



CRIN

CHILD RIGHTS INFORMATION NETWORK

Child Rights Information Network - CRIN Annual Report 2008

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We are thankful to the volunteers and interns who work with the coordinating unit and who contribute many of hours of work. This includes Alexandra de Bournonville, Lora Sfeir, Ed Renshaw, Juliette Rubenstein, Floriane Begasse, Armando Arias, Melisa Ogliastri, Ara Yoo, Mar Jimenez, Tanya Schroder, Mariel Velázquez, Patrick Geary, Edward Velasco, Hendrika Rhoad, Marie Zemp, Annie Rigler, Catherine Weston and Claude Rochon.

CRIN Trustees

Peter Newell (Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children) - **Chair**
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Eva Geidenmark (Save the Children Sweden)
Andres Guerrero (UNICEF)

“I have gained much knowledge and immense inspiration from the numerous articles which I received through CRINMAIL. The various news items and articles have assisted in my deliberations. I take this opportunity to thank CRIN.” (High Court Judge, Bangladesh)

“You are doing a wonderful job in the field of child care and protection. I am particularly impressed by all the latest information on children's rights and other related issues you post on your website.” (Child rights advocate, India)

“I admire the work of CRIN in supporting the UN Study on Violence Against Children.” (Paulo Pinheiro, Independent Expert on Violence Against Children)

“Thank you for the latest CRINMAIL in Spanish - it is important for our work.” (NGO in Panama)

“I am a regular visitor of CRIN website, its simply amazing.”
(Pakistani NGO)

“Thank you for distributing our work!” (Legal clinic, Uruguay)

“Thank you for listing us as a 'go to' organisation. It makes such a difference.” (US NGO)

“It has been a wonderful development - to see how CRIN has come to be the main source of information for children's rights - well known, reliable and respected.” (Swedish NGO)

“Thank you very much for this input. It is so hard to find anything on Belarus.” (User from Belarus)

“I have been receiving and reading CRINMAIL for at least the last 2 years. I love it and regularly encourage others whom I come into contact with in the children's rights communities to subscribe to it. I actually found my current employment through it. I rely on it completely.” (UK international NGO)

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Introduction – a passion for change

At CRIN, we are passionate about promoting action and information on children's rights. We press for rights, not charity, for children and are guided by the belief that children's rights *must* be at the top of the global agenda.

What does this mean? Well, we believe that the only means of achieving long-term change for children is by addressing root causes and promoting systematic change, even if this is sometimes controversial, and challenges existing practices and beliefs about children. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is our guiding framework, and we think it offers the best blueprint for children's emancipation from harm and injustice.

Our objectives include:

- *To enable members of the child rights community, and others, to understand and implement the UN CRC*
- *To educate and inform, particularly on new and emerging issues in child rights*
- *To support and fuel the advocacy initiatives of members and other child rights organisations, for example by hosting petitions and providing a platform for joint campaigns*
- *To lobby and advocate for the implementation of children's rights and their mainstreaming in all United Nations mechanisms*

Back in 2006, CRIN set strategic priorities that reflected a desire to evolve into a more proactive, agenda-setting organisation. These involve:

- *Taking a more proactive approach to information management to encourage and fuel advocacy initiatives.*
- *Focusing on 'neglected' and 'new and emerging' child rights issues*
- *Developing a more explicit focus on key audiences, identified by their ability to achieve greater recognition for children's rights*

Our achievements during 2008 included:

- *The launch of a (successful) campaign, in partnership with other organisations, to appoint a Special Representative to the Secretary General on **Violence Against Children***
- *Hosting a petition calling for an end to the **execution of juvenile offenders***
- *Launched a campaign to establish a **complaints mechanism under the CRC***
- *Publishing a world-first **guide to the global child rights system** in three languages (with more expected)*
- *Identified **complex key issues**, such as the financial and food crises, and explained their significance for children in simple language*
- *Published a **Guide to Strategic Litigation** for child rights NGOs in English, French and Spanish*
- *The launch of a **child rights network for the Arab region** which involved sourcing and translating hundreds of items in Arabic.*
- *Lobbying for greater **consideration of children's rights at the Human Rights Council***
- *Publicising the **work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child***
- *Our **network expanded** to encompass more than 2,000 members*
- *Informing, influencing and supporting a growing **child rights community**, thanks in part to thousands more subscriptions to our e-newsletters*

CRIN in action

Information and support

CRINMAILs

CRINMAIL is a regular email news and information service, produced in English, French, Spanish and most recently in Arabic, covering both general child rights issues as well as thematic subjects. Issues offer a selection of news items, events, reports, calls for participation and job announcements.

