

# world's children

autumn 2009  
the magazine for our supporters

## **Emergencies**

Our response at the height  
of emergencies

## **Rewrite the Future**

Opinion piece from Nobel Prize  
Laureate Mairead Maguire

## **90th Anniversary**

Celebration of our founder  
Eglantyne Jebb



**Save the Children**

# Contents

## 3 Your Money Matters

Make your money go further during the financial crisis

## 4 When Disaster Hits...

Our response at the height of emergencies

## 6 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Support Rewrite the Future

Opinion piece from Mairead Maguire

## 8 90th Anniversary

Celebration of our founder Eglantyne Jebb

## 10 New Zealanders in the Field

Cycle through Vietnam, trek through Nepal

## 11 The Voice of Our Youth

Human rights – a crazy idea!



EMERGENCIES PAGE 4



REWRITE THE FUTURE PAGE 6



90TH ANNIVERSARY PAGE 8



EVENTS PAGE 10

## Contact details

Save the Children  
PO Box 6584  
Marion Square  
WELLINGTON 6141

Phone: 0800 167 168  
Fax: 04 385 6793  
Email: [info@savethechildren.org.nz](mailto:info@savethechildren.org.nz)  
Web: [www.savethechildren.org.nz](http://www.savethechildren.org.nz)

**Cover image:** Children line up for breakfast at one of Save the Children's Early Childhood Development Centres in Matabeleland North, Zimbabwe.

### Save the Children fights for children's rights.

We deliver immediate and lasting improvements to children's lives worldwide.

Save the Children works for:

- a world which respects and values each child
- a world which listens to children and learns
- a world where all children have hope and opportunity.

# Words from our Executive Director



It's been a busy few months for my team and me since my position as Acting Executive Director began in November last year.

The first day back at the office in 2009 began with our response to the conflict situation in Gaza. Emergencies seem to be on the rise and are not showing any signs of abating. In the last six months we have responded to flooding in India, the conflict situation in DRC, the humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe, and the Fiji floods.

Our response to conflict situations or natural disasters is essential as it is children who are the most vulnerable in the aftermath. To use the words of Save the Children's founder Eglantyne Jebb, "All wars, just or unjust, are waged against the child". Great thanks are owed to you for your support when disaster hits. It really does make a difference to the lives of the children who are at the centre of these situations. You can read more about the support that has been provided on pages 4 and 5.

Also in this issue, read about how Save the Children first began as we prepare to celebrate our 90th anniversary in May. Did you know that our founder Eglantyne Jebb was publicly arrested in London's Trafalgar Square in May 1919 for distributing 'Fight the Famine' leaflets featuring photographs of starving Austrian children? Or that she drafted the first declaration of children's rights that has now evolved into the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child? Read more on pages 8 and 9.

"To succeed in life, we must give life," said Eglantyne Jebb. It is because of your support that we are able to do so. Thank you.

### Philip Abraham

Acting Executive Director

## Your money matters

Even though we are all being squeezed by the global economic crisis at the moment, you still continue to support our work. For this we want to say THANK YOU. We understand that during this time your support takes extra commitment and we want you to know how much we appreciate it. It is because of people like you that we are able to continue making sure that children are being looked after; that they are healthy, educated and protected.

The world has been hit by food, fuel and financial crises, the affects of which will continue to have an impact on us in the months, and possibly the years to come. A World Bank study shows that high food and fuel prices are expected to increase the number of malnourished people around the world this year by 44 million to reach a total of 967 million. Many families in the developing world are going to find it more difficult to feed their children, give them access to health care, and keep them in school.

Your generosity and support means that we are able to continue our work to ensure that children are looked after, including:

- **5.7 million** children worldwide benefitting directly from Save the Children's Global campaign Rewrite the Future by having access to better quality education or as one of the **800** children every day who are for the first time receiving formal education.
- Training **362** new village health volunteers in Papua New Guinea to attend births and to advise about family planning and contraceptive use.
- **5000** participants attending Save the Children's HIV and AIDS programme in Vietnam.
- Setting up **7** child-friendly play spaces for **1,673** children after the earthquake in the Sichuan province of China providing support for toddlers and young children to re-establish their daily routines and get their lives back on track.



