



International Foster Care Organisation

Registered UK Charity: 1081324

[www.ifco.info](http://www.ifco.info)

Laan van Meerdervoort 70 2517 AN Den Haag, The Netherlands  
Tel: +3170 346 2153 Fax: +3170 427 9242 E-mail: [ifco@ifco.info](mailto:ifco@ifco.info)

**IFCO E-Newsletter / 5**  
**February 2007**

\*\*\*\*

**IFCO invites you to translate this newsletter into your own language and send it further to contacts in your country and elsewhere who may not yet be IFCO members (membership details are on the [www.ifco.info](http://www.ifco.info) web site) - thank you!**

\*\*\*\*

**1. Update for IFCO February Conference in New Zealand**

At our latest IFCO conference held this past week (11-14 February) in New Zealand. We will be updating our website shortly with the newest information. Our newly elected Board Members have been hard at work with determining plans for IFCO's future, and are shown below:



Andal Damodaran- India



John Role- Malta



Howard Green- America

Laan van Meerdervoort 70 2517 AN Den Haag, The Netherlands  
Tel: +3170 346 2153 Fax: +3170 427 9242 E-mail: [ifco@ifco.info](mailto:ifco@ifco.info)



Mamoru Watanbe-Japan



Soon-Won Kang- Korea

You may learn more about these individuals by visiting our Members Only section of our website at: [www.ifco.info](http://www.ifco.info). Get the latest details about this conference by visiting: [www.ifconz07.org.nz](http://www.ifconz07.org.nz).

## **2. Update on recent workshop regarding alternative care for children without parental care**

Our partners from the Dutch donor organizations Cordaid and Kinderpostzegels would like to thank IFCO for its input during the workshop on alternative care that took place on the 7th of September 2006 in The Hague:

“Many of the participants commented on the high level of input and the interesting discussion. The workshop was, in our opinion, essential to move forward on the issue of alternative care for children without parental care, in the Netherlands. If donors are not convinced that a change in approach is needed, alternative care will never become a major issue in other countries. At present we are preparing the report of the workshop. We have already made a summary of the panel discussions. We hope to finalize the report soon and to forward it to all participants.”

## **3. Myrna McNitt shares a story about people in child protection from her experience in Reading, UK**

The UK administrative review reports for children in foster care before going in front of an independent reviewing officer. The review is to look at all aspects of a child's life. In a review I attended, a particularly pedantic reviewer was going into all areas of a 14 year old young woman's life-we sat through the reviewer inquiring if the teen flossed her teeth-and then on to the eyes at which time the spunky young woman said: “I thought you were an independent reviewing officer not an optician.” Bet many of us would have liked to say that to a few referees or judges.

In setting up a transition plan for a teen from a children's home to treatment foster care, the mother particularly bent on finding a medical answer for the child's anxiety called the home demanding that they set an appointment with a doctor: “My daughter

has 4 gray hairs and I know that causes brain damage!" If the litmus test for brain damage is gray hair then I am a lost cause."

#### **4. Ghana AIDS Commission**

The Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC) has called for proposals from research institutions or organizations to carry out a national survey on child commercial sex.

There is anecdotal evidence that child commercial sex is on the increase involving both boys and girls in many Ghanaian communities. The perpetrators include Ghanaians and non-Ghanaians and in particular, tourists.

Child sex is a major risk factor for HIV transmission and if it is not given rapid response through evidence-based strategic approach, it will negate the gains made so far in the national response to HIV/AIDS. Results of this study will contribute significantly to improvement in the policy and legal environment for child protection; as well as, enhance the quality of preventative strategies and interventions to rehabilitate victims.

Additionally the study will identify and describe in detail the victims, perpetrators, the social networks, and geographical locations in which child commercial sex occurs with a view to developing strategies for rolling out preventative interventions and rehabilitation programmes for victims. The study will be completed within two months. Please email for more information: [info@ghanaiads.gov.gh](mailto:info@ghanaiads.gov.gh) Contact Person: Kyeremeh Atuahene -Research Coordinator

#### **5. Argentinean Program on Youth Participation and Social Reintegration**

CIAPSI - SALUD ACTIVA (Argentina) launches its program on youth participation for the beginning of 2007. The program is aimed at youth in situations of juridical and socio-penal vulnerability. The general objectives are to offer the young participants a space of interchange in a community context. The aim is to strengthen the individual and the group in their quest for a better quality of life and an adequate social and familiar insertion. The activities organised include workshops on various topics among which human rights, artistic expression, family reintegration, leisure, etc. These workshops are coupled with individual and family treatment.

The program is aimed at young people from 15 to 20 years old, and various departmental jurisdictions in the Buenos Aires province. For mor information write to SALUD ACTIVA or CIAPSI at: [saludactiva@saludactiva.org.ar](mailto:saludactiva@saludactiva.org.ar) Or email: [ciapsi@ciapsi.com.ar](mailto:ciapsi@ciapsi.com.ar)

#### **6. Update for Members Only portion of the website**

From 20 February 2007: To use the Members Only section of our website, please use the new username of – "Members." Your password will be the 4 digit number located on your membership card. If you do not have a membership card, please email us and we will send one to you promptly! You may also find your membership number under your name on the mailing label of your next Informer magazine.

\*\*\*\*\*

**You are welcome to use any or all of this information in your own newsletters, magazines or e-publications as long as you acknowledge IFCO as the source.**