

Prayer and Action for Children

The World Day of Prayer and Action for Children brings together people of faith and goodwill to make commitments for world fit for children around the world.

Many families suffer in silence, avoid talking about the problems in their homes, because they are afraid that people from outside may not understand what is going on.

In the homes there are children, mothers and fathers who need support and guidance. After listening to the anguish of the families, it is necessary to indicate possible solutions, which can be found through dialogue and collaboration with religious, government entities and traditions

Interreligious conversation circles

This text can be used as reference material in the conversation circles in the process of organizing the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children and then monitor the commitments. The meetings in the cities can be carried out with the participation of public, social and religious organizations, Christian churches and other religious traditions such as African traditions, Indian, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, spiritualist, Baha'i, Are Krishna, among others. The purpose of the meetings is to define concrete strategies to overcome the challenges that involve the violation of rights of children and organize an event in November. The attached form and the following steps for conversation can be used:

Step 1 – Seeing the attention components

This is the time to understand the situation of violation regarding children rights and its causes; is the opportunity to know what are the projects developed by the participants and learn from each other. This mapping is the basis for transforming the Day of Prayer and Action into a moment of commitment and networking.

Questions to discuss: What are the attention components or situations which shows violated rights of the most vulnerable children in the city? Which initiatives exist in the religious traditions and organizations that are good projects for fighting the violation of children rights?

The target is to drive during the week of November 20, prayers and actions to protect the rights and promote the welfare of children

Step 2

The Day of Prayer and Action for Children in November is an opportunity to celebrate the outcome of actions for coping with situations that affect the rights of the most vulnerable children. These can also be used as a reference for the fulfillment of child rights outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child proclaimed on November 20, 1989.

Suggested dynamics: read the list of children rights and duties of the family, society and the State. Think over the list with the collaboration of the participants. Write on the record sheet attached the attention components (points of attention), the causes, actions, responsible and deadlines. Use the sheet to assess the stage of evolution of the actions in meetings with other participants during the year. Send a copy to the national coordination of the Pastoral da Criança, in Curitiba.

List of Right and Duties

Every child has the right to live and need:

- Love, care and attention from parents and relatives .
- Conditions for the physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.
- Opportunity to creed.
- Time to rest and play freely.
- Culture and Art.

The duties of the Family, Society and the State:

- Assure prenatal assistance to the mother and knowledge about child care.
 - Register the child after birth.
- Protect children from discrimination.
- To defend the welfare of the child first.
 - Respect the responsibility of parents and relatives.
 - Ensure conditions for survival and healthy development of the child.
 - Ensure the children ties to live together with the Family and Community.
 - Combat trafficking children to outside countries.
 - Protect children from violence, exploitation, sexual abuse and drug use.
 - Ensure quality education.
 - Propose continuous health prevention and treatment of diseases policies.
 - Create opportunities for autonomy and participation of children with disabilities.
 - Apply socio educational treatment in cases of infractions acts.

(adapted from the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child)

In 2013, motivated by the Day of Prayer and Action for Children, circles of conversation were held in many municipalities in Brazil. The focus of the event was the discussion about the points of attention related to violation of children rights. There was participation of the Pastoral da Criança, religious traditions, community organizations, councils and public institutions. The National coordination of the Pastoral da Criança received the registration sheets of these conversations circles and identified the following causes of rights violations:

- neglect
- lack of care, information, government involvement, and parents' time spent with the children
- Access to drugs
- Poor quality of education
- poor health services
- unemployment
- unhealthy eating habits
- family dysfunction
- lack of basic sanitation
- bad example of parents
- lack of awareness of rights and duties

According to the registration sheets, the actions presented to work out the attention components depend on improvements in public services, especially in the area of safety, health, the rights of children and adolescents and social assistance. The family and community environment described and the proposed actions, highlight the need to help parents and family members in the mission of educating and caring for their children.

Questions to discuss:

1. What are the causes for not achieving the children rights in the city?
2. How are the collaborative solutions for children and their families needs? What are the deadlines?

Celebration in November

The commitments that may come out from the discussion above, and its results, can be presented during the Day of Prayer and Action for Children event, in November.

Suggestion of initiatives for November 20th:

- invitation of young people from different religious traditions to play with children
- organizing learning spaces and recreation
- promoting cultural presentations
- distribution of seedlings
- hiking
- pray the Prayer for Children with the participation of the children
- share healthy meal
- promote audience in the legislative assembly chamber

Since the beginning of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) in the year 2000, this network mobilizes resources and adopt interfaith communication measures and dialogue to overcome all forms of children rights violations.

Each child is unique, has a name, need a family. The mobilization of GNRC makes sense if it is useful to set commitments, promote changes.

Civil society must be increasingly articulated and attentive to government actions, so it can have better participation in building quality public policies for children. Additionally, the society must require that public resources are budgeted and well applied in these policies.

The Pastoral da Criança can help identify people, institutions, public and private entities to build networks of solidarity. Different religious traditions have capillarity and can act in coordination to promote with courage the rights of children and adolescents. This is a way to pray and act for the child.

The headquarters of the Secretariat of the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children is in New York, United States. The Secretariat publishes news and events addresses in the countries around the world. Internet address

www.dayofprayerandaction.org

The Pastoral offers information on activities in Brazil at:

www.pastoraldacrianca.org.br/diadeoracao

Dicas (Tips) is an instructive material for Coordination Teams of the Pastoral da Criança.

If you have any questions or suggestion, please write to:

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