CRINMAIL has become our flagship publication with over 8,000 subscribers for nine different lists. Anyone can subscribe to the list free of charge and submit information for inclusion.

Subscriptions to CRINMAIL usually increase by between about 20% and 60% each year, depending on the edition, and 2008 was no exception.

CRIN offers nine different lists:

- **CRINMAIL English:** sent out twice a week. This is CRIN's original list, with more than 1000 editions and over 5,000 subscribers (*see box for further details*)
- **CRINMAIL Spanish:** monthly, plus special editions
- **CRINMAIL French:** monthly, plus special editions
- **CRINMAIL Children and Armed Conflict:** monthly
- **Rights CRINMAIL:** sent out when required
- **CRINMAIL Violence:** An update on the UN Study on Violence against Children. Sent out when required
- **CRINMAIL CRC:** sent out during sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, or when necessary
- **CRINMAIL HRC:** On children's rights and the new UN Human Rights Council. Includes updates on the activities of the NGO Group subgroup on the HRC and coverage of the actual sessions of the HRC (sent out daily during sessions of the HRC, also called 'Children Have Rights Too')
- **CRINMAIL Arabic:** Issues contain news updates, resources and events relevant to the Arab speaking world. This CRINMAIL is sent out in a different format from a separate database.

	Feb 2008	Feb 2009	change
CRINMAIL English	4752	5600	18%
CRINMAIL en Español	646	822	27%
CRINMAIL en Français	594	767	29%
Violence CRINMAIL	1937	2592	34%
Child Rights at the Human Rights Council	2646	3496	32%
Rights CRINMAIL	2584	3324	29%
Armed Conflict CRINMAIL	2445	2989	22%
CRC CRINMAIL	1283	2060	61%
Arabic CRINMAIL	*	1300	N/A

Table 1: CRINMAIL growth, 2008-2009

Special editions of CRINMAIL aim to deepen knowledge of new and neglected child rights issues, or offer a different take on particular themes. Themes in 2008 included:

- The global financial crisis
- The Millennium Development Goals and children's rights
- The UN General Assembly
- 2008 New Year round up
- Roma rights
- Disabilities
- Food
- Strategic litigation

Other special editions of the CRINMAIL were produced when CRIN attended key international events on children's rights, or in collaboration with partners, for instance:

- III World Congress on Sexual Exploitation
- UN Human Rights Council
- Sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Emerging and neglected issues

One of CRIN's core objectives is to identify neglected and new or emerging child rights issues. As such, we afford priority to news, reports and other information which highlights such issues. We also undertake research and produce information pages to encourage and inspire child rights advocates. During 2008, activities included:

- Compiling special CRINMAILs on topics such as the food and financial crises, Roma children, and disability
- Researching and compiling information pages on subjects including sexuality and sex education, children of prisoners, early childhood, media and the right to play.
- The production of CRIN's hard copy Review on 'Children's Right to the City', discussed below.
- Sourcing stories and reports for CRINMAIL on subjects such as freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and transgender children.

Email information service

CRIN receives up to 100 email enquiries per week, mostly involving questions about child rights and the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and questions about CRIN itself. Our target is to always respond to emails within three days of receipt. The enquiry desk also approves submissions and feedback posted on the website by members. About 20 to 30 resources are submitted to CRIN for publication each week, varying from press releases and calls for information to reports and job adverts.

Review

The CRIN Review is a hard copy publication that examines a particular issue in depth. Published approximately once a year in English, French and Spanish and partly in Arabic, it is distributed to all CRIN members in hard copy and available to download on the website at this link: <http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=7009&flag=report>

The subject of the Review published in September 2008 was 'Children's Right to the City'. Now, for the first time in history, more than half the world's population is living in towns or cities. "Children's Right to the City" offers an analysis of the challenges posed to children's rights in some of the world's biggest cities as well as lessons learnt and practical tips. It includes research on children's housing rights in the run-up to the Beijing Olympics, tips on what makes a city child-friendly, and on using new technologies for advancing children's rights in urban settings, among other articles.

Languages

French, Spanish and others

We consider it essential that resources are available in as many languages as possible. We are therefore always looking to broaden our dedicated team of volunteer translators.