CAROLINE UNDERWOOD, DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY & PARTNERSHIPS, SAVE THE CHILDREN UK AND BART BECHT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF RECKITT BENCKISER, A UK COMPANY WHICH GAVE A DONATION OF £63,000 TO SAVE THE CHILDREN – STAFF RAISED £31,500 AND THE COMPANY MATCHED THIS FOR THEIR SAVE THE CHILDREN FUNDRAISING WEEK IN JULY 2008. IMAGE: EMMA JEANS.

## Make your donation go further – at no cost to you!

Does doubling or even tripling your donation to Save the Children – at no cost to you – sound appealing? You could make your donation go further in the following ways to help more children.

### Matched Funding

Some companies like Westpac and ANZ help to increase their employees' giving by offering matched funding, which means that your donations will be matched by your company. Contact your Human Resources Department and ask your company to match your donation on your behalf.

### Tax Rebate

At the end of the tax year, claim a tax rebate on all of your personal donations to Save the Children throughout the year. That means if you donated a total of \$100, your tax rebate would be \$33.33 or one third of your donation. Legislation has changed and there is no limit to the donation size that you can receive a rebate on. You can further your support by donating your tax rebate funds to Save the Children. You can now transfer these funds directly to Save the Children from the Inland Revenue on request.

To claim your tax rebate download the IR526 form from the Inland Revenue website [www.ird.govt.nz](http://www.ird.govt.nz) or call **0800 257 773**.

### Payroll Giving

We hope it won't be long before the law is changed and you will be able to donate to Save the Children through Payroll Giving. This will allow employees to provide a simple, immediate, real-time, tax-effective donation. The Payroll donation will be deducted automatically from your gross pay and forwarded to your chosen charity by your employer. This will eliminate the need to collect receipts or wait until tax year end to obtain the tax benefit of your donation.

If you or your company are interested in learning more about Save the Children, or have any questions about making your donation go further please call

**04 385 6840**

or email [sarah.gillett@](mailto:sarah.gillett@savethechildren.org.nz)

[savethechildren.org.nz](http://savethechildren.org.nz)

We thank you again, firstly for your kindness and generosity, and also for choosing to support Save the Children.

## When disaster hits...



CHILDREN PLAY AT SAVE THE CHILDREN'S RECEPTION CENTRE FOR DEPORTED CHILDREN IN BEITBRIDGE, ZIMBABWE. THEY ARE SOME OF MANY ZIMBABWEAN ORPHANS TRYING TO FIND A BETTER LIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA. AT THE CENTRE, UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN CAN GET COUNSELLING, INFORMATION ON HIV/AIDS AND SAFE MIGRATION – AS WELL AS THE CHANCE TO TALK AND DO ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE. WE ALSO HELP REUNITE THEM SAFELY WITH THEIR FAMILIES OR RELATIVES WHERE POSSIBLE. IMAGE: © SAVE THE CHILDREN.

As the number of emergencies increase, the number of children affected also increases. Children are the most vulnerable in any emergency and it is our job to make sure they have medical help, supplies like food and tarpaulins for shelter, and educational supplies so that they can continue their education.

Globally, natural disasters affect 225 million people annually, often a large percentage of these are children. 37 million children live in areas affected by war. In the last decade, 2 million children have been killed in situations of armed conflict, while 6 million children have been permanently disabled or injured.

These statistics are tough, so much so that it might seem that no real difference is being made. But it is. With your vital support we are able to save lives with immediate relief supplies of food and water. We are able to provide educational opportunities for children as soon as disaster hits. Globally, Save the Children responded with over \$200 million of assistance, reaching more than 2 million people in 2008. Your support is making a difference.

Baby and family hygiene kits including nappies and clothes, education materials for preschools and child friendly spaces have been provided for **57,000** people during the conflict situation and the ceasefire in **Gaza**.

In the first 10 days of Save the Children's emergency response to the conflict situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo our mobile clinic at the camp in Kibati had treated **553** people. Within four weeks we'd identified **260** unaccompanied children and reunited **84** of them with their families.

