



IDE News n°34 June 2016

EDITORIAL

The International Institute for the Rights of the Child is living and breathing for families!

This statement includes all that makes up a family, but particularly the link between a parent and their child. Indeed, the importance of the parental bond was raised during our 7th May Symposium, dedicated to discussing 'shuttle' custody agreements (or alternating residence) for children. The participants included the Cantonal Youth Service in Valais, the Interfaculty Center on Children's Rights of the University of Geneva, Western Switzerland's School of Social Work and the Valais University of Teacher Education.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child underlines in its preamble the importance of family to ensure the harmonious development of a child and affirms that a child has the right to maintain relations with both his parents, even when they are separated. Unfortunately, living with their parents or family is an all too-distant reality for many children. Wars, economic and political situations push people towards exodus and population displacements, such as the world is experiencing today, let children become particularly vulnerable.

For this reason, the IDE and its partners in the ADEM (Alliance for the Rights of Migrant Children), Terre des Hommes and the International Social Service, decided to intensify their efforts towards adequate support of unaccompanied minors, particularly upon their arrival in Switzerland. These measures are in accordance with the principles of the best interest of the child and of their right to be heard. A cooperation agreement was signed by the directors of the three organisations, who have since then formed a united front, with each putting forth their own knowledge and skills to help migrant children.

The importance of a familial bond will also be brought up in the debates and discussions that will take place during October's International Seminary, in Geneva, on alternative care measures, organised with the University of Geneva. Moreover, the IDE has partnered up with a steering group for this conference, made up of international agencies with precious skills. Find out more on this event by visiting the website of the conference:

www.alternativecareGeneva2016.com.

Yes, family is clearly at the heart of the IDE's activities in 2016, but that doesn't mean that our other activities in Switzerland and abroad have been abandoned. The same can be said for the vital internal work undertaken by our collaborators at the IDE, particularly in the field of communication. The analyses made by our scientific pool are also vital, hoping to find very concrete applications for training people in the rights of the child.

The IDE is not the only organisation that stresses the importance of quality training programs to uphold children's rights in the field. Terre des Hommes joined an interdisciplinary group, with the IDE and the Interfaculty Center on Children's Rights of the University of Geneva, in order to lead a communal discussion on how academia and civil society can work together. We will keep you informed as the first results of this group effort become available.

Dear readers, I wish you all a beautiful summer and hope you enjoy discovering what we've been up to!

Paola Riva Gapany



RAISING AWARENESS

OCTOBER SEMINARY

The **International Seminar of Sion**, a key event of IDE's raising awareness activities will be relocated to Geneva's International Conference Center (ICCG) for its 2016 edition, taking place **from the 3rd to the 5th of October**. Do not hesitate to join this group of international experts, professionals, scholars, researchers, government representatives and children who have lived through alternative care, in order to help reflect on good decisions for children who have no parental support or who risk losing that support soon.



Linking research, politics and practical aspects in the field of alternative care, this conference is the continuation of the work undertaken with the **Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children**, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2009. It is organised by the IDE with the Interfaculty Center on Children's Rights of the University of Geneva (CIDE), as well as by a steering group made up of the Better Care Network, Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland, Hope and Homes for Children, the International Federation of Social Workers, International Social

Service, International Federation of Educative Communities, Red latinoamericana de acogimiento familiar, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages and UNICEF.

Discover more information and register (for a reduced fee before the 1st of July) on the conference's website: www.alternativecareGeneva2016.com

Twitter: @altcareGva, #altcareGeneva2016

MAY SYMPOSIUM

On the 19th and 20th of May, a conference on 'shuttle' custody agreements (or alternating residency) was held, titled '**New Forms of Parenting: Time to Share, but What about the Child?**' in Sierre. The seventh of its kind, the conference was organised by the Interfaculty Center on Children's Rights of the University of Geneva and the IDE, in collaboration with the Cantonal Youth Service of Valais, the University of Applied Science of Valais and the HES-SO Valais-Wallis.

The quality of the conference, rich and specialised, was appreciated by all the professionals who were present, helping them to find inspiration for their future practices. The participants came in considerable numbers, with 235 people present on the first day and 200 on the second.

The publication of the conference's proceedings is planned for the end of the year.

GENEVA SUMMER SCHOOL

The **Summer University on Children's Rights** took place from the 6th to the 17th of June, titled Children at the Heart of Human Rights, as part of **Geneva Summer Schools**.



