the book "Designing a World That Works for All". Innovative strategies for meeting the world's needs for food, water, sanitation, energy, health care, education and a sustainable environment and economy are among those presented in the book. To read the publication, please visit:

<http://designsciencelab.com/book/>.

ICYE Programme News

New ICYE Federation's site launched



To mark the IYV+10 and the European Year of Volunteering 2011 the ICYE Federation has launched a new web site, with a fresh new look and extended search features for the data base of more than 500 ICYE long and short term voluntary service placements in 40 different countries.

Please visit us at www.icye.org

Your comments are most welcome!



2011 EU-China Year of Youth

The ICYE International Office was invited to attend the Official Opening ceremony of the 2011 EU-China Year of Youth, which was held in Brussels on 10-11 January 2011, and was attended by 200 participants representing EU and Chinese youth organisations and NGOs.

The main objectives of the Year are to:

- promote intercultural dialogue and strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between European and Chinese youth;
- encourage young people to care about and support the development of EU-China relations;
- achieve extensive and positive impact and help ensure that cooperation between policy makers as well as between youth organizations is sustainable beyond 2011.

The EU-China Year of Youth also coincides with the European Year of Volunteering and the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteering. For this reason, voluntary activities involving young Europeans and Chinese will be encouraged throughout the Year.

For more information please visit: www.2011euchinayouth.eu

How we experienced the earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand

The following is a short account of the recent earthquake in New Zealand from two ICYE young German working at Living Spring - a Camp, Conference and Outdoor Education Centre.

The Living Springs staff sat all together in the staff dining room and we had just finished the meal, when it suddenly started to shake. We all went out of the dining room and someone shouted "the kids" and almost everyone turned around and went back in. We helped them to allay the kids, when they came out.

We waited outside of the building for maybe 10-15 minutes and went in again, because no one realized how big this earthquake was. Straight away the second big shake was happening. We all went out again, the kids were very disciplined.

Together with the other staff members we tried to help the kids through this difficult time. Some of them took it easy, others were very sad. I sat down and talked with them, told them a couple of jokes.

For the next couple of hours about 120 kids were sitting in front of our dining hall, wrapped up in blankets, eating cookies and drinking hot chocolate, waiting for the aftershocks to stop and to re-enter the building.

The rest of the time was mainly waiting, talking to customers and making sure that everyone is alright, not cold or getting a shock. Later in the afternoon we started to set up some tents in case the kids had to sleep outside because of not ending big shakes.

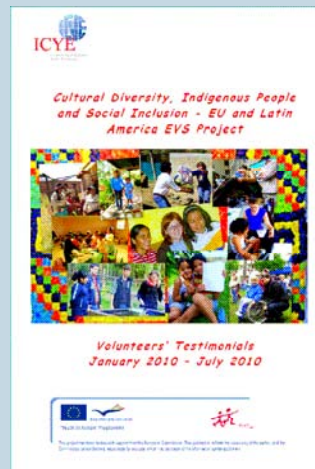
In the evening we sat together and drank some beers and wine against the stress. I, Jannis, slept in my car that night, because then I was sure that nothing would fall on my head, while I'm sleeping.

In fact up here at Living Springs, we did not realise how bad it really was. Our buildings had no obvious damage and we were all good. Slowly the news also reached us. Somebody got a text, that there are dead in the city. Another one experienced that her house was destroyed, by a giant rock. Today we are happy that nobody got hurt up here in Living Springs.

One week has passed now and it has been a strange time. We and other volunteers are now helping in Christchurch to clean up the streets. I hope that the city and the people will recover as quickly as possible.

*Jannis Schaft and Moritz Korthals
German Conscientious Objectors in New Zealand*

EVS Project Documentation "Cultural Diversity, Indigenous People and Social Inclusion"



From January thru June 2010, 15 young volunteers from Latin America and Europe participated in the EVS project on "Cultural Diversity, Indigenous People and Social Inclusion" carrying out voluntary service placements in 8 Central and South American countries and in 5 different EU countries.

The project has been documented to chart the intercultural journey of volunteers that worked in distinct local projects such as indigenous communities, youth clubs and networks, community development and social work agencies as well as organisations for the disabled. The project enhanced young people's engagement in civil society, participation, leadership skills and intercultural awareness and brought an added value to local host communities and youth from disadvantaged background, as well as stimulated increased interest, discussion and practice of volunteerism.

This document is also meant as useful preparation material for international long-term volunteering programmes between the EU and Latin America. Read more or download from:

<http://www.icye.org/images/stories/Publicationspdf/eula2010.pdf>

15 April – 15 October 2011: EYV 2011 – Volunteering Matters!

16 long-term volunteer placements in EU (Austria, Iceland, Spain, Sweden and Turkey), African (Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania), Asian (India, Philippines, Vietnam) and Latin American (Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador,, Mexico) countries.

The EVS project "EYV 2011 – Volunteering Matters," financed by the YiA programme and coordinated by the ICYE International Office, is dedicated to the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and the International Year of Volunteers 2001+10, and aims at take stock of diverse European, African, Asian and Latin American volunteering practices, raise awareness and promote the benefits of volunteering programs and practices for young people and for society as a whole.

The mainstay of the project is to carry out action-research activities to document the experiences of volunteers and local host communities in the respective host country and to contribute actively to the work of the host organisations in promoting volunteering at local, regional and national level. Volunteers will document and carry out presentations about volunteering opportunities in schools, youth centres and NGOs as well as participate in public events to mark the EYV 2011 and/or IYV 2001+10. A final publication will compile the presentations, research results and feedback by sending and host organisations, volunteers, and will be widely disseminated.

4th Networking Conference for Asian and European Young Volunteers (NAEYV) – From Co-operation to Recognition: Creating long-term Strategies

Semarang, Indonesia, 6.-11.02.2011

The ICYE international Office attended the Conference organized by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in partnership with the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) and in cooperation with the Indonesia International Work Camp (IIWC). The conference gathered 40 participants and focussed on the impact and recognition of International Voluntary Service (IVS) with the aim to promote the value and importance of voluntary service as non-formal education tool in the Asia - Europe youth exchange context.

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ICYE Staff News

New ICYE National Correspondent:

- New Zealand – Kate CLARK (Ms)

DISCLAIMER: Please note that the statements and opinions expressed in this newsletter, although edited, are those of the authors and not necessarily the official standpoint of the ICYE Federation or of the editor.