



KONPAL* CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION SOCIETY

KONPAL Child Abuse Prevention Society is an NGO working against all form of child abuse. It comprises child rights activists who share the common vision of a society free of child abuse, with zero tolerance against child sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation, involvement of children in hazardous occupation, armed conflicts and violence. The members are professionals from different fields who are concerned with therising incidence of abuse against children. The group is fighting for the rights of children and against all forms of abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation of children.

Tributes paid to child victims of violence and terrorism



ON the occasion of child abuse prevention day, November 19, 2009, Konpal paid tributes to all those children who died of violence, terrorism and bomb blasts during the recent years. A candle light ceremony was held and standing ovation was paid on the occasion, and a seminar was organized on Legal Rights of Children in collaboration with the Legal Rights Forum and Dow University of Health Sciences.

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KONPAL CALLING
*Konpal' means a new bud. Small, tender, delicate, yet capable of becoming a flower, a leaf or a branch.

Tributes paid to child victims of violence and terrorism

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The guests and participants at the seminar on Legal Rights of Children held on November 19 in collaboration with the Legal Rights Forum and Dow University of Health Sciences



Seminar held on children's legal rights and our responsibilities

PAKISTAN is a signatory to the United Nations Child Rights Convention. Accordingly, the federal government has approved the national plan of action against child abuse and the draft for Child Protection Bill is in the cabinet awaiting parliamentary approval. The Child Protection Bill calls for establishment of Child Protection Bureaus and Child Protection Fund for Legal and Social Support. Thus the Child Protection System is a set of laws, policies and regulations encompassing all aspects of child protection.

The Child Protection Policy, the Child Protection Authority Bill and the Juvenile Justice Ordinance represents an essential legislative framework that ensures that the rights of children are in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as other

international standards to which Pakistan is a signatory.

Unfortunately, very little is known to the general public, including health-care providers and other stakeholders in the Child Rights Convention about the existing development in the field of child protection — particularly about the laws and legislation. Various lacunae exist in the minds of even those who are highly educated and well-informed sensitive members of the society.

The seminar on children's legal rights and our responsibilities was an attempt:

- To raise awareness about the existing legal rights of children
- To discuss issues related to child protection like legal laws related to juveniles, judicial and social work procedures, etc

- To ponder over other child protection issues in relation to CRC
- To discuss it with the most important stake holders in the child protection system, the legal fraternity.

The seminar aimed at helping understand the legal issues and our responsibilities, and initiating the debate between the various stakeholders in the child protection system.

The seminar was also an attempt to create a liaison between various partners and NGOs so that a collective effort is initiated.

In the seminar for the first time tributes were paid to the child victims of violence, terrorism and bomb blasts as the day fell on November 19, the Child Abuse Prevention Day, followed by the Universal Children Day on the next day.

Govt neglecting child rights: Shahida Jamil

NON-IMPLEMENTATION of the law is the biggest hurdle in the way of providing security to children, said Barrister Shahida Jamil while speaking on the Child Protection Bill — which awaits approval in the Cabinet — during a seminar in connection with Universal Children's Day.

The seminar, titled 'Legal Rights of Children and Our Responsibilities,' was conducted by the Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) in collaboration with Konpal Child Abuse Prevention Society. It was held to raise awareness about the existing legal rights of children and to discuss issues related to child protection for instance legal laws pertaining to juveniles, judicial and social work procedures, etc. Barrister Shahida Jamil was the chief guest on the occasion.

Professor M A Arif, General Secretary, Pakistan Pediatrics Society pointed out the neglect on part of the government in dealing directly with the issue of child health and protection and said that, "It is only when the state will provide security to a child's health and life that these issues can be countered properly."

However, Advocate Malik Tahir Iqbal didn't agree with him. He felt that the civil society who marched the streets protesting and demanding for the rule of law in the time of emergency are the ones who can bring the required change.

Amidst loud applause from the audience, Advocate Malik said that "Revolution is not achieved by verbally denying something; if our children are being abused and are living in misery it is our own duty as a soci-

ety to do something about it rather than putting the blame on the government every time."