BICENTENNIAL

2015's bicentennial celebration of Valais joining the Swiss Confederation ended with the planting of a larch tree in the 'bicentennial forest,' above the area of Vollèges. With its soft needles, the tree will serve as a reminder of the '**The Child in Valais, from 1815 to 2015: From Jean-Baptiste, the Little Goat Keeper, to Ana Luisa, Interconnected Adolescent**' research

project, for generations to come. This project was jointly led by the IDE and the CIDE in 2015



A high level illustrated publication will see the day on the 18th of November 2016, detailing the results of the project to the public. The publication was completed through a collaboration with the *Annales valaisannes* Review and an editor. A breakdown of the results intended for primary and secondary school children is also planned.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

ABROAD

WEST AFRICA

The first edition of the degree in **Protection and Rights of the Child** came to a close this April 2016. The certificates will be handed out this summer to approximately thirty participants from West and Central Africa.

CHINA

In China, a symposium on juvenile justice is planned for the 10th through the 12th of October 2016 at the University of Fudan (Shanghai).

PANAMA/LATIN AMERICA

In Panama, steps are being taken to develop an online training programme (**Certificate of Advanced Studies in juvenile justice via e-learning**). The first modules will begin in 2017.

'INSIDE THE WALLS' TRAINING PROGRAMS

Registration for the 9th edition of the **Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (MCR)** 2017-2018 is open until first November 2016!

The 8th edition of the **Interdisciplinary Master on the Rights of the Child (MIDE)** will commence this autumn. Registration is closed, but candidates interested in joining for the 2017-2018 school year may

apply through [the website of the University of Geneva](#), starting this coming January 2017.

The fourth edition of the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) '[Child victims, child witnesses: the word of child in the justice system](#),' geared towards professionals in the fields of magistracy, police and the protection of children, began with a first module on the 11th and 12th of March and a second on the 13th and 14th of May. Five other modules are planned from now until May 2017. Students will then work on their thesis through September 2017.

CUSTOM MADE TRAINING PROGRAMMES

SENEGAL

A second training of trainers programme in [juvenile justice](#) (FFJJ2) is underway in Senegal. It is based on a model created from 2012-2014. The first module took place from the 29th of February to the 4th of March, and the second took place from the 30th of May to the 3rd of June, at the Judicial Training Centre in Dakar. On this occasion, a meeting was organised between 10 or so 'graduates' of the FFJJ1 and current participants.



This meeting illustrated how well the interdisciplinary training programmes were getting along. Immediately, the graduates stated that such an exchange between different actors in the regions of Senegal was particularly important (to get to know one another). They also emphasised the interest of this programme to learn working together. Some graduates even shared that they had been approached to train others. In fact, three graduates joined the 2nd module as lecturers.

For the 1st and 2nd modules, visits were planned in the field, most notably at the Thiès Detention Centre. While there, the IDE learned that the collaboration between the important actors in the justice system and those working in prisons had been reinforced. We also learned that the average duration of temporary custody has gone down.

The Institute was also pleased to note that the juvenile facilities had been renovated. The NGO For the Smile of a Child (*Pour le sourire d'un enfant*) serves as a

consultant body for the audiences of children and minors. They also had them partake in fencing classes outside of the prison and participate in wood and metalwork workshops.

The third module will take place from the 18th to the 22nd of July. The fourth and final module will be held in Switzerland from the 29th of August to the 2nd of September.

CZECH REPUBLIC

In the Czech Republic, the NGO [Cesko-britska o.p.s.](#) and the IDE's fourth [Justice adapted to children: Children and the media](#) project has taken place. The project began two years ago and ended with a 2-day symposium from the 2nd-3rd of May, in Brno, where 50 professionals working with and for children and two Supreme Court justices were present.

BULGARIA

In Bulgaria, a contract is being drawn up with the Minister of Justice. He had previously asked the IDE to help flesh out last year's training programme to help reinforce the juvenile justice system, using three modules on training instructors, mediation in situations of juvenile crime and techniques on exercising a child's right to be heard.

PAEDIATRICIANS

On the 20th of June, in the context of the [Practician's Symposium](#) of the paediatric medical and surgical department at the CHUV, Paola Riva Gapany led a discussion on the 'Rights of the Child: Challenges facing Swiss health professionals in 2016,' with a paediatric and perinatal psychosocial group from the GHOL, in Nyon. This conference was worth 1 SSP credit for continued education.

SOMALIA

Somalia, together with the United States, was the last State remaining who hadn't ratified the UN's Convention on the Rights of the Child. Somalia finally [took the leap in 2015](#), a move that was celebrated by the international community. This raises the question of how to implement these rights. In this vein, the IDE will organise a reflection day on the 7th of November with their partner, [the RAJO Association](#). The goal is to unite all the parties concerned with the rights of the child in Somalia, to become aware of local children's needs, as well as to determine the need for training programmes, thanks to the help of Somali university professors.

