

August 5, 2009

Jan van Gils,  
President, International Council on Children's Play.

Dear Jan,

You will recall that your organization joined with IPA over a year ago to request a Day of Discussion and/or a General Comment on article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As you know, the letter was sent in May last year and although we were notified that copies of the letter had been forwarded to each member of the UN Committee, heavy agendas have so far not allowed formal discussion of the proposal. The Chair of the Committee, Dr. Yanghee Lee, has assured us that our proposal is still very much in their minds and pending serious consideration. However, the composition of the committee changed significantly after its last meeting and with the current excessive workload it is unlikely that new initiatives will be undertaken for a while.

In the meantime, in order to maintain the momentum and maintain a focus on the importance of play, IPA has been working toward the organization of a series of worldwide consultations on the implementation of article 31. It has taken some time to develop the details of this initiative – following a strategic meeting in Rotterdam in November last year - but we are now very pleased to report that the Bernard van Leer Foundation (Netherlands) has agreed to contribute financial support to the project.

Eight regional consultations will be held in various parts of the world following an Orientation meeting and Pilot Consultation in Johannesburg in January. These will all take place in the first half of 2010. **We are enclosing a two-page summary of the project for your information.**

We will of course keep you informed as the project unfolds. If there is a member of your organization who would be interested in participating more closely with this project, please let us know. You will be glad to hear that Childwatch International, and a number of other regional organizations, have joined our "campaign" to bring international attention to article 31.

Best wishes, and thank you again for your ongoing support of this important endeavour.

Valerie Fronczek  
IPA Communications Officer