In the northern areas of **Fiji** text books and school materials were destroyed by floods. We have provided **1500** children with educational materials so that they could begin their new school year.

In **India 407** relief camps have been set up housing **452,000** people after flooding devastated the Bihar and Orissa regions.

We are helping children and their communities but more still needs to be done. **20,000** children in **Bihar, India** are still not able to attend school. **8,000** children in **Gaza** are reported to be acutely malnourished. Cholera has killed nearly **2,500** people including children in **Zimbabwe** and this number is rising. To further your already much appreciated generosity please visit [www.savethechildren.org.nz](http://www.savethechildren.org.nz) or call **0800 167 168** to help us help more children in these emergencies.

## What's being done in Zimbabwe

On 1 December 2008 Save the Children responded to the emergency situation in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is in the middle of a huge humanitarian emergency – economic and political crises have led to around 5 million people not having enough money to buy food or other essentials. Basic services and the healthcare system have collapsed and the country is now experiencing a growing cholera problem with over 7,000 cases having been reported nationally.

From day one Save the Children has been on the ground working to ensure that children are being looked after. We are providing food and health care and are protecting orphaned children, and children that have become separated from their families.

**If you would like to read updates about Save the Children's emergency responses please visit [www.savethechildren.org.nz](http://www.savethechildren.org.nz)**



WOMEN QUEUE AT A SAVE THE CHILDREN FOOD DISTRIBUTION. HALF THE ZIMBABWEAN POPULATION IS IN NEED OF FOOD AID BUT RESOURCES ARE INSUFFICIENT. IMAGE: © RACHEL DWYER/SAVE THE CHILDREN.



LEFT: ZINETH, LEFT, AND MILESH, THREE, TUCK INTO BREAKFAST. ZINETH IS CHRONICALLY MALNOURISHED. THEIR MOTHER DIED FIVE YEARS AGO AND THEIR FATHER DESERTED THEM SHORTLY AFTERWARDS. THEY NOW LIVE WITH THEIR GRANDPARENTS WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO PROVIDE ENOUGH FOOD. THE MEAL THEY HAVE AT SCHOOL IS THE ONLY MEAL THEY HAVE EACH DAY. SAVE THE CHILDREN SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRES, BENEFITING OVER 1,200 CHILDREN. THESE CENTRES PROVIDE MEALS, HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION AND PLAY ACTIVITIES THAT THE CHILDREN WOULD OTHERWISE MISS OUT ON. IMAGE: © RACHEL DWYER / SAVE THE CHILDREN.



PEOPLE WALKING HOME WITH FOOD RATIONS RECEIVED AT A FOOD DISTRIBUTION POINT SUPPORTED BY SAVE THE CHILDREN IN ZIMBA DISTRICT, ZIMBABWE. IMAGE: © SAVE THE CHILDREN.

## Nobel Laureates support *Rewrite the Future*



In a first-ever joint statement, more than thirty winners of the Nobel Peace Prize supported Save the Children's *Rewrite the Future* campaign, and urged world leaders for urgent action to implement quality education and build peace in conflict-affected countries. Jimmy Carter, the Dalai Lama and **Mairead Maguire** are three noted Nobel laureates who joined Save the Children's global campaign. Mairead Maguire comments on education's role in conflict prevention and peace-building.

### Breaking the cycle of conflict – from the classroom By Mairead Maguire (Nobel Peace Prize 1976)

I have seen much change in Northern Ireland in the thirty years since I won the Nobel Peace Prize, yet some things remain the same. I still see wars raging around the world, and children suffering from the effects of conflicts started by adults.

Today, I have joined together with thirty other Nobel Peace Prize laureates to call for urgent action to implement quality education in all conflict-affected countries. We hope this coming together will mean the world listens to our important message that education can promote peace.

I recently visited an integrated school in Northern Ireland, where both Catholic and Protestant children attend together. After thirty years of conflict in a country with deep ethnic divisions, it highlighted to me that the cycle of conflict can be broken, and the importance of education in rebuilding a more peaceful society.