More information and how to register will be available soon on the www.childsrights.org website.

NETWORK

ISPCAN

From the 5th to the 7th of May, the IUKB welcomed the general assembly of the [International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect](#)

(ISPCAN). The Interfaculty Center on Children's Rights of the University of Geneva and the IDE actively participated in the high level work of this international and multidisciplinary association of professionals, active in the protection of children.

ADEM

The Swiss Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of Social Affairs (CDAS) announced on the 20th of May that it had adopted a list of **recommendations** for the care of unaccompanied migrant children (MNA) in Switzerland.

The **Alliance for the Rights of Migrant Children** (Terre des Hommes, International Social Service, IDE) **welcomes** these intercantonal minimum standards adopted by the CDAS. It hopes that the cantons will ease the access to vocational training to migrant children, notably through intercantonal collaboration. As a reminder, the ADEM had called for these intercantonal minimum standards at its last symposium in November 2015. The ADEM will pursue its efforts for an effective implementation of these recommendations in the cantons.

Note that as a result of this adoption, the next annual symposium of the ADEM that will take place on the 10th of November in Bern (save the date!), will cover this topic.

RSDE

In the context of the **Child Rights Network Switzerland**, of which the IDE is a founding member, a **table** was completed, detailing contact people for implementing changes at the federal level, in intercantonal conferences and NGOs of each of the **Concluding Observations made by the UN's Committee on the Rights of the Child to Switzerland on the 4th of February 2015**. This summary was put together by the Swiss Federal Social Security Office (OFAS) with the help of the Swiss Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of Social Affairs (CDAS) and the Swiss Network for the Rights of the Child.

THE SARAH OBERSON FOUNDATION

On the 21st of March, a press release on child runaways was published in German, completing an awareness campaign on missing children that started in 2012, following a meeting of the heads of several of Valais's cantonal services.

Between 2014 and 2016, the Foundation carried out a huge **information campaign in schools** across the canton. Edited with the help of the State of Valais, 60,000 flyers were distributed among nursery schools, pre-schools, primary schools, secondary schools and trade schools. The second step of this campagne was to help raise awareness on various topics linked to missing children, such as parental abduction ('Parental Separation, Missing Children,' May 2015), runaways and the enhancement of alert systems for missing children, and the necessity for national

statistics and scientific studies regarding the disappearance of children (press releases).

It is also worth noting that the Foundation's annual report of activities 2015 is **available online**.

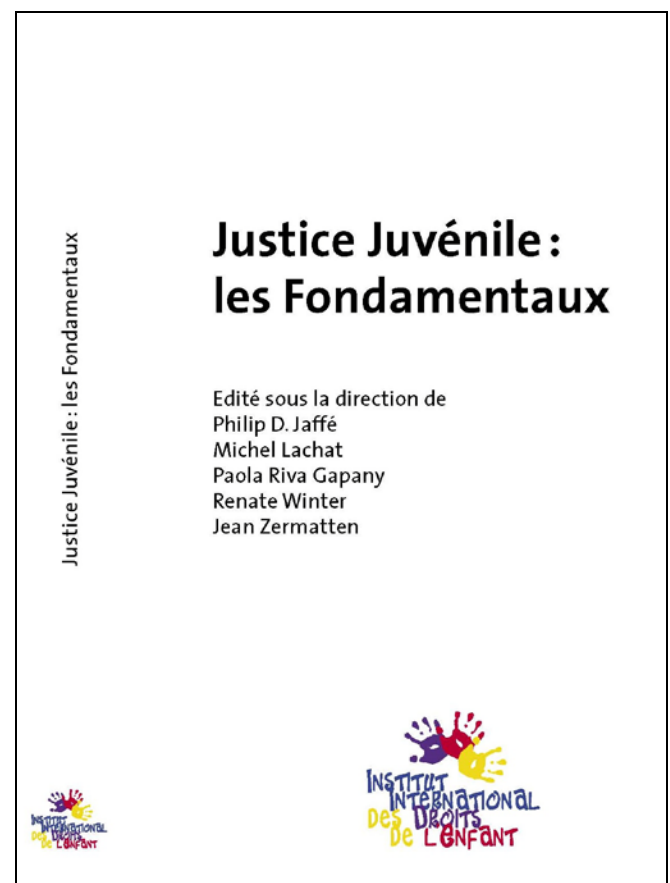
PUBLICATIONS

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

The IDE is pleased to announce the publication of *Justice Juvénile: Les Fondamentaux*, edited by Philip D. Jaffé, Michel Lachat, Paola Riva Gapany, Renate Winter and Jean Zermatten. Thirty experts in this field came together to share their knowledge and experience over some 500 pages, in order to be of use to other professionals.

