



## UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

### 11. CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE VIOLENCE STUDY

Children and young people were fully involved in contributing to the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children from the very start. They participated in national and regional consultations and in some countries held their own youth forums to collect information about violence, discuss the impact it has on their lives and develop recommendations for preventing it and addressing it where it does occur.

- From the outset, the Study process recognized that children and young people can and do make a valuable contribution to helping understand the violence they face and the damage it does to them. Listening to children, learning from them and involving them in finding solutions was an important element of the Study process.
- Specially designed materials were produced to help children and young people as they take forward the Study recommendations. They build on ideas from children and young people at the Children's Consultation held in New York in May 2006 and through field-tests in India, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean and Uganda. The package of materials consists of a child-friendly version of the Independent Expert's report, and an educational booklet. This includes activities that explore the main issues of the report and help children to take action.
- 22 children and young people will be in New York when the Secretary-General's report goes to the General Assembly on 11 October 2006. They come from the Study's nine regions and were chosen by the children involved in the Study process to represent them.

The children and young people will hold their own preparatory forum in the three days preceding the GA session. At that meeting they will choose their press spokespeople, who can be contacted through **Sunita Grote in New York from Monday 9 to Thursday 12 October 2006, at 1-646-573-6150.**

Five young people and the work they are doing to end violence against children in their home countries are featured in a multimedia package that is being used by Study partners across the world and that can be downloaded from the Study and UNICEF websites ([www.violencestudy.org](http://www.violencestudy.org), [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)). They are:



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- **Ayamma** is 18 and from India. She stopped going to school when she was eight years old. For two years she worked as a delivery girl to support her family. Now she is actively involved with Bhima Sangha, a union of working children, and is President of the Bhima Sangha City Level Committee and Vice President at the State Level. Ayamma has been involved in producing learning/teaching materials on reproductive and sexual rights and has helped to train police in child-sensitive methods.
- **Kapaya Kaoma**, 18, comes from Zambia. He is actively involved in Child Rights Clubs and in activities of the Zambia Civic Education Association. After becoming involved in the UN Study, he became an advocate for children, raising awareness about children's rights. He plans to be a child rights lawyer.
- **Maria Corazon Buala**, or Cora as she prefers to be called, is 19 years old and from the Philippines. She grew up in a squatter's camp where there was little to eat. She dreams of becoming a children's lawyer and is working towards that with help from the Christian Children's Fund. CCF has helped Cora since she was six years old, first with basic necessities then schooling and a home for the family. Every weekend Cora works at the Katin Aran Children's Centre, which runs training seminars on children's rights and child protection. Cora is President of the Youth Association, President of the Coalition of Youth Associations in the Visayas and Child Representative to the City and Provincial Councils for the Protection of Children.
- **Ioana Barbu** is 17 years old. Ioana joined Save the Children Romania in 2000 after they visited her primary school to raise awareness about the difficulties some children face and to encourage schoolchildren to take action. Now Ioana visits schools and teaches local school children about their rights. She organizes activities to help them understand and get more involved in these issues. Ioana also trains other Save the Children volunteers in fund raising and working with children. Ioana also worked with children living in placement centres, teaching them life skills, playing games and helping them prepare for employment.
- **Harry Lopez**, 18, grew up in Venezuela. Although he has not experienced violence himself, Harry has grown up in a society where violence is prevalent and as a result is able to see the devastating effects it has on children and the impact violence has not only on children but on the wider community. Harry set up a committee on the rights of the child at his school. He encouraged his classmates to learn more about their rights and to become more active in pursuing them. Harry also became a mediator for conflict resolution among students.