

What's all this about the
**UN Study on
Violence
against
Children**

Regional Consultation
East Asia Pacific?

Published in Bangkok in 2005
by members of the Steering
Committee for the East Asia
Pacific Regional Consultation for
the UN Study on Violence Against
Children.



Violence affects all children's lives.

This booklet has been written for people aged 12 to 18 years, who want to know about the Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence against Children in East Asia Pacific. It is in three parts:

Part 1 Facts about the Regional Consultation

Part 2 Rights of children who go to the Regional Consultation

Part 3 Information about keeping safe and well at the Regional Consultation

The booklet will be useful for children who will go to the Consultation. But other children may also be interested, especially in Part 1.

Before reading this booklet you may like to know the way it uses some words.

Child A human being who has not yet reached his or her 18th birthday.

Delegates Children and adults who go to the Consultation to take part in discussions and make decisions.

Rights All human beings have the same rights - to be treated fairly, to have food, drink and shelter, health care, education and protection from being hurt. Everyone also has the right to be involved in decisions made about their lives.

One important right is protection from violence.

UN Study UN stands for the 'United Nations', which includes most countries in the world. The person who manages the United Nations is called the 'Secretary General' - at the moment the Secretary General is Kofi Annan. From time to time a Secretary General will ask for a study to be made about a particular problem. A Study of Violence against Children is being made at the moment, and will give a report to Mr Annan in 2006.

Violence When someone who is stronger or more powerful hurts another person deliberately, this is violence. It can be physical - hurting someone's body - or emotional - hurting someone's feelings.

The UN Study is studying violence against children in families, schools, communities, at work and when children are under the supervision of police or in prisons. It is not studying children in war, because there was a UN study about this in 1996.

Consultation The UN Study includes meetings in which governments, organisations that work with children, and children themselves, discuss violence against children. These are taking place in different regions of the world during 2005.

Region Our region is called 'East Asia Pacific'. It includes Australia, Brunei, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea PDR, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Pacific Islands, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Timor Leste and Viet Nam.

Facts about the Regional Consultation

Where?

The Regional Consultation on Violence against Children will be in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. The Consultation will take place in the United Nations Convention Centre and everyone will stay in a hotel close by.

When?

From 11 to 12 June 2005, there will be a Children's Forum. On 13 June, there is free time to relax with other children. The Regional Consultation is from 14 to 16 of June 2005.

Who?

The Consultation will be a meeting of about 300 children and adults from the East Asia Pacific region, who will talk about violence against children and try to find ways to stop it.

A chairperson will be in charge of all the discussions, making sure everyone has a fair chance to speak, does not speak for too long, and listens to other people.

Two other kinds of people will be at the Consultation:

1. Delegates (children and adults);
2. Adults who make sure the Consultation takes place and is properly organised.

Delegates

Some people will be delegates from their countries:

Children - two from each country in the region, who must be under 18 years old and will be called 'Under-18 Delegates';

Adults from the governments of all countries in the region, who will be people who know about violence against children;

Adults who know about violence against children, from organisations that are not part of governments (NGOs).

Other delegates are:

Adults from the Committee that organised the Consultation, who are from various regional groups that work to stop violence against children;

Adult experts who have special knowledge about violence against children and how to stop it.

Adults who make sure the Consultation takes place and is well-organised include a Consultation Coordinator, who makes the overall arrangements for Under-18 Delegates. There are some special people who will support Under-18 Delegates: guardians, facilitators, translators, child protection officers and medical staff.

Guardians: Adults who travel and stay with Under-18 Delegates, to make sure they are safe and well. Children should be able to say if they feel comfortable about the choice of guardian. One guardian will look after two children.

Facilitators: Adults who make it easier for Under-18 Delegates to say what they think and share their experiences; they are trained to work with children and use various methods, such as games, drama or art.