We have particularly tried to ensure Information translated is focused on new and neglected issues, in line with CRIN's priorities, including reports on the negotiations on the new disability Convention and developments at the newly established UN Human Rights Council.

Materials on the campaign to establish an international complaints mechanism for children have also been translated into the core languages of French, Spanish and Arabic, as well as Russian, while the call to abolish the death penalty for minors has also been translated into Russian, Farsi and Japanese.

We have also managed to secure the translation of a handful of key resources into Russian, Farsi and Japanese.

Our Media Toolkit, Strategic Litigation toolkit, and Guide to Child Rights Mechanisms are all available in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic.

Work is also underway on translating the Mechanisms Guide into Russian and Portuguese.

Arabic programme

CRIN's first regional desk opened in January 2008 to improve coverage of child rights issues in the Middle East and North Africa, and to stimulate the growth of a child rights network in the region. The programme has included the rebirth of CRINMAIL Arabic, and was possible thanks to funding from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

Activities included:

- collecting and disseminating information about child rights,
- recruiting new members,
- supporting the information needs of existing members and ensuring an increase in information sharing between Arabic speaking nations and the rest of the world.
- Translating and distributing CRIN toolkits and guides, such as the media toolkit and guide to child rights mechanisms.

By disseminating information on the rights of the child, in a region where such information is scarce or completely lacking, our work has, we believe, raised the profile of problems affecting children. Organisations working on general human rights or welfare issues have been enlisted as members, and we expect that this will encourage them to mainstream children's rights in their overall work.

Encouraging organisations and activists in the region to sign up to CRIN petitions in Arabic, in particular those on ending the juvenile death penalty across the world and on establishing a complaints mechanism to the CRC, has given these campaigns greater coverage, more authenticity and a bigger impact. Iran, for example, has been encouraged to issue public statements about revising its laws on the death penalty - even if these statements were not always satisfactory, they demonstrate impact.

Nurturing a regional child rights network has also helped to draw child rights issues in general to the attention of national governments. By creating common ground, and encouraging organisations and activists to speak with a collective, and therefore more powerful, public voice, the situation of children has attracted greater political attention. Organisations and activists, as a result of CRIN's Arabic service, are able to achieve their goals with a greater understanding of the international legislative framework on children's rights, and with a better awareness of, for example, different thematic areas.

Events

CRIN reported or presented at a number of key international events in the course of 2008. These included:

- Reporting on child rights at the 7th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC)
- Chairing a side event on a complaints mechanism to the CRC (see below)
- Reporting on the launch of a campaign against child abuse in Lebanon
- Reporting on an event about children and the city in the Netherlands
- Reporting, like every year, on the Committee on the Rights of the Child's annual Day of General Discussion. The subject in 2008 was education in emergencies.
- Reporting from the III World Congress Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Rio de Janeiro
- Reporting from the Council of Europe meeting on child friendly justice in Stockholm

Special features

2008 saw the launch of our '**From the Frontline**' interview series. Sensing informal interviews might be both an opportunity to inspire good work on children's rights, while also entertaining CRINMAIL readers, we conducted more than 20 such interviews with child rights experts from around the world. These included UN Special Procedures, heads of NGOs and independent experts. More are planned.

We continued to produce **CRIN quizzes**, which aim to both entertain and inform. These became more targeted on specific issues, for example Roma children or the financial crisis, during 2008.

Discrimination

In 2008, CRIN began work on a huge discrimination portal. A grant from Save the Children Sweden enabled us to develop a new micro-site on children and non-discrimination, which will go live in 2009. The site will explore the issue across all children's rights, with a particular focus on age discrimination. Content developed for the site in 2008 included: briefings to deepen understanding of discrimination issues, a global report on status offences, a compilation of relevant laws, resources, successful and ongoing campaigns and advocacy initiatives, and a database of organisations working on discrimination against children.

Ongoing projects

UN Study on Violence against Children

CRIN's work on violence against children has been a priority since the idea for a Study was first mooted in 2001. At the time, CRIN was already involved in documenting and disseminating the work of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child among its growing number of members and users.

When the Study was announced, a number of NGOs who had been involved in lobbying for the Study expressed the need for a portal for civil society to collect relevant information in relation to preparations for the study, and monitor civil society's participation in the process.

