

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Seminar

Children and Young People in Care: What do YOUTH think?

6-9 December 2008
European Youth Centre Strasbourg

Background:

An increasing number of children in Europe grow without parental care. Despite the attention the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child directed to the situation of children without parental care, their rights are still frequently not respected.

Some steps have been made to remedy this situation through international standards, guidelines and recommendations. In 2005, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers adopted a Recommendation on the rights of children living in residential institutions. In 2007, three international NGOs, Fédération Internationale des Communautés Éducatives (FICE), International Foster Care Organisation (IFCO) and SOS Children's Villages, published European quality Standards for out-of-home child care, in the framework of their 3-year joint project "Quality4Children". The project involved over 300 children, biological parents, caregivers, and social workers from 32 European countries. Today, the main challenges that lay ahead are to ensure that these instruments are respected at in each country, and that children and young people are involved in the process.

Against this background, the Council of Europe is organising a joint seminar with SOS-Kinderdorf International called, *Children and Young People in Care: What do YOUTH think?*

Participants:

15 children and/or young people¹ from alternative care in Europe and 5 representatives of youth led organisations.

Objectives:

To promote and ensure the rights of children and young people in alternative care in Europe by setting the basis for cooperation between youth representatives and the Council of Europe.

Language:

The working language of the seminar will be English. If you don't speak English, please specify which working language you could work with.

Application:

Application forms must be sent by email to brusselsrepresentative@sos-kd.org or by fax: +32/2/537 31 31 **by 19 October 2008**.

Travel expenses:

The trip will be organised and covered by the organisers.

Accommodation:

Board and lodging are provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg.

¹ Guideline age: 16-24, but can be below or above depending on experience and interest

APPLICATION FORM

Please type and return either by email or fax

1. Personal data

Name:

Sex:

Age:

Nationality:

Preferred working language (in the case English is not spoken):

2. Contacts

Postal address (*street, number, city, postal code, country*):

Telephone and/or mobile phone:

E-Mail:

3. Organisation or institution (*if applicable*)

Name:

Postal address:

E-Mail:

Homepage:

Please briefly describe the scope and activities of your institution or organisation and how it tackles /could tackle the issue alternative care:

Your role in the institution or organisation:

4. Previous experience (*related to the theme of the seminar*)

What type of experience do you have regarding children and youth in care?

What experience do you have of youth participation?

6. Motivation and interests

Why would you like to participate in this seminar?

7. Expectations

What do you think you could learn from the seminar?

How would such a seminar help you to improve the condition of children in care?

8. Visa

If you need a visa for France, please indicate:

- Date of birth:
- Passport number:
- Place and date of issue of passport:
- Expiry date:

Application form to be sent to:
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Deadline:
19 October 2008