

Workshop on advocacy and promotion of children's rights around the globe
conducted by FMSI
Rome/Geneva, 21 May - 2 June 2012

OVERVIEW

Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI), Geneva, has developed a ten-day child rights training workshop. The intended participants are key personnel from the Marist Brothers' Provinces¹ around the world. These people, called 'link persons', have a significant role in promoting the rights of children through advocacy efforts and conducting workshops within their own region. This workshop is intended to introduce them to the mechanisms of the United Nations, especially treaty monitoring bodies and the Universal Periodic Review and how to use these mechanisms to promote the rights of children and defend their rights in their own countries. The skills learnt in this workshop will equip the participants with the skills to conduct similar workshops in their region, as well as promote a *rights-based approach* for province organizations who work with children.

The program will embrace lectures, visits to the UN for some UPR sessions, listen to guest speakers from permanent missions, UN agencies and other NGOs on how to engage in advocacy and establish support networks in this field of work. They will develop a *Personal Action Plan* for advocacy and child protection and equip them to lead child rights advocacy and training in their own province.

The facilitators of the program will be:

- Brother Jim Jolley, fms, Director of Advocacy and Training for FMSI, Geneva
- Brother Manel Mendoza, fms, Advocacy Officer for FMSI, Geneva
- Brother Vicente Falqueto, fms, Advocacy Officer for FMSI, Geneva.

The participants arrive on Sunday 20th May. The course finishes at lunchtime on Saturday 2nd June.

Program learning Objectives:

The program will facilitate participants in

- Gaining a knowledge and understanding of children's rights as defined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989);

¹ There are 30 Provinces on the 5 continents and are present in 80 countries around the world.

- Understanding and using the various human rights (especially children’s rights) monitoring systems of the United Nations for promoting and defending the rights of children;
- Learning how to collect data for reporting to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and treaty monitoring bodies of the UN and how to follow up recommendations made by these UN instruments for promoting children’s rights locally and nationally;
- Understanding how a rights-based and child focused approach to working with children can lead to better and more sustained outcomes for children;
- Understanding and implementing a rights-based approach for their own organization’s work with children;
- Enhancing participants’ competence in developing and accessing networks to monitor local and national implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Understanding & applying best practice in the promotion and protection of children’s rights.

METHODOLOGY

This workshop will value the participants experience as a resource for learning. As far as possible the methodology will integrate theory, knowledge content, best practices, sharing of experiences, and experiential forms of learning, drafting reports and data collection. It will integrate the learning through lectures, guest speakers, film clips and attending UN session on human rights (UPR).

Activities:

Journaling: each participant is encouraged to maintain a reflective journal throughout the program.

Reading: Selected readings will be assigned at different points for reflection, study and discussion.

Working groups: Groups of 4 or 5 participants engaging in concrete learning tasks.

Discussion Groups: larger groups of 7 or 8 participants engaged in focussed activities, including panel interviews and role plays.

Developing a personal Action Plan that will guide their work when they return home.

LANGUAGES OF THE COURSE: **English and Spanish**

The course will be offered simultaneously in both **English** and **Spanish**. Professional translators will be engaged for these simultaneous translations and translation audio headsets will be provided for the participants.

DAILY TIMETABLE

Morning: 9.15-10.45; 11.15-12.45

Lunch: 13.00

Afternoon: 16.00 – 18.00

Supper: 19.30

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Day	Session	General Outline of Topics
1 Mon 21 st	1 (am)	Introductions. Course Objectives, including Personal Action Plans. Scope of work of FMSI –Geneva office. Role of province link persons.
	2 (pm)	Overview of international human rights system. Brief history of the UDHR. Exploration of OHCHR website and FMSI website. .
2 Tues 22 nd	3 (am)	Introduction to the <i>Convention on the Rights of the child (CRC)</i> - History of the CRC.
	4 (pm)	General Principles of the CRC. (1) Non-discrimination and (2) ‘best interests’, (3) Right to Life, survival and development. (4) The right to be heard.
3 Wed 23 rd	5 (am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Protection articles of the CRC (including child labour and juvenile justice) and the Right to Education b. Examining ‘what counts as abuse?’ and putting protection policies in place to protect children in province ministries (using the Marist Institute ‘Safeguarding Children’ document)
	6 (pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduction to the UPR – 3 phases, 4 stages. b. Scope of work of FMSI – Rome office
4 Thurs 24 th	7 (am)	National preparation for submitting to the UPR. Followed by a case study of preparing a submission (step by step). NGO briefings (lobbying) at the national and international level for the UPR.
	8 (pm)	Introduction to treaty monitoring bodies (TMBs): role and function.
5 Fri 25 th	9 (am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. National preparation for submitting to treaty bodies. b. Treaty Monitoring Body (TMB): The Committee on the Rights of the Child.
	10 (pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. UPR and TMB’s: comparative assessment. b. The 3 Optional Protocols of the CRC: OP-AC, OP-SC, OP-IC
6 Sat 26 th	11 (am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Preparation of visit to Geneva to attend a UPR session at the UN: Examining the 3 official documents used for the UPR (country specific); b. Review of the week; c. Logistics of travel and accommodation in Geneva.
	-----	Free time in the afternoon
7 Sun	-----	7.30a.m. Mass with the General House community Free time in Rome. Organised tour of Rome (optional)

27 th		
8 Mon 28 th	Monday	Fly to Geneva in the morning (easyJet: dep Rome 9.20, arrive Geneva 10.50). Accommodation at a local hotel in Geneva. (Monday is a public holiday in Geneva) Tour of Geneva in the afternoon
9 Tues 29 th	(am) Geneva 12 (pm)	a. Register at the UN to attend UPR session. (<i>Palais des Nations</i>) b. Meeting panel of representatives from permanent Missions in Geneva. How to do Advocacy in your own country. Making links with embassies Attend a UPR session (2.30-6.00)
10 Wed 30 th	13 (am) Geneva 14 (pm)	Attend the 60 th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at Palais Wilson. (The group will meet with a CRC Committee member over lunch to discuss “How can we promote the rights of the child at the national level?”) The NGO Group for the CRC: its function and how can we work cooperatively with this NGO organization. Return to Rome in the evening (easyJet dep. Geneva 18.50, arrive Rome 20.20)
11 Thurs 31 st	15 (am) 16 (pm)	a. Follow up to the visit to Geneva: questions, further details regarding how we can use the mechanisms of the UPR and the CRC to protect children and their rights. b. The ‘follow-up’ to a UPR (phase 3) and TMB ‘concluding observations’ reports at the national level: advocacy in action. Introducing a <i>rights-based</i> approach to ministry – distinguishing between needs and rights.
12 Fri 1 st	17 (am) 18 (pm)	Safeguarding children: policies and practices in province organisations. Writing a Child Protection Policy for Province Ministries.
13 Sat 2 nd	19 (am) (pm)	Presentation of personal Action Plans Presentation of Certificates of Attendance and Conclusions. Participants are free to depart for home