

# N C R C

**NATIONAL CHILD'S  
RIGHTS COMMITTEE**

## **1.WHAT IS THE NCRC**

The NCRC **National** Children Rights Committee is an agency that campaigns for the rights of children to be upheld in South Africa.

-the right to survival and protection

-the right to love and security

-the right to housing and shelter

-the right to food and health

-the right to education

-the right to special care if handicapped or in distress  
and all the other rights set out in the UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS and accepted by 71 nations at the World Summit for Children, 1990.

The NCRC recognises that the well-being of women in society - their health, education and income - goes together with children's rights, and so it subscribes to the United Nations PLAN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE 1990'S - for the improvement of the situation of both women and children, especially those who are oppressed and neglected.

## **2.WHO BELONGS TO THE NCRC?**

The NCRC is non sectarian, and all persons and organisations who support Children's Rights are welcome to join. It works at local regional and national levels, with community organisations, development agencies and institutions which deal with the issues of children. It does not set up alternative structures but works through non-governmental organisations and supports them.

## **3.OBJECTIVES & PRIORITIES OF THE NCRC**

The objectives of the NCRC fall under three headings

### **CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

### **RESEARCH INTO THE SITUATION AND NEEDS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

### **SUPPORT TO NGO'S WORKING WITH CHILDREN**

## 1. Campaign for Children's Rights - Objectives

(a) To raise the awareness of everyone in South Africa about

- the plight of children in our land
- the rights of children as laid down by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- the rights of women as mothers of children

(b) To entrench the rights of the women and child in a non-racial non-sexist democratic South Africa, through a Bill of Rights that includes a section on children, and through South Africa signing the Convention on Children's Rights.

**Strategies:** a National Campaign Task Force, representative of all organisations dealing with children and women in South Africa has been established, to co-ordinate national campaigns. Local campaign committees are responsible for regional campaigns. These include media coverage, meetings, marches, conferences, booklets, posters, cultural performances, calendars, and networking with other organisations.

## 2. Research - Objectives

To develop a comprehensive information base on the situation of children and women in South Africa, so that their most urgent needs can be addressed first. Information will also help in effective planning for longer-term projects.

This information will be published in a form and in languages that make it accessible to all the people of South Africa.

**NOTE:** Facts and figures about the needs of women and children also form the basis for campaigns and the effective mobilisation of communities.

**Strategies:** a situational analysis on the present situation of women and children is to be undertaken by a National Task Force, made up of representatives from all the organisations dealing with women and children in South Africa.

Some sections of this research are to be undertaken by local branches, other sections have been commissioned from research institutes and professional organisations and there will also be grassroots research done with community participation.

## 3. Objectives in the Campaign to Support NGO's Working for Children

(a) To improve the capacity of all the democratic, non-racial and non-governmental organisations concerned with the survival, protection and development of children and women, so as to broaden and strengthen their work, particularly at local and regional levels.

(b) To support specific projects developed by organisations for the survival, protection and development of children and women.

**Strategies:** to provide a communication network through newsletters and meetings so that NGO's can support each other; to provide resource material on children's rights, and such further information on resources and community development as may be requested; to encourage community programmes for parents, teachers, educators and health and welfare workers on the issue of the survival, protection and development of women and children to help with funding projects where possible (see FUNDING below)

The NCRC encourages the participation of communities in decision making. It encourages any programme that will empower communities through helping them to gain in knowledge and management skills.

#### 4. LONG TERM AIMS - AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

In the long term, the survival, protection and development of children depends on underlying POLICIES and ATTITUDES in our land. The NCRC therefore, is looking at the following areas.

**ECONOMIC PLANNING & POLICY** - this needs to promote genuine and development for the most disadvantaged group society - women and children

**LAW:** the legal rights of women and children need to be established and everyone needs to know what these rights are. There also needs to be a system for even the poorest to be able to enforce their rights by law.

**CULTURAL TRADITIONS:** in this sensitive area the rights of women and children need to be promoted with the maximum co-operation of all. The rights of women and children will not be established through the passing of laws, alone - their rights need to be accepted into the culture of every group in South Africa.

**LANGUAGE:** the rights of the child include relevant and accessible reading and illustrative material, in the child's home language, and reflecting his or her culture.

**THE LEGACY OF APARTHEID:** the total transformation of the apartheid system is needed in order for the rights of women and children to be met. The cruel legacy of apartheid can be seen in the destabilising of black communities with a break-down of family life from the migrant labour system, the overwhelming shortage of low-cost urban housing, the neglect of primary health care, the chaos in black education, the poverty in the homelands and resettlement areas - and more recently in the on-going violence in black communities.

#### 5. FUND - RAISING NCRC TRUST

The NCRC recognises that NGO's have a need for funding for projects they undertake for the survival, protection and development of women and children.

A legal NCRC Trust has therefore been established, and this had entered into a partnership with UNICEF - the United Nations Children's Fund. The NCRC TRUST administers all funds raised in its name, both international and locally, for projects of non-governmental organisations. The projects recommended for funding must meet its criteria, in particular that projects directly benefit women and children and that they encourage self-reliance.

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