

# Overview

Representatives from government authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and children homes from different countries will gather in Kathmandu, the capital city of the Himalayan country Nepal from 11 to 13 March 2007 to discuss, talk and develop a framework that will help in contemplating and formulating a sound and effective law regarding adoption and also abide all concern individuals and parties to adhere to the norms, rules and regulations as per the provisions made in the UN CRC and the Hague Convention on adoption. The conference will specifically highlight and focus on The Hague Convention's ratification by Nepal. It is expected that the widespread participation both at the national and international level in this conference will play a key role in pressurizing the government in ratifying The Hague Convention.

## **Concept of Adoption under changing circumstances**

Adoption is not a new concept, but has been in practice since time immemorial. However, the concept the purpose for which children are being adopted have changed with due course of time and under changing social and economic circumstances.

## **Organizers**

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Inter-country Adoption (ICA) will be convened by Child NGO Federation-Nepal (CNFN), along with the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MWCSW); Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) as other organizers, and Nepal Children's Organization (NCO) as the co-organizer.

**The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare** was established about a decade back with the view of creating and establishing a just and equitable society where women and children are given equal justice and rights like men, and are able to enjoy and practice these rights. The Ministry is responsible for ratifying and signing all international conventions on women and children. It coordinates with various international governments, national and international organizations, institutions, agencies and stakeholders working in the child sector in the country. It is the sole authorized government machinery to design and develop plan and policies for delivering rights and justices to the women and children of this country.

**Central Child Welfare Board** is a statutory body created by the Children's Act 2048 BS (1992). It is charged with the overall responsibility to ensure realization of the rights of the children of Nepal by the state collaborating with civil society as well as national and international development organizations. It works towards protection of the children's rights as per the Child Rights Convention (CRC) standard. CCWB has overall responsibility to look after children's issues.

## **Goal of CCWB**

The goal of CCWB is to work towards the full realization of the rights of the children of Nepal by ensuring and enabling the State and civil society of Nepal to meet its obligations towards children to promote and protect their Rights progressively as per the CRC standard"

## **Objectives of CCWB**

- ü To strive for the incorporation of child rights issues into the mainstream development programs for the best interest of children.
- ü To take the lead role to influence and ensure that the programming of the government line ministries for children are done with the spirit of the CRC Principles and Provision and build up co-ordination and an environment of working together for children of Nepal in their planning and practical implementation.
- ü To ensure that the national policies and legal provisions are reviewed and formulated for improving the situation of children's rights according to the spirit of CRC.
- ü To promote Children's Participation and Citizenship Rights and child friendly development programs for the best interest of children.
- ü To influence and ensure that the National Plan of actions (NPOAs) achieves the declared goals of the promotion and protection of the rights of children in crisis e.g. child laborer, trafficked children, Children in Armed conflict, discriminated and marginalized groups of children (disabled, Dalits etc) children's Education and Health, so on and so forth.
- ü To mobilize and explore the available and potential resources at all levels, from family to state, for undertaking programs for children to ensure the progress of social changes / positive attitudes around the child's environment
- ü To bring together and form a Network of the organizations working for children, e.g., UN agencies, bilateral and Multilateral agencies/donors, INGOs, NGOs to address the challenges to meet children's rights in a coordinated and collaborative manner to usher POSITIVE CHANGE in the lives of children.
- ü To promote/ensure Child Rights Based Approach in all programming for children in the state to realize their rights.

**Child NGO Federation-Nepal (CNFN)** is an umbrella organization of NGOs working for child rights and child protection, including adoption. To date, about 100 child related NGOs have received its membership. Contrary to most NGOs and INGOs, CNFN does not implement programs and activities by itself, but empowers and strengthen it member organizations through trainings and other human resource development opportunities to implement their programs and activities in an effective and productive way. CNFN focuses its approach and strategy on playing a strong role in the advocacy and policy formulation related to child rights and child protection.

### **CNFN's Vision**

CNFN envisions to create an equitable society where every child is provided with full opportunity during the childhood age itself so that by the time they cross the childhood age, they are developed into productive and responsible citizens of this country.

### **CNFN's Mission Statement**

Our Mission is to work towards realizing the rights of the children strictly adhering to all International Conventions on Child Rights and Protection and following the CNFN's guiding principles establishing an extensive cooperation with all concerned to

improves the lives of children and allowing them to live a life without fear and discrimination, and develop themselves to their full potential.

#### **CNFN's Objectives**

- ü to promote the aims, values and principles of UN Convention on Rights of the Child (CRC), and to coordinate, activate and foster inter-NGO relationship by providing opportunities of linkages for development of children within the country.
- ü To play the role of advocacy in formulation of appropriate policy and law to ensure a just and meaningful society so that today's children can become better, useful and productive citizens of tomorrow who then can create a brighter and meaningful future for next generation.
- ü to coordinate and cooperate with local, national and international agencies and help them to implement various child rights and child development programs.
- ü to develop capable, dedicated and efficient human resource to work towards child rights and child related issues more effectively.
- ü to publish and disseminate information materials on issues related to child rights.

#### **CO-ORGANIZER**

Nepal Children's Organization (NCO) was established in 1964 as an autonomous non government organization and is a national organization committed to improving the lives of children throughout Nepal, enabling them to survive and succeed.

It has the most extensive programs for child-care and development with extensive geographical coverage in the Himalayan country.

NCO focuses on child care and education for orphaned, abandoned and conflict affected children; rehabilitation of dependent children of prisoners; promotion of children's rights; national and international adoption of children; educational support to children from low income families; and strengthening the capacity of its nationwide network.

#### **NCO's Mission**

NCO's mission is to provide a thorough foundation for a secured and dignified future of orphaned, abandoned, conflict affected and dependent children of prisoners by collaborating with individuals and organizations throughout the world to strengthen the nationwide network and augment the capacity to provide them the best available care and support.

#### **Major Efforts of NCO Include**

- Establishing and improving children's programs throughout the country in all the 75 districts through District Branches

- Operating child care centers for the orphaned, abandoned, conflict affected and dependent children of prisoners
- Providing quality child care at the child care centers and guidance to the families by conducting early child care, kindergarten and toddler's educational programs
- Assisting orphaned and abandoned children to become competent and productive members of society
- Training teachers, care mothers and professionals on best practices for working with children
- Providing health services, educational support and distribution of nutritional food items to children and low income families
- Conducting child rights advocacy programs through training and education? Implementing activities to promote the participation of children in creative and developmental activities