

South African Child Gauge 2010/2011 launch

Programme

Tuesday 16th August

16h30 – 18h00

Centre for the Book, 62 Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town

Children's dialogues

16h30 – 17h00

Children meet privately with VIPs and the media in parallel sessions (see next page)

Formal presentations

17h00 – 18h00

- 1. Welcome**
Dr Max Price, Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Town
- 2. Children as citizens**
Ms Lucy Jamieson, lead editor of the *South African Child Gauge 2010/2011*
- 3. The child participation poster**
Child designers of the child participation poster
- 4. The value and benefits of child participation**
Ms Aida Girma, Country Representative, UNICEF South Africa
- 5. Including children's voices: Building a human rights culture**
Dr Mamphela Ramphele, Founder, Letsema Circle
- 6. Why is child participation important in national government?**
Ms Lulama Xingwana, Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities
- 7. Closure**
Prof. Shirley Pendlebury, Director, Children's Institute, University of Cape Town

(Event ends with social exchanges over light refreshments)



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Children's media briefing (16h15 – 16h45)

A group of 18 children from five organisations participated in workshops where they shared their experiences and discussed the benefits of children's participation in homes, schools, hospitals and communities. Their artwork and photographs illustrate the new issue of the *South African Child Gauge* and their ideas shaped the development of a poster to promote children's participation in South Africa.

The children will participate in the launch via a briefing with the media. Here's a list of questions the group would like the media to ask them:

1. Why do you think it is important for adults to listen to children?
2. Why must children be able to speak out? What is special about it?
3. What is children's participation? What do you understand by children's participation?
4. How were the children's workshops? What did you learn?
5. What would you say to people who think children are senseless/ have nothing important to say?
6. How should adults treat children
7. Why is it important for children to have information? Who is responsible for making sure children get the information they need? What should information for children look like?

Their organisations:

- **Children's Resource Centre** runs cultural, health, environmental and media programmes that encourages children aged 7 – 14 to become agents of change and build healthier, safer communities. See www.childrensmovement.org.za
- **Disabled Children's Action Group** advocates for the rights of children with disabilities and their full integration into society with equal opportunities for all. See www.dicag.co.za.
- **Equal Education** high school learners play a leading role in advocating for quality and equal education for every person in South Africa. See www.equaleducation.org.za
- Through **RAPCAN's** Children Are Precious initiative, based in Lavender Hill, children's play an active role in creating social change messages and promoting children's rights and child protection in their community. See www.rapcan.org.za
- **Soul Buddyz** aims to inspire young children between the ages of eight and 14 to take action to improve their lives and communities. There are now over 7,500 Soul Buddyz clubs working with more than 140,000 children across the country. See www.soulcity.org.za/projects/soul-buddyz-club



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