The aim of the website was to offer up to date information on civil society participation in the Study process, including coverage of Regional Consultations (see section on Events) and a resource section containing NGO submissions to the Study and other relevant thematic publications.

Following the launch of the Study, CRIN was selected as a member of the NGO Advisory Council to follow up the Study's recommendations and support the work of the UN Special Representative on Violence against Children - a post which was approved by a UN General Assembly Resolution in 2007. The campaign to appoint this post is discussed in more detail in the 'advocacy' section.

The violence study website continues to be updated and will undergo a revamp during the course of 2009 to serve as a hub for the Council's work in following up on the Study's recommendations and in working in close collaboration with the UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children.

Rights based programming project

The rights based programming microsite, which was set up in 2005, continues to offer specialised resources on rights based approaches to development including events, publications, practical tools and news. The project also includes an email list which updates subscribers on resources related to rights based approaches to programming.

See: www.therightsapproach.org

Committee on the Rights of the Child

CRIN continued its cooperation with the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child to provide coverage of the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and make alternative reports available. In addition, all Concluding Observations in English can be found on the CRIN website, and we post submissions to the General Day of Discussion

We are in continuous contact with the NGO Group, always endeavouring to improve our working partnership, and occupy a seat on the Group's Executive Committee.

We have interviewed Committee members for our 'From the Frontline' series of interviews, published in CRINMAIL.

Finally, we produce a CRC CRINMAIL which contains information on the work of the Committee, including reports on, for example, elections to the Committee, as well as alternative reports, Concluding Observations and other relevant news.

UN Human Rights Council

In cooperation with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), CRIN now advertises the upcoming visits of the UN Special Procedures to encourage members to submit information or get involved in other ways at national levels. CRIN follows up on visits and compiles reports of mentions of child rights.

CRIN continued to report on developments in the new Council's procedures, following its transformation from the Commission on Human Rights.

We are members of the Working Group for the Human Rights Council, which seeks to encourage the mainstreaming of children's rights at the Human Rights Council. This has included undertaking communications activities, and research and analysis.

As part of our work, we have published reports on the integration of children's rights issues in the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** process. We have also disseminated a toolkit to help child rights NGOs with submitting reports to the UPR process.

Alongside a group of other international NGOs, CRIN also produced an analysis of how children's rights had been addressed in the UPR.

Legal guide to children's rights

In 2007, CRIN launched a legal project to make the international, regional and national laws and mechanisms understood by those who can use them on the ground. The tool will support child rights advocates to use human rights complaints mechanisms to challenge breaches of children's rights. For more information about the guide, see below.

Child rights in regional mechanisms

CRIN has monitored and reported on child rights in regional mechanisms, covering news unavailable elsewhere. This has included producing comprehensive briefings on child rights in each system (Inter-American, European, African, as well as incipient efforts in Asia and the Middle East), and how NGOs can use these systems. These have been compiled as part of CRIN's 'Guide to child rights mechanisms'.

CRIN has also entered instruments from each system relating to child rights in a legal database, including treaties and protocols, advisory opinions, and case law.

CRIN has given particular attention to the African, Inter-American and European systems. Specific activities for each system are detailed below:

On the African system, CRIN:

- worked with Plan International to provide coverage of the the first meeting of the Civil Society Forum on and around the work of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. These are available here: <http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=20131&flag=report>

- published the experience of the first communication submitted to the African Committee, which will be examined in November 2009:
<http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=20137&flag=report>
- published the first State party reports submitted to the Committee on the website: Egypt and Mauritius (these were the only reports available in electronic format)

On the Inter-American system, CRIN:

- produced briefings on sessions in English and Spanish, e.g.:
<http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=20013&flag=report>
- contacted organisations presenting hearings on child rights to publish this presentations
- produced updates on activities of the Inter-American Court, including the recent decision to confirm the CRC's prohibition on corporal punishment, which we published with others, in English, Spanish and Portuguese

On the European system, CRIN:

- reported on the Council of Europe's strategy meeting and other conferences related to violence against children and child friendly justice
- worked with the Commissioner for Human Rights to publish an article on child friendly justice for our hard copy publication, the Review
- monitored the Court's activities, publishing information on decisions and entering these in our case law database

A platform for advocacy

Back in 2006, a review of CRIN's strategic priorities concluded we needed and wanted to become more proactive in our activities. This includes acting as a platform for child rights advocacy initiatives, identifying key actors for change, and selecting neglected and emerging issues to bring to the attention of the child rights community. This work has included the following:

Campaign to establish a communications procedure to the CRC

A complaints or communications procedure allows individuals, groups or their representatives who claim that their rights have been violated by a State that is a party to a to bring a complaint before the relevant committee, provided that the State has recognised the competence of the committee to receive such complaints.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the only international human rights treaty with a mandatory reporting procedure which does not have, in addition, an existing or draft communications procedure. This is a serious matter of discrimination against children. [See [existing complaints mechanisms](#)]

As one of the first organisations to join the campaign, CRIN hosted a petition, now signed by more than 550 organisations, demanding that the UN redress this injustice and take the necessary steps towards establishing such a mechanism. We have also published a number of

other materials online, including lobbying materials and information leaflets.

The campaign is now coordinated under the umbrella of the NGO Group as a Working Group.

As well as hosting the campaign's web page, including the petition, we have kept abreast of developments throughout the campaign, and issued news stories and reports, for example publicising the NGO statement at the Human Rights Council calling for the procedure. We have issued regular updates to the advocacy list established by signatures to the petition, and drafted and translated advocacy materials into French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese and Russian.

Campaign to appoint the SRSR on Violence Against Children

In 2006, the Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children recommended that "governments act to establish a Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSR)." The role of the SRSR would be to "act as a high-profile global advocate to promote prevention and elimination of all violence against children".

Yet by the end of 2008, the Secretary-General was still dragging his feet on the appointment. CRIN hosted a petition, signed by almost 1500 organisations, demanding that the UN act on the Study's recommendations and keep children waiting no longer.

CRIN has been at the forefront of the campaign, as active members of the NGO advisory group set up to help implement the Study's recommendations, and as the main source of information for the campaign. We have published resolutions passed at the General Assembly and Human Rights Council calling for the appointment, and distributed updates, produced by CRIN, in our specialist Violence CRINMAILs on the campaign.

Campaign to abolish the death penalty for juveniles

More than 800 organisations signed a petition hosted by CRIN, as part of a campaign conducted in partnership with Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and others, to end the execution of juvenile offenders. CRIN published updates, wrote news stories and distributed reports on the issue. We coordinated the translation of campaign documents into Arabic, French, Spanish, Farsi and Japanese, complementing our efforts to secure as many signatures as possible to the campaign.

The petition was presented to the UN General Assembly by Human Rights Watch in October 2008. Sadly, the five offending countries identified in the campaign - Saudi Arabia, Iran, Sudan, Pakistan and Yemen - continue to kill their children. Nonetheless, the campaign spawned considerable international media coverage, and a consequent, if short-lived, commitment by the Iranian executive to end the appalling practice.

However, we will not give up and will continue campaigning on this issue throughout 2009.

Toolkits

We added a **toolkit on strategic litigation** to our growing list of information/advocacy guides. Surveys and website traffic have demonstrated that such tools are the most read out of all CRIN's resources. This guide was produced to help those working for children's rights to understand what strategic litigation is and consider this as an option for effecting change for children by using the law. The guide is aimed at legal and non legal NGO staff and can be adapted to local settings and procedures.

We also updated our **media toolkit** to include a section on the use of images of children, by NGOs and others, and more information targeted at journalists.

CRIN, alongside a group of other NGOs, and in its capacity as a member of the Working Group on the Human Rights Council, helped produce, and then distributed, a **guide to help child rights NGOs with their submissions to the Universal Periodic Review** mechanism.

We have overseen the translation of these toolkits into French, Spanish, and Arabic.

Legal guide

The guide currently includes the following:

- An explanatory guide to all **international, regional and domestic mechanisms** that can be used to challenge breaches of children's rights. These include the African, inter-American and European human rights systems, as well as the Arab League and ASEAN.
- **National and international decisions** in which those mechanisms have been used successfully in the past.
- **Analyses of States' implementation of the CRC**
- A **database of legal instruments**, including international and regional Conventions and standards, national laws, case law, etc.

This is an ongoing project and parallel language versions are gradually being developed in Arabic, French and Spanish.

This legal guide to child rights is now one of our most popular resources. During 2008, we developed a '**child rights map**' to illustrate the guide and make it even easier to navigate. We also produced a PDF publication of the guide, which has proved a very popular download. We hope these tools will encourage understanding, and prompt advocates to make better use of the law and legal mechanisms in fighting for the rights of children.

