

**The World programme for Human Rights Education (2005-on going):
UN system to support national implementation of human rights education
in the school system**

Wednesday, 26 November 2008 18:00 -19:30, Room 3

**Organised by the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Human
Rights Education in the School System (UNIACC)**

*“Strengthening networks and partnerships at the National Level through the Programme
SCREAM (Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media)*

Maria Gabriella Lay

Thank you for organizing this side-event at the Conference on Education to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration. The workshop on “**Public policies addressing issues of poverty, marginality, inequality and child labour**” this morning, opened an interesting debate on the need to support human rights education in the school system. The outcome of this meeting will certainly offer a good contribution.

I would like to open my presentation with a short video from the “Child to Child Solidarity Concert” by the Suzuki Orchestra, a children orchestra. The video is very special: it denounces a blatant violation of basic rights inflicted to million of boys and girls in the world today and conveys a moving message of solidarity and a strong call to champion the rights of all children.

Prelude Pugnani-Kreisler

The International Labour organization (ILO) is constitutionally mandated to promote social justice and fundamental principles and rights at work as the basis for universal and lasting peace. The ILO strives for economic growth with equity, social progress and the

eradication of poverty. Central objective of its policy is to promote a fair globalization, productive employment for adults – men, women and young people - and the effective abolition of child labour.

The exploitation of children is a violation of basic children’s rights. It deprives them of education, health and safety, and by depleting human capital, it perpetuates the cycle of poverty. Abolishing child labour has thus been a priority for the ILO action since its founding in 1919.

The ILO is keen in investing in human capital. Quality education gives way to behavioural change in present and future generations. It constitutes the foundation of social progress and it is vital to develop a fair, industrious and productive world of work.

In the year 2002, on the first World Day Against Child Labour the ILO launched the SCREAM programme, an education and social mobilization initiative meant to help educators world wide - in formal and non-formal education settings - to cultivate young people’s understanding of social justice and human rights issues. It focuses on causes and consequences of child labour in a globalized economy. SCREAM stands for Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media. The programme places heavy emphasis on the use of visual, literary and performing arts and provides young people with powerful tools of self-expression while supporting their personal and social development. It is based on the four pillars of the *Delors* education approach – “*learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be*”. It crosses creative, emotional, cognitive and artistic modes which are instrumental to educating a “future mind”. It’s learning process impacts upon the perceptions of young people and leads to changes in attitudes and behaviour.

Young people will come to realize and fulfil their potential as agents of social change within their communities and gradually acquire a sense of “*glocal citizenship*” – thinking globally and acting locally. Thousands of children worldwide - from primary to high school as well as universities - are now involved in SCREAM-driven projects in diverse socio-cultural settings. They are expressing their creativity in music and theatre performances, visual arts and canvases, photo exhibits, seminars, debates, interviews, and academic projects that deepen their awareness while contributing to social change.

The promotion of human rights education is central to the ILO policy. The Plan of Action of the World Programme has been endorsed in IPEC policy and gradually supported through the implementation of SCREAM in the field. SCREAM is an effective tool, available in 19 languages, fully adaptable to different social, cultural and economic contexts. I would briefly mention relevant steps that put in motion a domino effect in all continents.

- **Firstly, a Memorandum was initially addressed** to all ILO Area Office Directors, ILO Branch Office Directors, **Standards Specialists**, ILO/IPEC Field Staff and IPEC Desk Officers in HQ to *inform* on the WPHRE Plan of Action and about the role and responsibility of the ILO as UNIACC member, including concrete indications to *follow up*. The CDs with the 2 UNIACC letters sent to all Ministries of Education and UN Resident Coordinators were distributed as well as copies of the Plan of Action booklet and leaflet. Staff was encouraged to report SCREAM related activities to the Ministry of Education as well as to coordinate action with the UN Resident Coordinator in their respective countries.

- During the International Labour Conference, in bilateral meetings with country delegations of representatives from governments, workers' and employers, constant advocacy work has been promoted to reinforce communication with Ministries of Education as well as with the UN Resident Coordinators. (RENGO)
- The **World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) 2008 has been used as a platform to promote the WPHRE and UNIACC.** The theme of the year's WDACL - **Education: the right response to child labour** - presented a good opportunity to promote the WPHRE worldwide.
- The WPHRE and UNIACC was mentioned in the "International Level Action" section of the joint ILO/IPEC – Education International brochure "**Quality education is the right response to child labour – a resource for teachers and educators**". Education International represents 30 million teachers worldwide in more than 70 countries and territories and includes over 390 member organizations. This provides a remarkable network of key actors who can be potentially mobilised in the promotion of human rights education. A preliminary discussion with Education International for a large scale joint initiative is underway.
- A joint UNIACC statement was prepared and approved by all committee members on the occasion of this year's WDACL. The statement has been translated into French and has been made available on WDACL section of the ILO/IPEC website (www.ilo.org/ipec), and on the 12 to 12 Community Portal on child labour (www.12to12.org). Some members of the UNIACC also created a link to the WDACL section of the ILO website and I invite all members to do the same.

- The Director General of the ILO made reference to the joint statement in the 12 June Plenary Session of the International Labour Conference. The joint UNIACC statement was also mentioned in the Press Release for the WDACL

In the context of the worldwide movement for the progressive elimination of child labour and in conjunction with SCREAM, the ILO established the 12 to 12 Partnership Initiative. This initiative – partnership for sustainable and global impact – aims to harness the commitment and motivation of different partners through a range of joint action, activities and programme in the build-up towards the WDACL on June 12. From 12 June to the following 12 June, hence “12 to 12”, partners and collaborators create momentum for action oriented social and political commitment. The 12 to 12 Partnership Initiative bring together UN agencies, governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations, NGOs, municipalities and mayors, academic institutions, the artistic community in the fight against child labour, and in the broader framework of human rights, productive employment and decent work for a fair globalization.

- All partners of the “12 to 12 Partnership Initiative” have been informed of the WPHRE Plan of Action and UNIACC and are encouraged to promote human rights education within the framework of their respective mandates.
- All the new MOUs between ILO/IPEC and partner organisations of the Global Campaign include a key paragraph on the WPHRE and UNIACC. For example this was included in the MOU signed between ILO/IPEC and CARE USA which was launched on the WDACL, 12 June 2008.

- In non-formal education settings, a special mention deserves the fruitful collaboration with the World Scout Movement Organization for the extraordinary ripple effect in the promotion of the WPHRE. The WOSM is a Movement of volunteers operating through a worldwide network of local groups belonging to national Scout organizations in about 155 countries.

In the era of global and rapid change, “Delivering as ONE” approach becomes the obligatory way in delivering human rights-based quality education, if we want maximize the effectiveness of our work and empower the excluded, the most vulnerable. ILO/IPEC is fully committed in developing joint policies, publications, websites links, and in particular in reinforcing collaboration with Ministries of Education.

In view of the 10th Anniversary of ILO Convention 182 and the 90th anniversary of the ILO in 2009 we are preparing a special programme within the framework of the Global Plan of Action, where education - human rights-based education - will be central.