Translators: Adults who will help adults and children to understand the discussions at the Consultation. Most people at the Consultation will speak in English. Some translators will sit close to Under-18 Delegates. Their job is to translate discussions in English into the children's own language. When children wish to say something in the discussions the translator will translate from their language into English.

Child Protection Focal Points: Adults to whom Under-18 Delegates can go for help if they feel unsafe or have a complaint about someone else's behaviour. They will be available at all times, even during the night.

Medical staff: Doctors and nurses who can be contacted for any medical problems (big or small). They will be available at all times, even during the night.

What does it cost?

There is no cost for Under-18 Delegates and their guardians to attend the Consultation. Travel and hotel costs will be paid for them.

What will Under-18 Delegates do?

- Use their own experiences and ideas to take part in discussions and make decisions;
- Share information about other children from their own country;
- Listen to what other people say - both adults and children;
- Maybe vote when decisions are made;

- Prepare statements to be made during or after the Consultation;
- Maybe talk to people from newspapers, radio or television who want to know about the Consultation or about violence against children.

Facilitators and translators will help Under-18 Delegates. A room will be provided for Under-18 Delegates to work in, with computers, printers and photocopiers, where they can make drawings, write papers, record statements or run discussion groups with other children - anything they want to do that will help them take part in the Consultation.

What will happen?

Before the Consultation

Two children from each country will be chosen to attend the Consultation. They will be given information so that they know what to expect and what to do.

An organisation - from government or an NGO - will make all the preparations, fill in all the correct forms, buy tickets and pay for the hotel. This will include 'insurance', which is arranging for money to be available to deal with any problems while Under-18 Delegates are away from home - such as illness or losing the ticket home.

A Children's Forum will take place immediately before the Regional Consultation:

- This will explain what will happen at the Consultation, how everyone will work together;
- It may also be a time when Under-18 Delegates can prepare their own statements or presentations for the Consultation.

There will be one day of 'free time' between the Children's Forum and the Regional Consultation, when Under-18 Delegates can relax and get to know each other better.

During the Consultation

During the Consultation Under-18 Delegates will:

- Find out what kinds of violence against children are happening in the region;
- Provide information from their own country;
- Decide with adults which are the worst forms of violence and the ones that should be stopped first;
- Make suggestions of what to do about violence;
- Help write a plan for stopping violence against children in the region.

Sometimes everyone will be in the same place to listen to speeches. At other times people will have discussions in smaller groups, which gives everyone a chance to speak.

After the Consultation

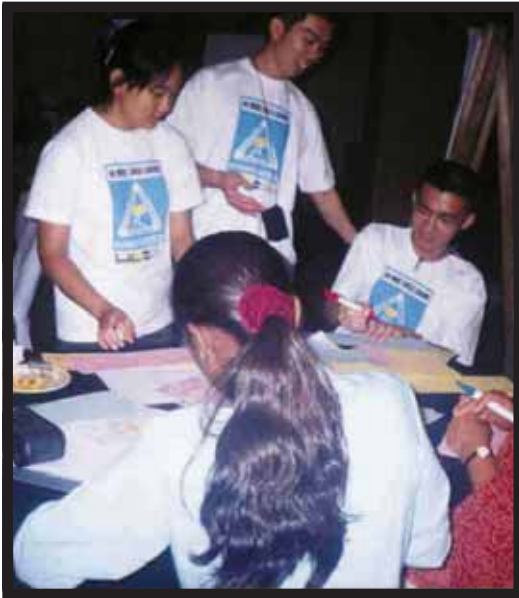
After people have returned home, each Under-18 Delegate will be sent a Report on the Consultation (in his or her own language).

The Report will:

- Describe what happened at the Consultation;
- List all the decisions made at the Consultation;
- Include plans for further activities the Consultation decided should take place.

The information in the Report will be included in the UN Study on Violence against Children.

Under-18 Delegates should be involved in follow-up activities in their own countries after the Consultation.