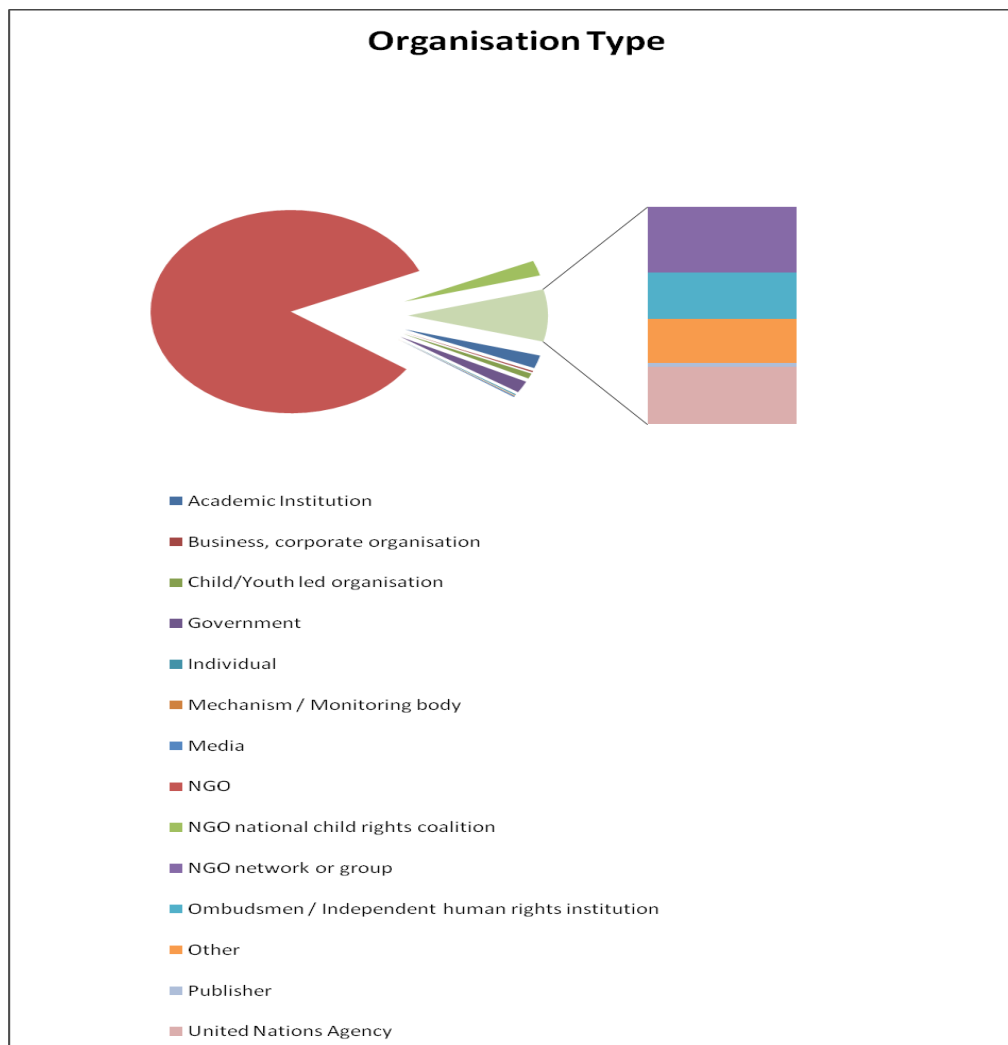
We have continued to update our legal database, adding national laws and international instruments. We have also, thanks to a team of pro bono lawyers, continued to produce child rights country reports. We now have reports on England and Wales, Sweden, Israel, South Africa and Belarus.

Visit our introduction page: www.crin.org/law

Cultivating a network: membership and partners

Membership

In the course of 2008, CRIN's membership grew to more than 2,000 organisations in 150 countries and included applications from new constituencies such as ombudspersons for children, legal aid organisations and media outlets.