The current situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo shows how children can become trapped in a cycle of conflict. Can you imagine a child living in a country where conflict rages, who doesn't know how to read, who doesn't know how to write, has no skills to cope with life, has no hope, and the frustration that child would feel? Without education, children are also more vulnerable to exploitation and recruitment into armed groups. Without



PUPILS SINGING AND DANCING DURING A BREAK FROM THE ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAMME (ALP) AT MULENGEZA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN DRC. IMAGE: RACHEL PALMER / SAVE THE CHILDREN.

education, we are denying children the opportunity to rebuild their future, and break the cycle of conflict and poverty.

There are over 300,000 refugees in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and their situation will not change when the newspapers move on. The average stay in a refugee camp is 17 years, the length of a childhood – how can we justify children born into this situation being denied the same right to education as children anywhere in the world?

The old adage 'education is easy carried' is so true. It provides a sense of dignity and confidence and a feeling of control

and ownership of one's own life. Lack of education can lead to anger, violence, and a sense of alienation – a society storing up problems for the future.

Yet providing education to children living in conflict-affected countries often falls to the bottom of the list of priorities – many governments think it is just too difficult. I believe world leaders and armed groups must recognise that children have a right to education, they have a right to their childhood, they have a right to peace.

It's almost two decades since the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was signed by almost every country, enshrining



MONDAY BANGA, SAVE THE CHILDREN EDUCATION OFFICER TALKING TO CHILDREN WHO ARE PART OF THE ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAMME CLASS AT MULENGEZA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DURING BREAK TIME. IMAGE: RACHEL PALMER / SAVE THE CHILDREN.

the right to education in law. World leaders have more recently made promises in the form of the Millennium Development Goals – committing to provide education for all children by 2015. Yet 72 million children remain out of school and over half – 37 million – are children affected by conflict. Where is the conviction to uphold this law? We need it to be taken seriously.

An important opportunity to improve education systems and help foster peace is during peace processes. When parties to a conflict are engaged in a peace process there is a rare opportunity to agree on a shared new education blueprint for the country. Yet nearly one third of peace agreements make no mention of education at all, and those that do often don't define the type of quality education required to rebuild a society. In order to break the cycle of conflict, education needs to be an integral part of every peace process.

What's more, we need governments to back up their promises that education can be provided to every child. There's plenty of money in the world, as we have seen by governments' reactions to the economic crisis, but we need to prioritise education. What's missing is the political will on behalf



THE PUPILS ENROLLED IN THE ALP RUN BY SAVE THE CHILDREN, HAVE MISSED OUT ON THEIR PRIMARY EDUCATION BECAUSE OF THE CONFLICT. THE ALP ENABLES THE CHILDREN TO CATCH UP ON MISSED PRIMARY EDUCATION SO THAT THEY CAN THEN GO INTO THE MAINSTREAM EDUCATION SYSTEM. IMAGE: RACHEL PALMER / SAVE THE CHILDREN.

of our governments to adjust their policies and priorities and start taking care of children.

In the past, when we thought of human security, we thought of armies, we thought of nuclear weapons and war – we are now beginning to realise that human security is about education, it's about healthcare, it's about people having the basic things that help them to lead dignified, good, human lives.

"Education, education, education" – these were the words which children in a Nairobi primary school sang to me just before the outbreak of conflict and unrest in Kenya, following the elections in December 2007. With conflicts increasing around the world,

"Education, education, education" – these were the words which children in a Nairobi primary school sang to me just before the outbreak of conflict and unrest in Kenya"

these three words should take on a new level of importance – giving children hope and protection and helping to create more peaceful societies of the future."

*Mairead Maguire co-founded the Community of Peace People which encouraged peaceful resolution of the Troubles in Northern Ireland. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1976 and continues to work for peace, justice and equality.*

To keep updated on the Rewrite the Future campaign please visit [www.savethechildren.org.nz](http://www.savethechildren.org.nz)

# 90 years of fighting for children's rights...



SAVE THE CHILDREN FOUNDER EGLANTYNE JEBB.

Save the Children is 90 years old this May but, while some of our methods have evolved and our global reach has grown dramatically, our vision has remained unchanged – to save the lives, improve the life chances, and protect the rights of children around the world.

By Laura Kennedy and Clare Mulley.

