



MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN

VOICES AGAINST POVERTY



International - United Nations Millennium Campaign

www.millenniumcampaign.org

Canada - Make Poverty History

www.millenniumpromise.org

Calgary - Children Without Poverty

www.makepovertyhistory.ca

childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca

CHILDREN WITHOUT POVERTY Monthly Newsletter: December, 2006

Please do your part.

The millennium campaign was created in 2000 by the United Nations to eradicate extreme poverty & hunger by 2015.

Please help. Please read on to help and wear a white band to show your support. White bands are available for \$1 from www.millenniumcampaign.org or by emailing childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca.

“The world has agreed upon a road map to a better future in the form of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which stem from the Millennium Declaration, adopted in 2000 by 189 countries. The goals set quantitative targets to address extreme poverty and hunger, child and maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS and other diseases, while promoting universal primary education, gender equality, environmental sustainability and a global partnership for development by 2015. The MDGs serve as a framework to make the Millennium Declaration’s vision of a world of peace, security, solidarity and shared responsibility a reality.”

Ann Veneman, Executive Director, United Nations Children’s Fund.

“Five years into our work on the Millennium Development Goals, we can see the many ways in which the goals care about children. If we can get it right for children – if we can deliver on our commitments and enable every child to enjoy the right to a childhood, to health, education, equality and protection – we can get it right for people of all ages. I believe we can.”

Kofi A. Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

How are we doing with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?

“Missing the MDGs would have devastating implications for the children of this generation, and for the adults they will become if they survive their childhoods. At current rates of progress, for example, 8.7 million children under five will still die in 2015, whereas if the target were met 3.8 million of those lives would be saved in that year alone.” (unicef, The state of the world’s children 2006: Excluded and Invisible, p 4-5) With your hope, prayers and help you can turn this around.

Did you Know?

It took all of human history up to the early 1800s for world population to reach 1 billion people, and until 1960 to reach 3 billion. Today, the world gains 1 billion people every 11 years. We are nearing 7 billion.....

<http://www.populationaction.org/issues/index.htm>

The world’s human population currently numbers about ~~6.4~~ 6.8 billion people, (heck we will likely be at 7 billion by the time you read this...if you want to watch it climb and see the impact go to <http://www.worldometers.info/>) and the figure grows by about 76 million people each year, or around 209,000 each day. This annual addition to population stems in large part from the unprecedented size of current population. The growth rate itself has actually declined

CHILDREN WITHOUT POVERTY is not a registered charity. Please donate to the charity of your choice. We recommend: www.millenniumpromise.org (not a registered Canadian charity), www.tear.org (not a registered Canadian charity), www.calgaryfoodbank.com.

since 1970, from about 2 percent to about 1.5 percent today. However, because this rate is applied to a much larger population than in 1970 — when world population stood at 3.7 billion people — the added yearly increments are larger. If the population growth rate is not reduced further, world population will double by the year 2040. This growing global population affects the welfare of communities and ecosystems around the world.

Convention on the Rights of the Child – ratified by all but two countries:

In 1989, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](http://www.unicef.org/crc/index.html). This landmark treaty, now ratified by all but two countries on earth, spells out the rights of all children ... to health, to education, to an adequate standard of living, to leisure and play, to protection from exploitation, to express their own opinions ... and many more. All children have these rights. If you are a parent or teacher, or just want to learn more go to: <http://www.unicef.org/crc/index.html>.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely and rapidly ratified human rights treaty in history. **Only two countries, Somalia and the United States, have not ratified this celebrated agreement.** Somalia is currently unable to proceed to ratification as it has no recognized government. By signing the Convention, the United States has signalled its intention to ratify – but has yet to do so.

As in many other nations, the United States undertakes an extensive examination and scrutiny of treaties before proceeding to ratify. This examination, which includes an evaluation of the degree of compliance with existing law and practice in the country at state and federal levels, can take several years – or even longer if the treaty is portrayed as being controversial or if the process is politicized. For example, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide took more than 30 years to be ratified in the United States and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was signed by the United States 17 years ago, still has not been ratified. Moreover, the US Government typically will consider only one human rights treaty at a time. Currently, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is cited as the nation's top priority among human rights treaties.