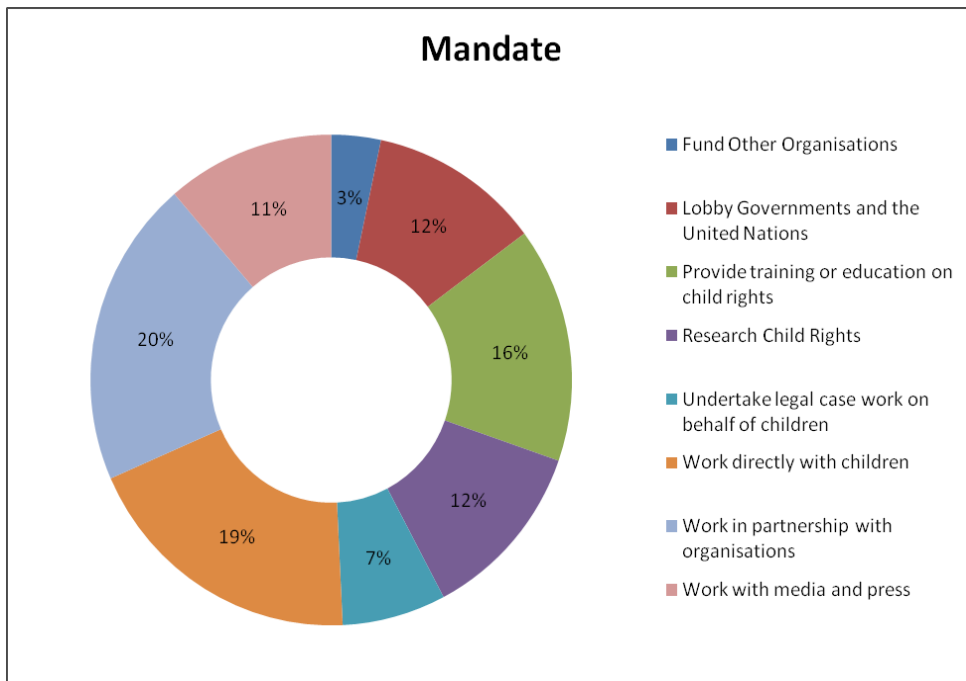
Graph 2: Members according to type of organisation

In 2008, CRIN, which had always been hosted by Save the Children UK in its London office, made the decision to become independent. We are now housed in our very own office in the Waterloo area of London, and have a new board of trustees. To coincide with this exciting development, we felt that we should clarify the principles behind CRIN membership.

Some members and friends of CRIN have also said they were concerned that there was little vetting of applications, that members' responsibility to participate in the network was not explained, and that CRIN's commitment to members was also not clear.

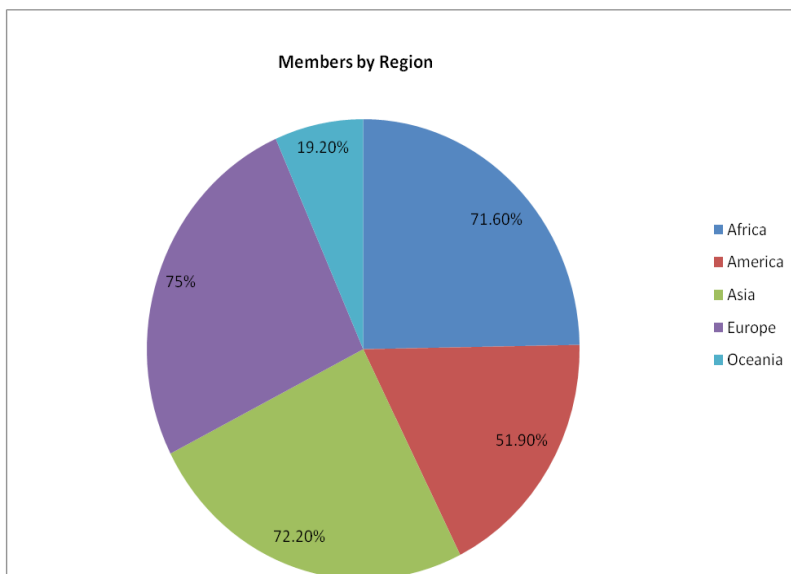
As such, the membership process now includes sections on values, participation and ethics. This means that we have written to all members asking them to agree to the new guidelines. As a result, growth in membership during 2008 was less steep than in other years.

Nonetheless, in line with our strategic objectives, which entail developing a more explicit focus on key audiences, identified by their ability to achieve greater recognition of children's rights, we have continued to invite and accept organisations that demonstrate a particular affinity with these objectives. We have also continued to cultivate relationships with members, and encouraged their active participation in the network.