In spring 1919, a dignified 43-year-old woman, Eglantyne Jebb, was arrested in London's Trafalgar Square for distributing leaflets featuring photographs of starving Austrian children not cleared by government censors. Although found technically guilty at her trial, she was only fined five pounds – “which, I am told,” she wrote triumphantly to her mother “is equivalent to victory”.

Once the trial was over, the public prosecution donated a symbolic five pounds. It was one of the first contributions to a new emergency relief fund for European children after the First World War – the ‘Save the Children Fund’.

“The Save the Children Fund must work for its own extinction,” Eglantyne said. “It must seek to abolish, for good and for all, the poverty which makes children suffer and stunts the race of which they are the parents.”

Save the Children was officially launched by Eglantyne and her sister Dorothy four days later at a crowded public meeting at the Albert Hall. Although some people had arrived with rotten apples to throw at the ‘traitors’ who wanted to send aid to the enemy, Eglantyne won out, arguing with conviction, “surely... it is impossible for us, as normal human beings, to watch children starve to death without making an effort to save them”.

“Save the Children is often told that its aims are impossible – that there has always been child suffering and there always will be. We know it’s only impossible if we make it so. It’s only impossible if we refuse to attempt it.”

Eglantyne felt a strong sense of social responsibility from an early age, thanks partly to her mother’s work in their Shropshire community but her first attempt at social work, after leaving college, was crushing. Teaching in an



CHILDREN ENJOY A MEAL AT FAIRFIELD HOUSE, THE FIRST UK PROGRAMME SET UP IN 1927.

underfunded, working-class school, she discovered that not only was she a poor teacher, but she had no particular affection for children! Classes hung over her "like a thunderstorm" and taking lessons was like "being put on the rack".

But in 1913, a trip to war-torn Macedonia, to distribute emergency aid, changed her outlook forever. She became driven to promote a humanitarian message about social justice, without reference to distinctions of nationality, faith or creed. For Eglantyne, promoting children's welfare was both an immediate moral obligation and an investment in society. Her insight would catch the mood of a generation, "Every generation of children offers mankind anew the possibility of rebuilding his ruin of a world."

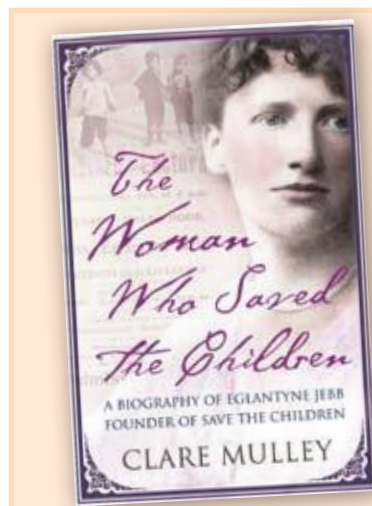
By 1922 Eglantyne was living in Geneva, coordinating the work of the Save the Children International Union. But she wasn't satisfied. On a cloudless summer Sunday half way up Mont Salève, she settled down on the crisp turf and drafted a 'Charter for Children. "I believe we should claim certain rights for the children and labour for their universal recognition," she wrote.

Within two years she'd secured the endorsement of the League of Nations for her Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the forerunner of all subsequent

international children's rights treaties, including today's UN Convention – the most universally accepted human rights instrument in history.

"I believe we should claim certain rights for the children and labour for their universal recognition"

Eglantyne's insight, passion and compassion saved the lives of many thousands of children during her own lifetime, and her outrage at social injustice, her tenacity, tirelessness, and her vision still inspire Save the Children today. "We have the money," Eglantyne wrote in a sentiment still hugely pertinent, "but we spend it on other things. We have the knowledge – only we do not apply it. Can we not cultivate the good will, which will enable us resolutely to utilise our resources in money and knowledge for the saving of the children of the world, and with them, the future?"



## Win the biography of Eglantyne Jebb

Readers of *World's Children* can go into the draw to win one of 10 copies of Clare Mulley's award-winning biography *The Woman Who Saved the Children*, out in May.

To enter please send your name and address to [book@savethechildren.org.nz](mailto:book@savethechildren.org.nz) or post to Book Giveaway, Save the Children New Zealand, PO Box 6584, Marion Square 6141, Wellington by May 19th.

