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1. 335: 18 SEE NATIONAL COMgIIIEE EOR CHILDREN'B RIGHTS?

The: National Committee for Children's Rights (NCCR) was established after extensive consultation' between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) , the African National Congress (ANC) and various South African non-governmental organisations involved with the crisis situation of women and children in South Africa. Following these consultations, Mrs Albertina Sisulu and Sister Bernard Ncube convened in Gaborone, Botswana a consultative conference on 15 to 17 April 1990 to review the plight of children in apartheid South Africa. The consultation which was held under the auspices of UNICEF brought together 45 delegates from the ANC and various anti-apartheid and professional organisations. The conference provided a unique opportunity to examine the situation of children in the present phase of struggle in South Africa,

In her opening address Mrs Sisulu highlighted the harrowing experience of children under the present apartheid repression, especially under the state of emergency. She outlined the . cruelty and brutality of the apartheid system on children. Mrs Sisulu appealed to the international community to maintain .sanctions and other forms of pressure on South Africa and to continue the support being given to the struggling people of South Africa.

The conference underlined the law of effective legal provisions to protect children and their vulnerability in the face of the determination of the apartheid regime to maintain the oppression of the majority of the people despite its declared intention to negotiate an end to the inhuman system. of apartheid. The deliberate and systematic targeting of children by armed vigilantes, armed, aided and abetted by apartheid security forces has become the dominant feature of continued attacks on people's organisations, particularly in the strife-torn Natal region. The meeting noted that children are the victims of the apartheid system. Children suffer from inter-alia, hunger, homelessness, malnutrition, abuse, crime and high rates of infant mortality particularly in the rural area. To-day an alarmingly increasing number of children have become street children and internal refugees. -

The meeting committed itself to set in a concerned way to keep both South African and international public aware of the plight of children in South Africa, especially in Natal. The conference resolved:

1. to continue and extend the task of monitoring and exposing the repression and-abuse of children and urged all professional groups and democratic

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organisations, the world over, to act in concert in the protection of children and help free them from the horrors of apartheid.

to call on the international communities to intensify sanctions and other forms of pressures on the apartheid system. '

to , urge all government, i non-governmental and international organisations to declare their support for all activities aimed at the liquidation of the apartheid system and the protection of children. cannot lead a normal life until apartheid and the legacy that it will leave us has been destroyed. Further and significantly, the conference noted the heroic role children have played in the struggle against apartheid and for the improvement of their lot. The conference stressed that any constitutional order in a liberated South Africa should take into cognisance the rights of children.

The conference called on all' concerned individuals and organisations in South Africa to join hands in achieving the objectives of the campaign. It underlined the central role to 'be played by religious and community organisations, trade unions and all other concerned personalities.

i;Following the conference, the convenors consulted widely within South Africa on the nature if the structures necessary to cater for the specific needs of all children. All individuals and organisations consulted throughout the country agreed that apartheid goes against the basic tenets of human rights and that system.

the children of South Africa have been the worst victims of this Presently apartheid is in a crisis manifesting itself through the gross abuse of the rights of the child. The number of children is on the increase in both rural and urban areas of South Africa. There is an education crisis in the country, the majority

of children are out of school. There are inadequate health facilities. Children have been the very victims of systematic violence and child abuse. Under repression and difficult conditions, community organisations have initiated programmes to address the situation of children. Such initiatives need to be strengthened.

ngEThere has never been in South Africa a national structure catering for the specific needs of all children, Thus the convenors

of the Gaborone Conference recommended the establishment of a non-profit making and non-governmental organisation (NGO) called the National Committee for Children's Rights

(NCCR) and charged it with the task of launching a nationwide awareness campaign for the protection and promotion of children's rights. It is envisaged that the campaign will have the effect of setting the pace for the entrenchment and protection of the rights of the child in a future South Africa.

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uch a campaign necessitates the co-ordination of individual efforts of the different organisations which deal with the issues of children, at local, regional and national levels. To this end the NCCR decided to encourage the formation of the regional forums in fifteen regions of South Africa. The forums are composed of representatives of community and professional organisations as well as individuals concerned with children.

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2. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES OF THE NCCR:

2.1 An awareness campaign to highlight the present crisis of children is to be embarked upon.

2.2 Research to provide data on the situation of children in South Africa. '

2.3 Training provided to people who are involved with children (e.g child care, counselling, training etc)

2.4 To facilitate work in progress by different organisations.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

3.1 A Nation wide campaign to raise awareness, using booklets, posters, stickers, T-shirts and audio-visual media, cultural performance- and a special child rights song for publicity. It will include mass education (formal and informal) workshops (child rights, and training), public events (meetings, teaching, marches, networking with national and international organisations concerned with children).

3.2 Research: A situation analysis dealing with demography, welfare, health, education and society, rural and local government, children, women and health.

3.3 Training. retraining and upgrading of parents, teachers, health and welfare workers.

4. M E O

Pursuant to its objectives the NCCR entered into an agreement of co-operation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the improvement of services for children and women in South Africa, especially those which will ensure their survival, protection and development. The agreement between UNICEF and NCCR (known as the Master Plan of Operations)' deals with general policies, priorities, objectives, strategies and management responsibilities.