Rights of children who go to the Regional Consultation

This part is written for Under-18 Delegates to the Regional Consultation and explains their rights at the Consultation - about how children should be treated before, during and after the Consultation and what kind of special arrangements are made so that children are involved in the Consultation as equals with adults.

Some basic principles:

- Under-18 Delegates are as important as adult delegates;
- Under-18 Delegates should be taken seriously - particularly when decisions are being made;
- Under-18 Delegates should always be safe and feel comfortable at the Consultation.

Before you go to the Consultation

You have the right to information about:

- What you will be expected to do;
- What other people at the Consultation will do;
- How the Consultation will work.

You have the right to be chosen fairly. This means:

- Local guidelines for choosing Under-18 Delegates are explained clearly to every child who is interested in becoming an Under-18 Delegate;
- Anyone younger than 18 years old can be chosen, whether they live in country or town, are a boy or a girl, have a disability or not, whatever age they are (as long as this is younger than 18 years old) and whatever language they speak, whether rich or poor, and whatever their class, caste or ethnic group.

Before you agree to go to the Consultation you have the right to be informed on

- What the Consultation is about;
- Where it is;
- What you will be expected to do as an Under-18 Delegate;
- What other people will do.

If you understand all this information and feel comfortable about going you should be asked to sign a form agreeing to go - this is called 'informed consent'. You can say 'No' even if your parents say 'Yes'. No one should force you or persuade you to go if you feel uncomfortable. Children will not be punished or criticised if they do not want to go.

You have a right to forbid your name, picture and opinions being shared with other people

- As the Consultation is about sharing information and opinions you will be asked to sign a 'media consent form', which means that people who are not at the Consultation (called 'the public') can be told about you and your opinions, through newspapers, radio or television;
- If you say something that you don't want shared with others, you need to tell people, such as your guardian, a facilitator or your translator, that this information is 'confidential'. And they must not share it with anyone else;
- You may be asked to sign a form saying whether you agree to your name, picture and what you say being shared with others. This may happen before you travel to the Consultation, or at the Children's Forum;
- Even if you agree, you can change your mind later.

You have a right to be safe and well during the Consultation

- After you have been chosen to be an Under-18 Delegate you will be asked to help choose your guardian. This person will be with you the whole time you are away from home, to make sure you are safe and well, and to help you with any problems you have while you are travelling to Bangkok as well as during the Consultation.

If you have a disability, you have a right to special treatment

- If you have problems moving around by yourself, you have a right to get into the meeting place for the Consultation, including space for a wheelchair, lifts and ramps;
- If you have problems seeing, you have a right to help finding your way around and knowing what is happening around you;
- If you have problems hearing, you have a right to sign language if this will help you to communicate;
- If you have a permanent illness, such as epilepsy or diabetes, you have a right to your usual special diet and medicines.

During the Consultation

You have a right to go to the Children's Forum

- This is a meeting for Under-18 Delegates only (with facilitators and translators);
- It happens immediately before the Regional Consultation;
- The Children's Forum will help explain what will happen at the Consultation, how adults and children will work together and what you can expect;
- The adults who are organising the Consultation will talk to you about the arrangements made for newspapers, radio and television to be given information about the Consultation. You will be able to discuss this with them and decide together how to share information with the public. You need to know:

- What questions you will be asked;
 - How the newspapers, radio or television might use what you say;
 - That you can refuse to talk to anyone from the media;
 - That you can refuse to answer certain questions;
 - That you can ask for your name not to be used.
- The Children's Forum will also be a time when Under-18 Delegates can prepare statements or presentations for the Consultation.

You have a right to be understood by everyone at the Consultation

- Facilitators will be at the meeting to help make it easy for you to speak or express your feelings;
- Translators will be at the meeting to help you understand what is being said. The Consultation will take place in English but you can still speak in your own language and the translators are there to translate what you say into English. They will also translate anything anyone says in English into your language. They will sit close to you and quietly tell you what is being said;
- Your guardian will translate for you when you are not in the Consultation - this means during lunch breaks, before and after the meeting, on any trips and on your journey to and from Bangkok;
- Sign language translation should be treated just like all other language translation.