## New Zealanders in the field

In November last year thirteen New Zealanders took part in Save the Children's Vietnam Cycle Challenge a fundraising cycling tour that, thanks to the enormous effort of the group, raised nearly \$50,000 for our projects in Vietnam. Nicola Gledhill from Save the Children New Zealand shares her experience of the cycling group visiting two of our projects in Hanoi.

The first stop was Nguyen Khanh Thien secondary school in Kien An District. We participated in a HIV and AIDS workshop run by two peer educators for students aged 14 to 16. Peer educators attend training workshops run by Save the Children where they learn about the organisation's HIV and AIDS work in Vietnam. They then put together the workshop themselves and present it to their classmates.

I was really impressed by the level of participation; it was a very interactive prompting students to voice their opinions. The workshop focussed on how HIV and AIDS is spread, to consequences of unwanted pregnancy. A short role play illustrated how stigma and discrimination can affect people living with the disease.

"Does anyone know of people in their community living with HIV infection?" asks Ngoc Diep, one of the peer educators. "How do you think they feel? How do you treat them?"

Responses are varied. "I do not treat people differently" says one student named Khiem, "but I think some people do... because they are scared about infection."

The stigma attached to HIV and AIDS is often a barrier to treatment as people are afraid of the discrimination that may follow. Health and support services are available, but accessing these services and knowing what rights people have are limited. This is where Save the Children helps – by letting people know their rights and ways they can stand up for their rights.



THE CYCLE CHALLENGE TEAM OUTSIDE THE KING'S PALACE IN HUE, VIETNAM. IMAGE: © ANDREW WIKE.

The second project that we visited brings together children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS in the Le Chan district. The children learn about HIV and AIDS through role plays, games and songs.

When I ask the children what they enjoy in these sessions, they tell me it's good to learn about the disease. "The attitudes towards those with HIV and AIDS have changed for the better", says one boy named Thiang. Judging by the attitudes of these children here today, I believe him.

It's fantastic to see Save the Children in action, and especially significant to see young people talking about issues affecting their communities. I've learnt a lot about HIV and AIDS in Vietnam, and although the statistics are still high, awareness is growing and the situation can only improve.

"It has been a huge effort for so many months- both fundraising and training, and it was absolutely worth it. I had the time of my life in a country full of such happy people."

**Emily Loughnan, Wairarapa**

"It was a fantastic opportunity that challenged me physically while enabling me to experience the sights and sounds of Vietnam"

**Mary Bryant, Wellington** (Mary won a Community Award from her company ANZ for her participation in the challenge. Mary has kindly donated her prize of AUD 1,000 to Save the Children's projects in Vietnam – thank you Mary!)

### Don't miss the Nepal Trek Challenge in November 09

If you read about the Vietnam cycle trip with jealousy then join us on a life-changing 13-day adventure this November as we take you trekking through some of the most untouched and lush scenery in Asia.

Sign up to the Nepal Trek Challenge and you will visit a Save the Children project and experience firsthand the work of Save the Children's education programmes in the Baglung region; while absorbing the stunning Himalayan Mountain ranges on a 5-day trek you will remember forever.

Funds raised from the Nepal Trek Challenge will go toward Save the Children's programmes in Nepal. The trek runs from 13th – 25th November 2009.

For more information visit [www.inspiredadventures.co.nz/stcnz](http://www.inspiredadventures.co.nz/stcnz) or contact [belinda@inspiredadventures.co.nz](mailto:belinda@inspiredadventures.co.nz) / 09 889 2579.

## Just Write – The voice of our youth



Save the Children part-funded *Just Write*, a project run by the Global Education Centre

which mentors and develops the skills of 10 young writers over a period of one year. The article below was written by Nicole Mesman, one of the youth writers that took part in this inspiring programme.

### Human rights – a crazy idea! By Nicole Mesman

Human rights present us with a 'crazy' idea that undermines the very concept of power. It is that each person is born free and equal! The fight for freedom and equality has been present throughout most of human history but it wasn't until recently, after the end of World War II (when the stories of racial discrimination, treatment inside prisoner-of-war camps and public executions became known), that human rights became an area of global concern.