UNICEF makes no mention on their website that the US, of all countries, is one of the two that has not ratified this agreement.

“The principles of universality and non-discrimination that underlie the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Millennium Declaration and “A World Fit for Children” must provide the framework for our actions concerning children and adolescents. Our commitments to children must not, under any circumstances, merely pay lip service to these principles while tacitly accepting that some children will remain hungry, in poor health and without education or protection from harm. Having ratified these binding international agreements, national governments – and the international institutions and civil society organizations that support them in their efforts – have obligations, both moral and legal, to do their utmost to ensure that no child is left out.” (The State of the World’s Children 2006, unicef: page 7). If you think this information pertains only to the third world, think again. “2003 statistics show that 1 in 8 Canadian children under the age of 18 (12.4 % of the Canadian children) are growing up in a low-income household. Ours is not yet a world fit for children.” (Sherri Torjman, A World Fit for Children, Caledon Institute of Social Policy).

The Power of ‘One’ – your letters make a difference

Our Canadian Government overwhelmingly voted on September 20th in favour of the Better Aid Bill (C-293), for Canadian aid spending to be focused on ending poverty. In the lead up to the vote, Make Poverty History supporters sent over 15,000 emails to the Minister for International Co-operation and MPs calling on them to support the bill.

Know that grass roots approaches and letters to your politicians letting them know what you think – does work.



Tired, just plain tired of the ‘hands in your pockets’ wanting your money, and the people at your door wanting your time? If you don’t have time or money. Then consider your role in the underlying principles of protecting and securing a future for those less fortunate. We are all world citizens. You can start by standing up for your neighbors’ rights as world citizens. When you see violations of human rights, support the victim and say NO to the bully. The 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an important document and a fundamental structure to eliminate the problems of childrens’ poverty in the world. These fundamental precepts include:

- the right to life, liberty and security;
- the right to equal recognition before the law and equal protection, including public hearings by independent tribunals;
- the rights to freedom of movement, thought, conscience, religion, opinion, expression and assembly;
- economic, social and cultural rights “indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality”; and
- the right to property, and the right to an ‘adequate’ standard of living and to education and equal pay for equal work.

The declaration also prohibits slavery, discrimination and torture, as well as arbitrary arrests. If we agree that basic universal rights exist, then our responsibilities as world citizens essentially involve acting to guarantee that people everywhere enjoy these rights. Your silence or turning a blind eye to the situation, may as well have you cheering for the wrong side. Does your silence support inappropriate behavior?

- **Carla Mohler-Specht** is working with teachers in Calgary schools to integrate the grade 3 curriculum, where children in Alberta are already discussing geopolitics around Poverty, with the United Nations Millennium Campaign. If you know a teacher interested, get them in touch with Carla: childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca.
- **Richelle Wilson** is focussed on education, writing, personal coaching and research of the fundamentals of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their structures to find the root cause to assist in making the world a better place for hungry – poverty stricken children. She is creating an extensive library and research base to draw from, providing a base of knowledge for the newsletters to draw from. She is interested in doubling the circulation of the newsletter in 2007 – send in your recommendations of who needs to see this newsletter. She is interested in working both locally and internationally. She has a passion to arm your desires with education to help with the knowledge you will require in order to make the personal impact that you are looking for to be fulfilled in your own life. She has been personally actively searching for over one year, and has not yet found the resting place or root cause she wishes to contribute, although there are tertiary beneficiaries along the way. When I do find something I am interested in, I find it often difficult as a layman to contribute. I want to open those doors for people, who do not have the time to invest, to make your impact in your own way (without adding a burden to your lifestyle and passion). I want to remove that burden of education/information finding from your quest. The information you need may be related to finding the right cause or place to put your time or money. Making that personal impact in your own life. Giving back to you, to feel satisfied and fulfilled in how you are choosing to live your life. Or helping you find that value that is buried deep, and bringing it to the surface to help you be a better world citizen. Some of our tertiary benefactors to date are: 1. The Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank 2. The Block Parent Association 3. The School & Grade 3 Program 4. The Inn From the Cold 5. The Christian Children’s Fund 6. CentrePoint 7. Millennium Promise 8. World Vision 9. Girl Guides 10. Samaritan’s Purse 11. Make Poverty History.

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