Dr Aisha Mehnaz, Professor of Pediatrics at Dow Medical College spoke about the Child Protection Policy and said that the Constitution of Pakistan has provided a variety of laws which unfortunately are not practiced or implemented.

"The legislative framework has ensured that the rights of the children are in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child to which Pakistan is a signatory party but despite that no obvious change has been witnessed."

Later, tribute was paid to child victims of terrorism and violence, during which the audience observed a one-minute silence as a respect for the victims.

Annual walk held for children's rights

A WALK was organised on November 15 to commemorate Universal Children's Day. The event was put together by Konpal Child Abuse Prevention Society. The walk took place around the mausoleum of the Quaid-i-Azam. Hundreds of people participated in the walk organised to raise awareness about the child protection issue, in the context of violence, terrorism and bomb blasts that were affecting children physically and mentally.



Helpline launched for child abuse victims

CHILD Rights Protection Committee, Paediatrics Department, Civil Hospital, Karachi, in collaboration with the NGOs Konpal and Aahang has launched on November 13 the first helpline service for children subjected to abuse and their respective families.

At the inauguration, Konpal Chairperson Professor Aisha Mehnaz informed the media that the facility managed by psychologists and counsellors is to remain operational 9am-5pm daily.

"Online counselling and needed guidance as well as support would be provided to the victim children as well as those threatened to be abused," she said answering a question.

She said the toll-free universally accessible number has been acquired for the service and these will be made public during an informal ceremony in a short time. At the moment, the helpline is under trial.

The much needed service, she said, will be operational from the CRPC office at the CHK and Aahang office simultaneously.

Reports and queries in need of medical or psychological treatment will be immediately attended by relevant doctors of CHK. The Child Protection Committee of CHK comprises child specialists, psychiatrists and gynaecologists associated with the city's largest hospital.

Konpal gears up activities

KONPAL Child Abuse Prevention Society had a busy year 2009. In collaboration with CRAC PPA, we conducted some landmark activities which include:

1. Seven two-day training workshops on child protection, early case detection and management of child abuse were held at the Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS), Civil Hospital Karachi (CHK) and other major hospitals. As many as 175 healthcare providers and private practitioners (96 female and 79 male) were trained at the following venues:

(i) Professional Development Centre, DUHS - March 3-4. As many as 21 doctors (10 female and 11 male) were trained.

(ii) PMA House - September 29-30. Training for general practitioners, with 21 doctors (10 female and 11 male) trained.

(iii) Department of Paediatrics Unit 3 - October 21-22, with 27 healthcare providers (10 male and 17 female) participating in the workshop.

(iv) Department of Paediatrics Unit 3 - October 27-28, with 25 nurses (all female) and paramedics trained.

(v) Professional Development Centre, DUHS - November 17-18 at which 25 healthcare providers, specialist and doctors from different hospitals (12 males and 13 females) were trained.

(vi) Patel Hospital - November 27-28, where 21 general practitioners (10 female and 11 male) were trained.

(vii) Sapna Hotel (Larkana) - December 9-10 where 23 healthcare providers, specialist and doctors (14 male and 9 female) were trained.

2. Orientation Seminar on Child Protection, Child Abuse and Neglect for doctors, general practitioners and medical students at Ghulam Mohammad Medical College and Civil Hospital Sukkur. There were 34 (19 male, 15 female) participants.

3. Workshop for teachers and parents: Konpal has started its advocacy campaign against child abuse and neglect (CAN) with teachers and parents.

Four awareness seminar/workshop were held during the last quarter. Two

were held at Shahdadtown with male and female teachers and two seminars cum workshops were held with the government school teachers and parents at PECHS, Jamshed Town, Karachi.

More than 100 teachers and parents participated in the event and were trained on CRC, early detection and prevention and timely referral. The suggestions to form PTC were well taken and in this regard Konpal was requested to provide expert guidance.

