



Ministry of Justice
Viceministry of Gender and
Generational Issues

PRESS RELEASE

The International Reflection Conference towards reforming the Boy, Girl and Adolescent Code has begun

The objective is to open a debate regarding the need to bring about structural changes in order to ensure children's rights are fulfilled

La Paz – Bolivia, November 19, 2008.- with the objective of opening a space of debate and reflection regarding childhood-related issues (childhood understood as the age group comprised between 0 and 18 years, as recognized by the Children's Rights Convention of 1989), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Justice, through the Vice ministry of Gender and Generational Issues, began yesterday the International Reflection Conference towards reforming the Boy, Girl and Adolescent Code.

The Minister of Justice, Celima Torrico, and the UNICEF Representative in Bolivia, Gordon Jonathan Lewis, inaugurated the event, which forms part of the institutional activities of reflection regarding the elaboration and execution of public policies for the boys, girls and adolescents in the country.

The different panels included in the program of this Conference, which takes place until tomorrow, Thursday, November 20, center around five central themes: Children's Rights in the Constitution and Human Rights Treaties; Traffic and Restitution of Children; National System of Protection of Children in Bolivia; The right to a Family; Children, family and community and adolescents with social responsibility; and Boys, Girls and Adolescents with parents deprived of their freedom. Each area will be dealt with by groups of national and international experts from countries such as Spain, Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina, Ecuador and Peru. Aside from the speakers, the conference also includes the participation of Childhood and Adolescence judges, members of child defense organizations, SEDEGES directors, Ombudsman representatives, social movements, congressmen, ministers, vice ministers and members of the international cooperation.



unicef 
únete por la niñez

In these three days the participants will debate proposals for the modification of the current Boy, Girl and Adolescent Code (1999) in order to ensure that this age group effectively enjoys the exercise of all its rights, with respect for each child and adolescent's customs and cultural identities.

The conference looks to generate a debate regarding the implications and the real judicial repercussions of boys, girls and adolescents as holders of rights. This conference is meant to be a space of reflexion in order to move forward in the effective application of the rights of children and adolescents, always parallel to the effective acknowledgement of the cultural and ethnic diversity in the country.

Further information:

Delina Garsón
UNICEF
72231422, dgarson@unicef.org

Omar Torres
Ministry of Justice
72218485 - omar_torrez20@hotmail.com