4.1. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES;

The current programme has the following objectives:

(a)

to make all the people of South Africa aware and concerned about the situation of children in South Africa and about the rights of children as determined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the aim of protecting and entrenching these rights in a future Constitution. '

to assist in improving the capacity of all those democratic non-racial non-governmental organisations in South Africa, concerned with the protection of children and strengthen the work, particularly at local and regional levels.

to develop a more comprehensive information base on children and women in South Africa, with the aim of publicising this information in ways that it can be used by non-racial democratic popular organisations for mobilising communities to action to protect children,

The NCCR shall commission existing (or new NGO) to carry out specific projects. Such NGOs shall develop the objectives of this programme for each project.

4.2. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND PROJECTS:

To achieve the objectives stated above the NCCR shall adopt the following

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allowing strategy:

assist as many non-racial democratic NGOs as possible to be involved with, and to support its programme. In particular, the NCCR will support the evolution of a network of NGOs and professional organisations in each region which would be concerned with children's issues.

support and assist the work of non-racial and democratic NGOs in South Africa who have already started to address the problems of children.

support the mobilisation of community awareness for the protection and promotion of the rights of children in South Africa, using all possible channels of publicity and media, including non-traditional media, cultural channels and the involvement of Communities.

4.2.4 organise joint monitoring strategies with UNICEF at venues agreed to by both UNICEF and the NCCR. UNICEE and the NCCR have agreed on three specific projects:

Project 1 ihi

Objectives:

1. To increase the awareness and understanding about situation of children in South Africa among all the people of South Africa.

2. To create awareness and support for the rights of all the children based upon the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and other international Conventions which protect the children. i

To thus end the NCCR will:

1. Encourage regional forums to launch and oversee awareness campaign for children's rights.

2. Encourage regional forums to re-launch such campaign on the 1st June every year (International children's Day) and by undertaking activities which will educate, motivate and mobilise the largest possible numbers of South Africans on children's rights.

3. Produce educational and publicity materials carrying the message of children's rights.

4. Hold public events to inform people directly about children's rights.

5. Establish links with existing educational programmes organised by non-racial and democratic organisations which can incorporate the information and the message about children's rights then ongoing programmes.

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Research into children and women in South Africa:

South Africa

Objectives:

1. To develop a reliable database on children and women without the distortions of the apartheid system which exposes in concrete terms the current situation of children and women in South Africa.

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2. To build up and maintain a compendium of the agencies inside South Africa who are involved with the care and protection of children, and in the promotion of children's rights.

3. To make data about children and women available, in an analysed form, and in a format and languages which make the data accessible to all peoples of South Africa.

Activities:

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1. The NCCR and UNICEF shall on the advice and recommendations of regional forums identify NGOs and/or professional organisations and individuals working in the fields of health, children, socio-economic, rural and local government, law and society, education, welfare, demography and women. Such NGOs shall be commissioned to undertake a situation analysis study on women and children. :rJdt 9bYJJ N-w Nk \$lo-wgvstw' "... MAW-

The convenors of such a study shall constitute the situation analysis task force which shall define the terms of reference for the preparation of the situation analysis, and define the process which will be followed to collate the information/data needed to prepare the reports. The task force will also determine, subject to the approval of the NCCR, whether regional studies will be undertaken to highlight certain issues.

The regional forums will identify the people and institutions who will undertake the data collections and analysis and recommend them to the NCCR.

The people and institutions identified to undertake the situation analysis will define a work plan and detailed budget for the exercise.

The NCCR and UNICEF will provide training for the people identified to undertake the situation analysis.

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Support to NGOs working for children in South Africa.

Objectives:

1. To expand the service delivery capacity of non-racial democratic NGOs concerned with children in South Africa in order that they might address the immediate needs for children survival, protection and development (CSPD).

To strengthen the management and organisational capacity of non-racial, democratic NGOs concerned with children to plan, monitor and report on the activities which they undertake for children.

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3. To facilitate the establishment, maintenance and expansion of a network of non-racial democratic NGOs concerned with the situation of children in South Africa. -

Activities:

1. :The activities under this pfojedt will'iQQlude among other things the fellowing: xi

(a) training of staff working for NGOs involved in child care,counselling etc,

(b) support for the expansion of rural community based day care activities.

(c) provision of emergency relief to children and women displaced by the civil strife and support for NGOs.

(d) running courses for: teachers sand health workers involved with children especially in rural areas.

5. PROJECT MANAGEMENT:

The NCCR has entered into an agreement with UNICEF for the purpose of implementing the project description in paragraph 4 above and agreed to appoint the Institute for Contextual Theology as an agency responsible for the programme management of the plan of operations. In its task the ICT will be supported by the Board of Trustees of the NCCR acting on the advice and recommendations of the National Consultative Forums composed of representatives of all fifteen regional forums referred to above. The Institute for Contextual Theology and the Board of Trustees will ensure the co-operation of the different NGOs which are concerned with the implementation of the project. The specific responsibility for administration, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of each project will be given to an appropriate NGO determined by the NCCR Board of Trustees in consultation with UNICEF. The responsibility of the various projects will be specified in the agreement between the NCCR, UNICEF and the NGO which has been commissioned to do the work. -

6. Pgoennss INDICATORS

6.1 Publications and media articles-on children in South Africa.

6.2 Situation analysis of children in South Africa.

6.3 Public launch of national campaign on the plight of children. -

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6.4 Workshops, meetings and other public events.

6.5 Improved performance of personnel involved with issues affecting children.

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ANNEXURE 1: 3 UNICEF goals for children and development in the 19903.

" 2: The UN Convention on the rights of the child.

" 3: 1979 OAU Declaration: Rights and welfare of the African child.