4. Hospital Child Protection Committee: This committee has been very active during the current year. The committee met every month regularly.

As many as 225 cases of child abuse and neglect were managed by the HCPC team during January-December. The team included psychologists, medical social workers, coordinators, paediatricians, gynaecologists and psychiatrists. Important psychosocial indicators were identified, which strongly influence management. These include domestic violence, poverty, unemployment, addiction, depression and helplessness in mothers. Papers were presented at DUHS seminar on psychosocial determinants of neglect.

5. Carnival/Mela at SOS Village: Recreation is the basic right of every child. Konpal arranged a carnival at the SOS Children's Village on June 13 to coincide with the school vacations. It was organized exclusively for the children at the SOS Village. The carnival went on from 3:00 pm to 10:30 pm. Its highlights were: painting contests, mehndi designing and face paintings, indoor and outdoor games competition, jumping castle, magic and jugglery show, singing and dancing competition as well as a concert at which professional singers performed.

At the health camp, detailed medical and eye check-up of all the children of the SOS Village was carried out by specialist doctors.

6. Free Medical Camps for coastal villages: the camps were organized for the villages on the west coast of Karachi on August 16. An 18-member team of doctors and volunteers had set up the camps at Somar Goth, French

Beach Village and Mubarak Village (Allah Bano Village). More than 400 children, women and men were examined and medicines were dispensed.

7. Pakistan Day Celebrations: The Konpal team celebrated the Pakistan Day (March 23) with the children admitted at the Paeds Unit III, CHK, and the children at the SOS Village and at the coastal villages.

8. Children's Day and Children's Week Celebrations: Konpal and Child Rights Group of PPA, Sindh, celebrated the week with the following activities:

(i) Konpal/Aahang helpline at Civil Hospital, Karachi, inaugurated - November 13.

(ii) November 14: Children's Day celebrated with under-trial child prisoners (UTP) at the Remand Home.

(iii) November 15: A walk to raise awareness of child rights, and child abuse, was organized at the Quaid's mausoleum. A large number of people and organizations participated to express their concern about children's safety in the present-day situation of unrest and terrorism

(iv) November 17-18: A workshop on child protection, and case detection and management of child abuse was held at the Dow University of Health Sciences in collaboration with DUHS and UNICEF.

(v) November 19: A seminar was organized on Legal Rights of Children in collaboration with the Legal Rights Forum and DUHS.

(vi) November 20: Children's Day was celebrated at the HCPCs at CHK, and Sindh Govt Qatar Hospital.

(vii) November 24-25: A workshop on child abuse and neglect for general practitioners was held at the Patel Hospital, in collaboration with PPA, CRC and Save the Children, Sweden.

(viii) Media awareness raising programmes were aired at various television channels, including Sama TV, TV One, Dawn News and Express.

9. Curriculum finalized on preparing child rights and CAN for training health care providers, teachers and children.

10. Ashoka Fellowship was awarded to Konpal chairperson, at the Ashoka Induction of Fellows Ceremony held on April 21.

Kidnapped child recovered through the effort of Konpal Children Club member

FOUR and half year old Saina, resident of buffer zone was abducted on 7/9/09 by a man called Asif while she was playing outside her house.

According to Saina's mother her family consists of 11 family members including her three sons, one daughter and herself living with her mother and father because her husband passed away three years back.

She works as a housemaid and happens to be the sole breadwinner of her family, including her parents. She went to work in the morning as usual. When she came back home in the evening, she learned that her daughter has been kidnapped. The children named Asif who lived nearby as the culprit.

She went to the Taimuriya Police Station on September 9 and informed the police regarding her missing child. But no positive action was taken, neither was her report recorded. On September 14, she contacted Hamza Mughal, coordinator of the Konpal Children Club. Hamza and his father, Aslam Moghul, helped her lodge the FIR (first investigation report). After



Hamza gets his award

two days, on September 16 around 9pm, the girl was recovered and the abuser was arrested.

