

ICCP is supporting an initiative of IPA to raise awareness of the importance of art. 31 (on the right to play) of the UN-convention on the Rights of the Child.

We are aware that there are challenges in the realization of State compliance with the CRC generally and that article 31 is perhaps the most neglected.

In this current international climate which has created so many barriers to children's play, the International Play Association is very serious about focusing attention on this most important developmental right of children. It intends to harness its own resources and to welcome other like-minded organizations so that together we can mount a concerted effort to gain the attention of States Parties worldwide.

* Letter of Request to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

In April 2008 IPA entered a **partnership with seven key international organizations** to propose that the Committee on the Rights of the Child organize a *Day of Discussion* and/or develop a *General Comment* on article 31 of the UNCRC to elaborate on its meaning and increase state accountability with regard to compliance. The letter of request was sent on May 8th, 2008. Supporting organizations are:

International Pediatrics Association
World Leisure Association
Right to Play International
International Council on Children's Play (ICCP)
World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP)
International Toy Library Association
European Child Friendly Cities Network (ENCFC)

The full text of the letter can be found by:

<http://www.ipaworld.org/res/IPAletterUN.pdf>

* Strategy

It is strategically important to **draw attention to article 31 worldwide** during the next few years and to begin to assemble material that can be useful in either a Day of Discussion or in the development of a General Comment. It is with this in mind that IPA has devised the "Worldwide Consultation Series".

The first consultation took place in Rotterdam (the Netherlands), last November.

* Background

For more background-information, you can read the text of Jaap Doek, former president of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child:

http://www.ipaworld.org/pro/pro_hongkong.html#Children and the Right to Play