



International Foster Care Organisation

Registered UK Charity: 1081324

www.ifco.info

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IFCO E-Newsletter / 3
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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 web site) - thank you!

1. IFCO's Jubilee Year

A special issue of the Informer, the "Jubilee" Informer is printed and on its way to all the IFCO members, as a way to celebrate together 25 years of IFCO!!! IFCO would also like to congratulate two of its long-standing members and partner organizations, the Irish Foster Care Organisation and the Norwegian Foster Care Association, who are also celebrating 25 years of existence this year!

2. IFCO Conference update

If you did not do it yet, you have still 3 days left to register for the upcoming IFCO conference at the Waikato University, Hamilton, New Zealand from 11 – 16 February 2007 at reduced prices! Before the 10th of November you can benefit of an "early bird" discount on your registration fees. For more information please contact the conference coordinator Barbara Burt at barbara.a.burt@gmail.com or check the website www.ifconz07.org.nz

3. IFCO Elections

Elections to the IFCO Board will be held on 15th February 2007 at the Annual General Meeting, during the biennial international conference at the Waikato University, Hamilton, New Zealand. The maximum number of directors that can be elected to the Board is 20 (not to exceed two persons from each country). At the present, there are 17 elected and 1 co-opted directors and half of them must stand down every 2 years.

Any member may consider nominating themselves for election to the board. Youth members are encouraged to stand for election: IFCO has youth participation at all levels high on the agenda!

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Criteria for Election to the Board are:

1. Nominee must be an IFCO member in good standing
2. Nominee must be more than 18 years of age
3. Nominee must submit a profile (not to exceed 70 words) to support his/her nomination - **on the appropriate form – on or before 18th December 2006**
4. Nominee must provide a photograph (digital/electronic)

Nomination forms should be *fully completed* and sent to Gaylene Lawrence via email at: nzffcf.eo@xtra.co.nz or to:

Gaylene Lawrence
PO Box 8320
Havelock North, Hawke's Bay
New Zealand

If you have questions or need more information regarding the above process, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

Gaylene Lawrence	nzffcf.eo@xtra.co.nz
Fredrik Ingvarsson	fredrik.ingvarsson@credo.se
Miko Carels	mikocarels@hotmail.com

IFCO's Memorandum of Articles of Association describes the election procedure and can be found in the members' only part of our website.

4. IFCO's Training & Development Bureau

IFCO's Training and Development Bureau has been launched! In pursuit of IFCO's mission the T&D Bureau has been developed for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information among persons, organizations and between nations of the world with the view to promoting the development of family care for all children.

IFCO believes that all nations have a need for competent staff and resource families to assist in the protection of their most vulnerable children. For this to be accomplished these services need to be locally based, culturally sensitive and relevant. The importance of training and skill development cannot be overstated. IFCO's T&D Bureau has been developed accordingly to offer assistance to those wishing to provide foster care and/ or develop existing programmes with knowledge and experience from abroad.

IFCO plans to develop its human resources through the bringing together and development of a pool of skilled and experienced people who can supply the needs of this mandate, this includes youth, foster carers and all others that gained knowledge through experience and training. This pool of people will be equipped with a wide range of knowledge skills and competences in foster care including: service development, research, policy development work, proposal writing, training and evaluation. IFCO's framework for development and training will be implemented based on local needs and with respect for cultural tradition.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the newly formed Training & Development Bureau or would like to know more on what we are looking for and can

offer: write an email to ifco@ifco.info and you will be sent an application form and more information.

5. IFCO-RELAF seminar in Argentina

The Latin American regional network IFCO-RELAF is organizing a symposium in the city of Buenos Aires in Argentina on the 17th of November 2006. The title of the symposium is "Foster Care as a warrant for protecting the right of children and adolescents to live in a family and community" (*El acogimiento familiar como garantía del derecho a la convivencia familiar y comunitaria de niñas, niños y adolescentes*).