Her medical examination was carried out at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital and the medicolegal officer reported that the girl had signs of physical and sexual abuse. The DNA testing was positive, the investigation officer affirms. For legal

help, the case was referred to the Legal Rights Forum (LRF) and with their effort the convict is now lodged in jail.

We are proud of children like Hamza Moghul whose timely involvement helped save the life of a little girl. In recognition of his commendable service to humanity Hamza Moghul was awarded with a shield.

Children's Day glimpses



Konpal Calling newsletter is published by Dr. Aisha Mehnaz for the Konpal Child Abuse Prevention Society, 4-N, Block 6, PECHS, Karachi-75400. PAKISTAN
Email: draisha_mehnaz@yahoo.com, konpal@yahoo.com
Website: www.konpal.org

Konpal Calling is edited by M. Khalid Rahman; its layout designed by Mu Communications, B-4, Jumani Arcade, Main University Road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Block 14, Karachi-74300.
Email: mu.communications@gmail.com

بچوں کے حقوق کے لیے سالانہ واک

۱۰ نومبر کو عالمی یوم اطفال کے موقع پر کونپل کے تحت ایک واک کا اہتمام کیا گیا جس میں پانچ سو سے زائد افراد نے شرکت کی۔ ان میں بچے بڑے سبھی شامل تھے۔ یہ واک کراچی میں قائد اعظم محمد علی جناح کے مزار کے گرد منعقد کی گئی۔ اس واک کے ذریعے عوام اور ذرائع ابلاغ میں بچوں کے حقوق، ان پر ظلم و زیادتی کے انسداد اور حالات حاضرہ کے تناظر میں ان کو تشدد، دہشت گردی اور ہم دھاکوں سے جسمانی اور نفسیاتی تحفظ دینے کے بارے میں شعور اجاگر کیا گیا۔





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قارئین کے اصرار پر کوئٹل کانگپل کا انکالنگ سائٹ کا قیام۔
کارڈوشا رشتہ شائع کیا جا رہا ہے۔ اس کا اجرا کوئٹل کی پانچویں سالگرہ
کے موقع پر کیا گیا ہے

کوئٹل بچوں کے تحفظ اور ان پر تشدد کے ازالے کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ اس غیر حکومتی ادارے میں بچوں کے حقوق کے تحفظ کا عزم رکھنے والے افراد شامل ہیں جو معاشرے کو بچوں پر تشدد سے پاک کرنے کے لیے سرگرم عمل ہیں اور ایسا معاشرہ دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں جو بچوں پر جنسی تشدد کو اور ان کے کاروباری استعمال کو ہرگز برداشت نہ کرنے، اور نہ ان کو کسی ضرر رساں کام، عسکری تازعہ یا تشدد معاملے میں ملوث ہونے دے۔ اس کے ارکان میں مختلف شعبہ ہائے حیات سے تعلق رکھنے والے افراد شامل ہیں جو بچوں پر تشدد کے رجحان میں اضافے کے بارے میں فکرمند ہیں اور اس کے خاتمے کے لیے ہر ممکن طریقے سے جنگ کرنے میں مصروف ہیں۔

کوئٹل کا نصب العین: حقوق اطفال کا تحفظ

- ضروری معلومات فراہم کرنا۔
- زیادتی کا شکار ہونے والے بچوں کے مکمل علاج اور ان کو محفوظ مقام پر پہنچانا بھی کوئٹل کے مقاصد میں شامل ہے۔
- ہسپتالوں میں چائلڈ پروٹیکشن کمیٹی کا قیام۔
- اہم معلومات کے نشر و ابلاغ کے لیے کوئٹل کے جریدے

کوئٹل ایک غیر سیاسی، غیر لسانی سماجی ادارہ ہے جو بچوں کے حقوق کے لئے شب و روز کوشاں ہے اور بچوں پر ہونے والے ہر قسم کے ظلم و زیادتی پر آواز بلند کرتا ہے اور ان کے حقوق کے تحفظ کے لیے کام کرتا ہے۔