*'I was on my way to school when they cornered off an area of the park just in front of me. The people inside were lined up against trees and shot, 30 innocent people all at once gone. The cruelty was devastating, the power that one man had to give the commands which would ruin the lives of so many.'*

It was ordeals such as this – witnessed by children like Gerard Mesman, a boy of 11 at the time of the German invasion of Holland during World War II – that shocked the members of the (then) recently established United Nations into action. During the aftermath of the war the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)* was drafted up and adopted by members of the UN upon its completion in 1948. The declaration contains 30 rights which aim to protect people from a re-enactment of the terrible events of World War II.

### Kids have rights too!

Forty one years later, in 1989, the *UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCROC)* was established and by 2008 had been adopted by 192 countries (with only two countries yet to adopt it: the United States and Somalia). It contains 40 priorities outlining a child's rights to: special protection measures and assistance; access to services such as education and health care; and development of their personalities, abilities and talents to the fullest potential.

Human Rights documents, such as the *UDHR* and *UNCROC*, identify our rights clearly; they set out an international standard and provide a set of rules to be followed by everyone. The rights outlined in the *UDHR* and *UNCROC* are vital to the protection and respect of every human being on the planet, and their right to freedom, equality and happiness. But the fight is not over yet. These rights should be guaranteed and not at risk of being ignored or taken away when it suits leaders, or politicians or other individuals.

### Children first

An area of high concern and unhealthy records in Aotearoa NZ is child abuse. Our horrifying statistics see Aotearoa NZ ranked *third* worst out of 27 OECD countries in terms of children's deaths from maltreatment. In June 2005 Green MP Sue Bradford attempted to tackle this issue with her controversial *Repeal of Section 59* (or the 'Anti-Smacking Bill' as it was commonly known). The aim of the Bill was to reduce Aotearoa NZ's high level of child abuse

and, in 2007 when the Bill was passed, children were finally given the same legal protection from violence as adults. While the Bill attempts to prevent parents from harming their children, some criticise it for taking away the rights of parents to use reasonable force in disciplining their children. Whatever your view, the Bill has succeeded in making parents who *do* abuse their children responsible to the law and it is, therefore, a step towards upholding children's rights in Aotearoa NZ.

The years since World War II have seen a huge increase in human rights awareness. In Aotearoa NZ we continue to face challenges, such as the impact of September 11 and high rates of child abuse, but – by continuing to live by the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the *UN convention of the Rights of the Child* and by treating everyone as equals – we can honour ourselves, our country and those who have come before us. We can honour people like Gerard Mesman and Kate Sheppard, and the everyday heroes who advocate for human rights all over the world.

This article has been edited. To read the entire article please visit [www.justfocus.co.nz](http://www.justfocus.co.nz)

### DID YOU KNOW?

Save the Children's founder Eglantyne Jebb wrote the first charter on children's rights which was adopted by the League of Nations and later became the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Find out more in the article on Page 8.

Yes! I would like to support  
Save the Children.

**Please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Save the Children**

I enclose a cheque made payable to Save the Children for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my credit card for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mastercard    Visa    Amex    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Account number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_   Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to  
Freepost Save the Children  
PO Box 6584  
Marion Square 6141  
Wellington

\*All donations over \$5 are tax deductible   **WCA 09**



# Calling on all Kiwi kids

it's World Kids Colouring Day!



**On May 6 join thousands of other children from around the world in a day of creativity and raise awareness for 37 million children that aren't in school because their countries are fighting in war.**

Buy your World Kids Colouring Day packs (pad, colouring pencils and pens) produced by Staedtler from your local Save the Children store. Staedtler will donate part of the proceeds of each pack sold to our *Rewrite the Future* campaign which helps get children affected by war and conflict into school.

You can sell your artwork to your teacher, aunty, brother, or family friend and donate the money to Save the Children so that more children can get an education.

**World Kids Colouring Day on May 6 2009 is proudly supported by Staedtler.**

Visit [www.savethechildren.org.nz](http://www.savethechildren.org.nz) to find your local Save the Children store or call **0800 167 168**. The packs will also be available in various stationery outlets.