A round table will be formed with regional experts and members of IFCO, among others: Claudia Cabral (Brasil), Hugo Castro (Venezuela); Ana Luisa Prieto (Chile); Eda Aguilar (Perú); Gloria Ayala Pearson (Paraguay); Matilde Luna (Argentina); Ruth Fontaine (Argentina), Juan Carlos Fugaretta (Argentina). For more information in English or Spanish please write to our regional coordinator Maria Soledad Franco at relaf@ifco.info

6. UN Study on Violence against Children

The UN Study on Violence Against Children Has Been Launched! Visit the link below to learn more about the study, and to download the full report:

<http://www.unviolencestudy.org/>

The Violence Study has been a global effort to paint a detailed picture of the nature, extent and causes of violence against children, and to propose clear recommendations for action to prevent and respond to it. This is the first time that an attempt has been made to document the reality of violence against children around the world, and to map out what is being done to stop it. Since 2003, many thousands of people have contributed to the study in consultations and working groups, through questionnaires and in other ways. Children and young people have been active at every level. The study deals specifically with the effects of institutional care on children.

7. UN Call for contributions: The Protection of Human Rights in the context of HIV and AIDS

The Office of the High-Commissioner for Human Rights is soliciting comments from NGOs for the preparation of the next report to the Human Rights Council relating to human rights and HIV/AIDS.

This biennial report was requested by the Commission on Human Rights Resolution 2005/84 of 21 April 2005. The Resolution requested the Secretary-General to solicit comments from governments, UN agencies and NGOs on the steps they have taken to promote and implement programmes to address the urgent HIV-related human rights of women, children and vulnerable groups in the context of prevention, care and access to treatment as described in the Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, and to submit a progress report to the Commission on Human Rights for consideration at its sixty-third session.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights invites organisations to send their views and comments related to Resolution 2005/84 to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to James Heenan, at the address below, no later than **30 November 2006**.

For more information, contact:
James Heenan, HIV Advisor
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson, 8-14 avenue de la Paix
CH -1211 Geneva 10, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 917 9179
Fax: +41 22 917 9011

8. UK: Care Matters

On October 9 the British Government published a new Green Paper entitled: "Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children and Young People in Care." Care Matters sets out a radical package of proposals for transforming the lives of children in care. Although outcomes for these children have improved, they have not kept pace with other children.

The Green Paper sets out policies for consultation, to ensure earlier interventions and support for families where children are on the edge of care. It goes on to include proposals to strengthen the 'corporate parenting' role of local authorities; create high quality placements which meet children's needs; ensure a first class education; a positive life outside school; and support for transition into adulthood.

You can access the entire document at

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/Green Paper.pdf](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/Green%20Paper.pdf)

9. European Conference on Attachment in Finland

The European Centennial Conference to celebrate the birth of Dr. John Bowlby, the Founder of Attachment Theory, will take place in Tampere, Finland, 1 – 2 February 2007.

"WHAT ARE FATHERS FOR? ATTACHMENT THEORY AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FATHERS"

The keynote speaker is Sir Richard Bowlby, Dr. John Bowlby's son from London. There will be English, Spanish, Russian and Finnish translation provided at the conference. For more information on this conference please check <http://www.saunalahti.fi/tuo/> or write to Pirjo Tuovila at tuo@dlc.fi

10. Foster Youth Poetry Contest

Jaiya John, the owner of the SoulWaterRising website (www.soulwaterising.com), a former foster child and a poet, is launching a poetry contest for youth in foster care. There are four age categories, ranging from 13 to 24 years old. The winner of each category will be rewarded with interesting prizes. The deadline has been extended to

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30 November 2006, especially for the members of IFCO and their young friends!!!
For participating in the contest you can download the format available online at www.soulwater.org or write to drumbeat@soulwater.org

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.

Please visit IFCO's web site www.ifco.info regularly for lots of updated news and information!

The IFCO e-newsletter will be sent each month to all paid-up IFCO members whose email addresses we have – please keep us updated if you change your email address.

**Your contributions are invited for the next issue!
Please send them by email to Maria at ifco@ifco.info.**