

# GLOBAL CONCEPTS

G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

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*7th Biennial Kansas City  
“Activism for Human Rights”  
Conference  
From Issues to Action  
October 4-5, 2012  
Embassy Suites Hotel/Plaza*

**As in the past**, the 2012 conference will have a dual focus on two United Nations Conventions: **Rights of the Child (CRC)** and **Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**.

The conference opens on Thursday, October 4, at 7:00pm with a welcome by Missouri State Senator Jolie Justus and a program featuring Barclay Martin, Kansas City-based singer/songwriter and philanthropist. Keynote speakers on Friday, October 5, are Lillian Pardo, M.D., Board Member, United Nations Association-Greater Kansas City (focus on CEDAW); and Meg Gardinier, Chair, National Coalition for Ratification of CRC. Workshop topics on Friday are: Violence Against Women and Girls; Juvenile Justice; Women and Sustainability; Immigration; Promoting Financial Literacy for Women and Girls; and Garage Band Activism.

NOTE: Resolutions for ratification of CRC and CEDAW will be available for signing throughout the conference. They will be sent to the Senate in both Kansas and Missouri with the goal of ratification at the state level—and the consequent step of ratification by the U.S. Senate of these two international conventions!

**When:** *Thursday, October 4—7:00-10:00pm – Opening Reception and Networking;  
Friday, October 5—8:00am-5:00pm – Breakfast, Lunch, Keynotes, Workshops*

**Where:** *Embassy Suites Hotel/Country Club Plaza, 220 W. 43rd St., Kansas City, MO*

**Registration:** *Costs vary according to participation--see website for details.*

**Websites:** <http://activismhumanrights.wordpress.com/> and [www.kcglobalconcepts.org](http://www.kcglobalconcepts.org)

**Questions—Registration/Sponsorship:** [info@kcglobalconcepts.org](mailto:info@kcglobalconcepts.org) or [816-753-2372](tel:816-753-2372)

Sara Pedram, Director, Global and Multicultural Education

## The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: Our Vision, Hope and Action in 2012

In recent months we have sadly discovered the news of a malnourished child left in a closet for months. Everyday we hear about parental physical abuses of their children, sexual and mental abuses by priests, a family acquaintance, and others. These issues, while they may seem exceptional, are issues that are of grave concern to a majority of the Kansas City community, our nation, and the world.

Children's Rights, known as CRC or UNCRC, since its adoption in 1989, has become an important issue of human rights conferences. It has become controversial for those who equate children's rights with potential limitations on parental up-bringing, and has sensitized those who have seriously studied the 54 articles of the Convention and who understand that children, as do all other segments of the population, need to be protected to an even greater extent, since children are more vulnerable than adults.

**Global and Multicultural Education (G.A.M.E.)** is proud to be among the nation's early organizations that recognized the significance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Our first conference, in 2000, attracted a number of nationally well-known children advocates such as Cynthia Price Cohen, J.D., Founder and Executive Director of Child Rights International Research Institute; Howard Davidson, J.D., Director of the American Bar Association Center on Children and Law; Victor Sidel, M.D. Distinguished Professor of Social Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Mr. Anthony Freeman, Director of the Washington, D.C. Branch, Office of International Labor; Beverlee Bruce, Ph.D. Program Director of Social Science Research Council and former Chair, Board of Directors, Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. Others include Joseph Mettimano from the U.S. Committee for UNICEF; Ruth Sidel, Professor of Sociology, Hunter College of City University of New York. Moreover, the 2000 conference involved panel discussions of ten national and local experts ranging from policy activists, community coordinators, and pediatric health providers to clinical psychologists ... who discussed the various issues of the CRC convention articles and analyzed the relevancy of each article in educating for children's rights, pointing to over three million children who are annually reported as abused or neglected and thousands who are severely injured or killed in their own homes. The CRC provides an internationally superb framework for structuring fair and effective child protection policy.

The Convention, Article 2, provides protection of minority children by emphasizing non-discrimination against children. Article 8, provides for continuous involvement of family when governments intervene in children's lives. Articles 20, 21, and 25 cover child

safety and health, and Article 34 establishes protection from sexual exploitation. Articles 5, 9 and 18 enumerate parental rights and obligations to their children. With the first Kansas City conference on children's rights, G.A.M.E. embarked on a major global action to educate and recognize (globally) children's human rights.

Interest in children's rights and the need for continuation of a forum for advocacy and education of the population resulted in a continuation of biennial conferences since the inaugural event in 2000. The inter-relationship of women's and children's issues (CRC and CEDAW) has become the dual focus of the conferences since 2006. As we approach the 7th biennial Kansas City conference dates, October 4-5, 2012, we have many supporters, sponsors, and advocates who have played significant roles in these two human rights issues of women and children. Our major partner, the University of Missouri-Kansas City Women's Center and its Director, Dr. Brenda Bethman, have been an invaluable and consistent partner and assured the success of joint advocacy in educating for the leaders of the United States about ratification of both women's and children's rights as a manifestation of our advocacy around the globe.



Here are the highlights of our 7th biennial conference, which takes place in the beautiful setting of the Embassy Suites/Country Club Plaza hotel. Our conference, as in 2010, will open with Barclay Martin, Kansas City-based musician and human rights advocate ... with sharing his unique music and personal experiences in his travels around the world promoting human rights.

We encourage you to hear our Friday luncheon keynote speaker, Meg Gardinier, Chair at the Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) with 25 years experience in the field of children's rights around the world. She is former Managing Director of education and community partnership for U.S. Fund for UNICEF in New York, she now serves as director of Arigatou International Office in New York (International Day of Prayer for Children). Ms. Gardinier is developing a three-year action plan to stop violence against children.

...Manny Pedram, Director Emeritus, GAME



**GLOBAL CONCEPTS**

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(G.A.M.E.) A non-profit organization

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The strength of any organization depends upon the level of support and financial resources provided by its members and friends. G.A.M.E. is no exception. Take Action--Join Today!

**Membership Form: Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to G.A.M.E. and mail to: Global and Multicultural Education  
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Mission Statement: G.A.M.E. assists in the enhancement of knowledge of global interdependence and awareness and appreciation of our common humanity.