

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

November 20 was Universal Children's Day;
it's been a few days, but rights have to be discussed every day.

Here are a few considerations:



Neo-liberalism, in order to get out of the crisis, is setting up worldwide the largest operation of social exclusion ever carried out in modern history, starting with public education systems, and the weakest social groups, children, so there is still **CHILDHOOD EMERGENCY**; diseases, lack of schools, hunger, child labour, child soldiers, ...

Presently where the international community remembers the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹ by the United Nations General Assembly and to commemorate the thirty years of existence of the said convention, it is certainly opportune to think about making some reflections.

Some statistics from UNICEF:

- In the world, more than 1 child out of 4 lives in countries at war or in natural disasters;
- Nearly 20 million children are exposed to diseases that could be prevented by vaccines;



- It is estimated that by 2040, one out of every four people under the age of 18 (about 600 million) in the world will be living in areas of high water stress;
- In 2018, about 15,000 children under the age of five will die every day, mostly from treatable diseases or other foreseeable causes;
- In 2018, there were about 350,000 cases of measles, twice as many as in 2017.with vaccines.
- More than 800 children die every day from diarrhoeal diseases due to inadequate water supply and poor sanitation;
- In 2017, malaria caused 266,000 child deaths in less than

5 years ;

- The need to train boys to respect girls... and to treat them equally. Big problem on the planet EARTH
- More than 30 million children worldwide migrate. Those who do so alone, without family references or support networks, are the most vulnerable. Especially girls, whose migration project is marked by invisibility and, in many cases, sexual violence.

Observations

The first point to be made is that there is a pressing need to set deadlines for a commitment to real investment in all the world's children on an equal footing. It would support that all may have the claim to aspire to the recognition of the best interests of the child.

This would enable them all to enjoy the same universal rights for a more united and just world, and save the lives and future of thousands of children.

The commitment through the entry into force of this convention has placed the child in general at the centre of the challenges and imperatives of peace, development and progress. This convention allows the child to be considered as a "subject of international law and not an object of assistance".



¹ Lettre ouverte aux enfants du monde - <https://www.unicef.org/fr/convention-droits-enfant/lettre-ouverte-aux-enfants-du-monde>

To this end, the miseries suffered by children should be severely condemned. In this way, the growing gap between the legal ideal and the concrete conditions of these children could be gradually narrowed.

The traumas experienced by children continue to give rise to real concern in relation to the fragility surrounding the legal ideal and the real living conditions of children.

To this end, all actors are called upon to coordinate their efforts in order to put an end to the various abuses that remain a brake on security, going against the main principles on which this convention was built.

What about us?

What is the World Freinet Movement doing and what can it do to make another important contribution to solving this problem?

All the Movements of the different countries, and Fimem, have carried out many initiatives in the different continents over the years, such as:

-the AEDE collective (Agir ensemble pour les droits de l'enfant) brings together more than 50 organisations working in all areas of childhood, including children and youth organisations, and has developed the book *Moving forward for the rights of the child*²

- "*Children's democratic participation in school and in the city*"³ Ridef Italy 2014, in the city Reggio Emilia, long workshop

- "*The rights of girls and boys in Mexico and Latin America*"⁴; Powerpoint slideshow to download

- Exhibition of drawings by Cameroonian children on the rights of the child

These days, radio interview with Jean Le Gal⁵, author of the book "*Children's rights at school, for an education in participative citizenship*"⁶.



In the near future, we could:

- strengthen the Fimem International Commission on the Rights of the Child, coordinated by Jean Le Gal.

- provide information, in particular at the country level

- Establish relations with other associations in the region that are committed to the defence of children's rights.

- in schools, with children, carry out activities "to discover rights" such as :

1. establishing rules for the conduct of assemblies

2. organize a series of assemblies to draft a Decalogue of the most important rights of the child

3. Then make a series of posters, a video, audio recording (like a radio), inserting the indications of the most important rights and

communicating them to other classes, parents, friends.

4. Identify situations of particular difficulties and indicate possible solutions, in the individual realities in which we are involved.

Only culture and education can save the world!

For the CA Fimem,
Antoinette and Lanfranco

Bibliographical references :

<https://www.unicef.org/>

<https://www.unicef.org/fr/convention-droits-enfant/lettre-ouverte-aux-enfants-du-monde>

<https://www.cairn.info.org>

² https://www.icem-pedagogie-freinet.org/sites/default/files/synthese_def_compressee.pdf

³ <https://www.fimem-freinet.org/fr/node/2150>

⁴ <https://www.fimem-freinet.org/fr/node/1966>

⁵ http://jetfm.fr/site/La-Quotidienne-vendredi-22-nov-a.html?var_mode=calcul

⁶ http://www.icem-freinet.net/~idem68/343_40.pdf