

risc reading international solidarity centre enews

November 2002



a half-termly bulletin for secondary schools, focusing on topical global issues

Citizenship, Rights and Responsibilities

As global citizens we all share basic human rights, yet for many people these rights are being denied. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) focuses on the rights and special needs of children. Every country in the world, apart from Somalia and USA, has signed up to the Convention making it the most universal statement on rights achieved in the 20th Century. Yet, over a decade later... 35,000 children die every day because they are poor... 130,000,000 children do not go to primary school... 1 in 7 schoolchildren is involved in bullying at any one time... despite economic growth in UK in the last 25 years the number of people living below the poverty line has risen from 5 million to nearly 14 million (figures from OXFAM).

Children's Rights are a local and global issue; teaching and learning about them in school is a vital part of preparing young people to participate as adults in an increasingly interdependent world. Citizenship creates opportunities for young people to recognise not only their rights, but their responsibilities, and develop the skills to balance the two. If people think only of their own rights they may trample on the rights of others, if they think only of their responsibilities they may lose sight of their own rights.

Introducing and developing work on Children's Rights and Responsibilities needs time – but when better to start than Universal Children's Rights Day on 20th November? The resources listed provide plenty of ideas, activities and materials to enable teachers to put young people's Rights and Responsibilities into practise.

Human Rights

I am not very old
But I think I understand
How the Human Rights Act
Would work throughout the land.
Freedom within the law
To work and think and pray.
To speak out against injustice
Which many suffer from each day.

I am still a child
But I think I know what's right,
Like standing up for friends
When a bully wants to fight.

We must all work together
To create a better place.
So that all people, everywhere
Can have a living space.

Life is very precious.
We all have much to give.
We must care for one another
And must live and let live.

by Alan Barry (aged 11)

About RISC

RISC is a Development Education Centre located in Reading town centre. We work with schools & community groups to raise the profile of global issues & promote action for sustainable development, human rights & social justice.

The Centre includes conference facilities, exhibition & meeting space, a Fair Trade World Shop & the Global Cafe. Our activities include:

- ❖ providing training for teachers & youth workers on development education resources
- ❖ producing resources such as teaching packs, & exhibitions for use by schools, youth & community groups
- ❖ providing a loan service of artefacts & education packs for schools & youth workers
- ❖ selling books & development education resources, fiction & non-fiction for children & adults on global issues
- ❖ developing an urban roof garden for local & global education
- ❖ organising a programme of events & exhibitions on global issues & speakers from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America
- ❖ promoting campaigns on local & international issues
- ❖ selling fairtrade, organic & environmentally friendly products, and world music CDs
- ❖ giving work experience opportunities for volunteers

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Events: Local... to Global

Events to provide a focus for teachers working with students in Citizenship and other curriculum areas.

November

4-10: *Landmine Action Week* www.landmineaction.org

9: *International Day Against Facism and Anti-semitism* www.unitedagainstracism.org

16: *International Day for Tolerance* – ten ideas for observing the day www.unesco.org/tolerance/teneng.htm

20: *Universal Children's Day* – anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child www.un.org/events

21: *World Television Day* – global exchange of programmes, focusing on peace and security, development and culture www.un.org/events

25: *International Day Against Violence Against Women* www.un.org/events

29: *International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People* (since 1977) www.un.org/events

30: *Buy Nothing Day* –exposes the environmental consequences of consumerism www.buynothingday.co.uk

December

1: *World AIDS Day* www.avert.org/worldaid.htm

2: *International Day for the Abolition of Slavery* www.un.org/events

3: *International Day of Disabled People* www.un.org/events

5: *International Day for Volunteers* www.un.org/events

10: *World Human Rights Day* www.un.org/events

18: *International Migrants Day* www.un.org/events

29: *International Day for Biodiversity* www.un.org/events

UK-wide schools competition raising awareness about Child Slavery

Kids in Focus, together with Anti-Slavery International, are holding a competition to draw attention to the millions of children in slavery throughout the world. It is open to young people aged 11-17. The brief is to design the programme cover for a newly devised theatre show, Kids Working for Kids (KW4K). Entries must be submitted by 31 December 2002. Details from Susan Hayes: 020 8883 0682.

2001-2010: *International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World* www.oneworld.net

RISC Events

In June 2003 we are planning two Global Citizenship days:

- ❖ a Teachers' Day will enable primary and secondary teachers to develop and deliver Global Citizenship across the curriculum as well as through whole school activities
- ❖ a Students' Day will focus on Human Rights issues, fair trade, PR and sustainability – it is being designed for 16+ Geography, Business Studies, Economics, RE and any other interested students.

Resources for teaching about Human Rights

Developing Rights: teaching rights and responsibilities at KS3 Oxfam 1998 £11.00

Through looking at how young people are claiming their rights around the world, pupils are encouraged to consider rights issues in their own lives.

Eye to Eye www.savethechildren.org.uk/eyetoeye/new.html

A website which enables children to find out more about the lives of Palestinian children living under occupation.

Our News, Our Views Anti-Slavery International 1998 £10.00

A video resource pack exploring children's rights, child labour and the media. The news video was made by groups of young people in UK, India, Togo and USA.

Raised Voices UNICEF 1993 £6.95

An inspiring video of children speaking out and making a difference in South Africa, USA, UK and Brazil.

Stand Up For Your Rights Peace Child International 1998 £7.99

A book about human rights written for the young people of the world by children from over 60 countries.

Talking Rights, Taking Responsibilities UNICEF & Manchester Development Education Project 2001 £13.00

A resource which brings together knowledge and understanding of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and discussions of values in everyday life, as part of KS3/4 Speaking and Listening programme of study in English.

Time for Rights Save the Children & UNICEF 2002 £12.00

The emphasis in this resource is on how the rights laid down in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child can be integrated into the curriculum at KS2/3.

RISC has a very wide selection of teaching resources for all ages and curriculum areas as well as a selection of artefacts for loan, please email us your name and address for further information.