You have a right to give your opinion. This means:

- Making statements or presentations;
- Telling people about your experiences;
- Giving your opinions;
- Being taken seriously by everyone;
- Having input into the Reports from the Consultation.

You have a right to protection if you talk to people from newspapers, radio or television ('the media')

While you are at the Consultation people from the newspapers, radio and television may want to talk to you. It is important that you do not meet these people on your own. Make sure you are with your guardian, one of the organisers or another responsible adult. You have a right to:

- Refuse to talk to people from the newspapers, radio or television, or to answer their questions;
- To know what they might ask you, and discuss your answers with other children, your guardian, facilitators, translators and organisers;

After the Consultation

When you return home:

You have a right to share your experiences with other children from your country

- National organisations should help you to do this - give you chances to speak to other children or to organisations about the Consultation.

You have a right to receive a Consultation Report

- Translated into your own language;
- Explaining the decisions that were made at the Consultation and any plans of action or activities on violence against children in the region.

You have a right to take part in any follow-up activities in your country

- National organisations should help you to take part in these activities - you will have some very valuable experience to share.

Information about keeping safe and well at the Regional Consultation

All Under-18 Delegates are welcome at the Regional Consultation. They should feel safe and well at all times. But sometimes it may be difficult to feel at ease in a strange place, with children and adults who come from different countries and speak different languages. As an Under-18 Delegate at the Regional Consultation you need to remember how to make sure you always feel comfortable, respected and safe.

Feeling comfortable

It is not correct for an adult or child to:

- Hit you or hurt you in any way;
- Bully or tease you;
- Ignore what you say, including questions and requests;
- Insult you or make you feel stupid or embarrassed.

Being respected

No adult or child should:

- Treat one child or a group of children better (or worse) than others - everyone should be treated equally;
- Refuse to believe what you say, or suggest that you are not telling the truth;
- Try to make you say things that you don't want to say;
- Try to make you do things you don't want to do;
- Force or persuade you to do things that you should not do, including activities that are:
 - Illegal (such as drinking alcohol or smoking);
 - Unsafe (such as swimming in the hotel pool on your own);
 - Harmful for anyone else (such as hitting or teasing).

Keeping safe

No adult or child should:

- Take you outside the Consultation or your hotel without your guardian;
- Invite you to sleep in their hotel room, or to stay overnight at their house on your own;
- Sleep in your bed, or in your hotel room if this has not been agreed with your guardian;
- Make you feel uncomfortable or embarrassed by treating you as if you are their boyfriend or girlfriend;
- Do things for you that are personal, which you can do yourself, such as dress you or wash you.

Getting help

If you feel uncomfortable, or that you are not respected or that you are not safe, you have a right to help from a Child Protection Officer.

Child Protection Officers will be available day and night at the Consultation. They will listen to anything you want to tell them and not tell anyone else about it, unless you give your permission.

Child Protection Officers will try to make sure that the people you complained about change their behaviour. If you are in real danger they may have to tell someone to help protect you, but they will talk to you about this first.

You can complain about something that has happened to you or about something that has happened to another Under-18 Delegate.

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Notes

Notes

The photographs in this booklet show Under-18 Delegates taking part in the Sixth East Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation on Children, in Bali in 2003, as well as in a preparatory meeting in Bangkok and the Children's Forum in Bali.

Photographs are reprinted with permission from the CD-Rom *Children as Advocates*, published in Bangkok by Save the Children and UNICEF, 2004.

Do you want to know more?

To find out more about Under-18 Delegates at the Consultation, contact epro@unicef.org

To find out more about the UN Study on Violence against Children: Subgroup on Children and Violence:
<http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/publications/NGOCRC/subgroup-violence.htm>

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child:
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/study.htm>

The official UN website for the Study:
<http://www.violencestudy.org>