This publication gives information on the existing framework, giving an objective basis for all interventions. It brings up the principal questions that must be asked as soon as players are mobilised into taking action, such as for diversionary actions. It attempts to provide examples of best practices and really, it shows how important proper training can be.

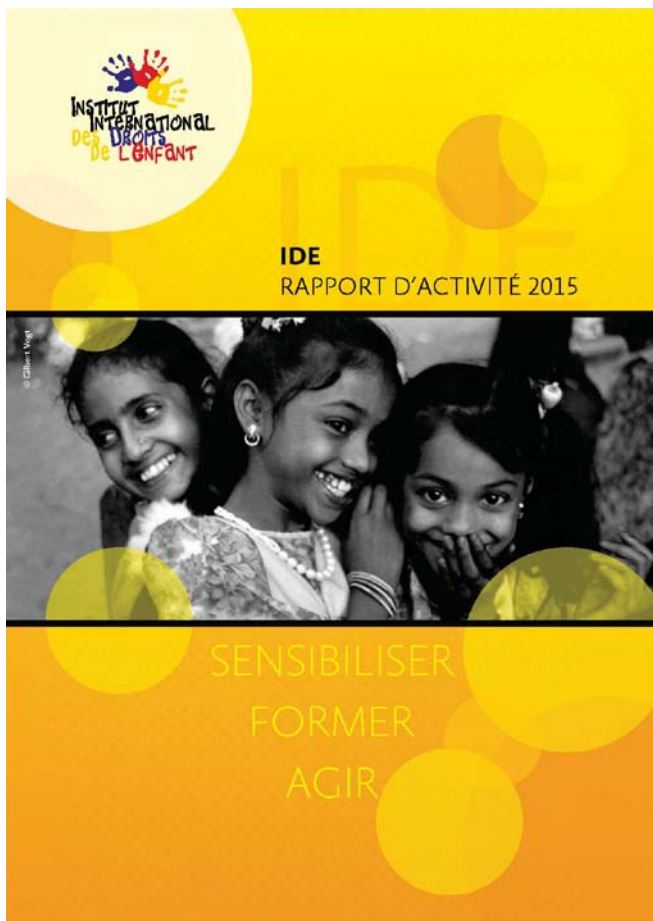
For more information and to order your own copy, visit the IDE's website: www.childsrights.org



ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report of the International Institute on the Rights of the Child's activities 2015 has arrived! It can be downloaded on the website:

www.childsrights.org.



RESEARCH



First of all, the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR) **welcomes the decision of the Swiss Federal Council, on the 29th of June, to create a National Human Rights Institution!**

Since the 1st of January 2016, the work of the SCHR has been focussed on **three research projects**. They are the restriction of freedom, **access to justice** and rights for particularly vulnerable groups of the population. The area in charge of child and youth policy at the SCHR, in which the IDE participates, broaches the topic of access to justice from a child's point of view. The **case study** on the implementation of the Council of Europe's guidelines for a justice system adapted to children is currently underway, with a special look at two kinds of child hearings (placement in civil law and the deportation of a foreign parent).

In collaboration with the policy area of Gender, the co-head of the research axis Access to Justice, the area of Child and Youth policy will organise a conference on the 30th of August 2016, titled '**Justice for everyone: A necessity for human rights. Switzerland's challenges in the rights of women and children,**' in Bern. On this occasion, the first results of the study will be discussed through various workshops.

Team:

Paola Riva Gapany, Jean Zermatten, Michel Lachat, Daniel Stoecklin, Jean-Henry Papilloud, Aline Sermet, Andressa Curry Messer, Evelyne Monnay, Faustina Desfayes, Elvira Fischer, Marc Zufferey, Alexandra Prince, Zikreta Ukic, Victoria Buchs, Theodoor Gerritsen, Frédéric Darbellay, Céline Morisod, Daniel Burnat, Diana Volonakis, Dania Marti, Nathalie Berger, Olga Lucia Poretti, Linda Rodriguez, Ana Miràs, Vanessa Vogel, Christian Ungersboeck, Manuela Salamin, Bizheng Lin, Liu Zhan, Clara Balestra for the Sarah Oberson Foundation.