کوئٹل کیا ہے؟

کوئٹل کا ڈن ایک ایسے معاشرے کی تشکیل ہے جس میں بچوں کے ساتھ زیادتی کی کوئی گنجائش نہ ہو۔
کوئٹل زیادتی کے شکار بچوں کے تحفظ، علاج معالجہ اور ان کو معاشرے میں ایک باعزت مقام دلانے کے لیے گزشتہ پانچ برسوں سے مسلسل کوشاں ہے۔

کوئٹل کے مقاصد

- بچوں کے حقوق کے لیے اور زیادتی کے خلاف سیمینار، ورکشاپ اور مکالمے کے ذریعے لوگوں کو آگاہی دینا۔
- ان تمام لوگوں کو جو بچوں کی حفاظت، تعلیم اور حقوق سے وابستہ ہیں، باخبر رکھنا۔
- بچوں کو ان کے حقوق اور ان کی حفاظت کے بارے میں



کوئٹل کی تاحال کارکردگی

کوئٹل میڈیا ونگ، کوئٹل ہیلتھ کلب اور کوئٹل رضا کار ونگ وغیرہ ہیں۔ جو انتخاب محنت کے ساتھ بچوں کے حقوق کے لیے کوشاں ہیں۔
آپ بھی کوئٹل میں شامل اور اس نیک مقصد میں شریک ہو سکتے ہیں۔
مزید معلومات کے لیے مندرجہ ذیل پتہ پر رابطہ کریں۔

Konpal Child Abuse Prevention Society
4-N Block 6 PECHS Karachi-75400
Tel: (92-21) 3455-2220
Email: konpalcaps@gmail.com
www.konpal.org

میں چائلڈ پروٹیکشن کمیٹی کا قیام عمل میں لایا گیا ہے جہاں کوئٹل کی ٹیم جو ماہر اطفال، ماہر نفسیات، ماہر امراض نسوان، سماجی کارکن وغیرہ پر مشتمل ہوتی ہے بچوں کی دیکھ بھال اور علاج کرتی ہے اور اس کے بعد ان سے مسلسل رابطے میں رہتی ہے۔
جہاں ضرورت پڑتی ہے وہاں قانونی مدد بھی فراہم کی جاتی ہے۔
۳۔ کوئٹل بچوں پر تشدد اور اس کے عوامل پر مسلسل مصروف تحقیق ہے اور اس سلسلے میں مختلف کانفرنسز اور سیمینارز میں تحقیقی مقالے پیش کیے گئے ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ کوئٹل کا اپنا جریدہ کوئٹل کانگپل اور ویب سائٹ ہے۔

کوئٹل کی بہت سی ذیلی کمیٹیاں ہیں جن میں کوئٹل چلڈرن کلب،

کوئٹل کی سرگرمیوں میں چار مختلف نوعیت کے کام شامل ہیں:
۱۔ بچوں کے حقوق اور ان کے ساتھ زیادتی اور تشدد کے خلاف جدوجہد کرنا اور آگاہی بڑھانا۔ اس سلسلے میں مختلف سیمینار، ورکشاپ، ریڈیو اور ٹی وی پروگرامز منعقد کیے جاتے ہیں۔
۲۔ کوئٹل بچوں سے وابستہ افراد مثلاً ڈاکٹرز، نرسز، اساتذہ اور والدین کی تربیتی ورکشاپ کا انعقاد کرتا ہے۔ 700 سے زائد ڈاکٹرز، نرسز اور NGO کے افراد اور 150 سے زائد اساتذہ اور والدین کی تربیت پچھلے چند سالوں میں کی جا چکی ہے۔
۳۔ کوئٹل ان بچوں کو جو بد قسمتی سے عدم توجہی اور تشدد کا شکار ہو چکے ہیں علاج معالجہ فراہم کرتا ہے اس سلسلے میں ہسپتالوں

کوئٹل کنپل اور نرم و نازک لیکن پھر بھی ایک پیلول، پستہ یا شاخ بننے کے عزم سے بھرپور

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