



World Scouting celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

?????:Brian Okello

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Geneva 20 November 2009 ? On November 20th the world will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). 20 Years ago in 1989 The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) was present to join representatives global community in celebrating this historic event and encourage governments to ratify the document. No other international legal document has been endorsed by so many countries in so little time. Today again Scouting joins its voice with the rest of the global community to remember and celebrate this date.

Chairman Rick Cronk says: ?As one of the worlds largest youth Movements that advocates for the respect, empowerment and protection of children and youth, it is of vital importance that we espouse the resolutions reflected in the CRC. Since its inception World Scouting has advocated for children's rights and supported the implementation through The Scout Method?. These views are at the very core of the fundamental values and philosophy of Scouting. World Scouting's commitment to children and young people can be seen in the Movement adopted policies and World Scout Conferences resolutions (7/02) implemented in 160 countries which currently reaches 30 million members.

Many National Scout Organizations (especially Boy Scouts of America, The Scout Association of the United Kingdom, Scouts Australia, Swedish Scouting and Scouting Ireland, Scouts El Salvador, The Federation of Egyptian Scouts, Scouts Jordan, the Federation of Lebanese Scouts, Scouts Zambia, The Federation of Turkish Scouts, Scouts Pakistan to name a few) have been the pioneers when it comes to policies and practice of child protection and prevention of abuse. Apart from adopting a Child Protection policy WOSM has created training programmes and other resources to support this, alongside, working with abused children and fostering child rights education in the youth programmes.

In order to further advocate for Child rights, World Scouting has engaged in partnerships with organizations that are known for their involvement and advocacy stances on the Rights of Children such as UNICEF, International Labour Organisation, UNESCO, with whom WOSM has had long standing relationships through MOU's. World Scouting recognizes the importance of investing in, protecting and empowering children and commit once again and call upon National Scout Organizations, partners, other NGOs, the governments and those who champion the rights of children to continue to contribute to making the Rights of the child a reality for all children.

For more information on [Scouting and Child Rights](http://www.scout.org/reachingout), please visit www.scout.org/reachingout

Useful links:

- [Keeping Scouts Safe From Harm](#) policy
- [U-Fund Video](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding with ILO/IPEC & UNICEF](#)
- [E-learning on child protection at the World Scout Jamboree](#)
- [Child Protection tool-kit](#) by the European Scout Region