Graph 3: Members according to mandate

Our aim, by the end of 2009, is to have members in every country in the world. We also want to encourage greater representations among media, faith-based, legal, and local government organisations, as well as ombudspeople and other national human rights institutions.



Graph 1: Members by region

Partners

NGO Group

CRIN continued to host the NGO Group's website and developed plans to help develop their own stand alone site. CRIN has also continued to work in partnership with the NGO Group and its subgroups in the following areas:

1. Covering sessions of the CRC, adding Alternative Reports to the website, sending out special CRINMAILs, etc.
2. Posting submissions for the Day of General Discussion on the CRIN website in partnership with the Secretariat of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and reporting on debates and outcomes
3. Supporting the communications work of the various thematic working groups of the NGO Group, with a particular focus on the Working Group for the Human Rights Council and its work to put child rights on the HRC's agenda and follow the establishment of the Council's new procedures to replace those of the Commission on Human Rights.

EURONET

CRIN began hosting the European Children's Network's (EURONET) website in January 2007. EURONET represents 35 children's rights national and transnational NGOs from across Europe.

ENOC: We are continuing to work with ENOC, participating in meetings and supporting their information needs. This included encouraging them to support the campaign for the creation of a complaints mechanism and co-writing a statement against violence against children.

Ombudspersons for children from other parts of the world have also become members of CRIN, including from Peru, Jamaica and India. Engagement with ombudspersons remains an important feature of our work, reflecting our strategic priority of focusing on key audiences.

Who we are

There are currently four full time members of staff based in our London, UK, main office: one Director, two Child Rights Officers and one Office Manager. We also employ a communications officer for the Arabic speaking world in Cairo, Egypt.

The CRIN Coordinating Unit is supported in its work by a Board of Trustees composed of representatives of donor organisations and other experts within the field of child rights. The role of the Trustees is to oversee the strategic management of the CRIN coordinating unit and provide advice for strategic planning, development of annual workplans and budgets, and for fundraising.

The extent of CRIN's reach would not be possible without the help of dedicated volunteers - whether as office interns or home-based translators around the world. In particular, we would like to thank: Alexandra de Bournonville, Lora Sfeir, Ed Renshaw, Juliette Rubenstein, Floriane Begasse, Armando Arias, Melisa Ogliastri, Ara Yoo, Mar Jimenez, Tanya Schroder, Mariel Velázquez, Patrick Geary, Edward Velasco, Hendrika Rhoad, Marie Zemp, Annie Rigler, Catherine Weston and Claude Rochon. We would also like to thank Junya Tanaka and the Office of the Ombudsman for Moscow for their support in translations and proofreading into Japanese and Russian respectively.

Coming Up!

Summer 2009: CRIN's discrimination portal set to go live.

CRIN's website switches to solar power.

September: 12th session of the Human Rights Council. We will keep you posted with news and reports.

52nd session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

October: The Committee on the Rights of the Child is organising a special event for the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We expect to report from the event.

November: The Convention on the Rights of the Child will be 20! We will be helping to organise, and report from, an event taking place in Geneva that will examine the challenges to implementation. Watch this space!

The Working Group for the CRC complaints mechanism is set to have its first meeting.

Finances

CRIN Expenditure 2008-9

Description	Amount (£)
Salaries	117600.14
Volunteer expenses	1181.55
Staff development	1045
Recruitment	90
Web development	4407.5
ISP Annual Fee	3411.94
Publications: design and printing	6616.25
Translations	3391.22
Fundraising consultant	464.13
Proofreading	105
IT hardware and consultant	8000
Travel and subsistence	8406.98
Management team/board	328.62
Office supplies	102.09
Office rent	4800
Office furniture	1235.91
Postage outgoing	470.19
Office cleaning	42.5
Office move/van	90
Bank charges	11.14
Internet connection	246.1
Insurance	483.53
Phones: landline set up fee, skype mobiles, line rental	373.65
Fee for company house	50
TOTAL	162953.44

CRIN Income for period 2008 - 2009

Save the Children Sweden	54,978.00
UNICEF	24,803.91
World Vision	5,270.00
Sida	31,005.75
WFD	10,000.00
Oak Foundation	6,266.00
Tides Foundation	29,575.04
TOTAL	161,898.7

Note: Our financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March



Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)
East Studio
2, Pontypool Place
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United Kingdom

A company registered in London (no.665 3398) and limited by guarantee. Registered charity number 1125925