



CPA NEWSLETTER

Child Protection Alliance

The Gambia

Protecting Children, Promoting Collaboration, Preventing Child Abuse



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Top Stories

Second Annual Membership Workshop

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By Vanessa Jones



The US Ambassador speaking at the Opening Ceremony

The Child Protection Alliance held a National Membership and Review Meeting on January 29th and 30th 2003 at the Kairaba Beach Hotel. During the two day workshop 89 representatives from CPA member organisations, VOICE of the Young, Government Departments, NGOs and other organizations affiliated with child/youth issues participated in the workshop. The workshop's objectives were to disseminate recommendations and outcomes of the first stake-

holders workshop of November 2001 and to review the National Plan of Action. Based on the National Plan of Action participants were encouraged to provide concrete recommendations for action and map out strategies for their implementation, as well as discuss activities and plans embarked upon in the past year with a view to identify possible priority areas of interventions and collaboration. The participants were updated on specific issues of major importance to The Gambia and were encouraged to meet and form networks between themselves.

During the opening ceremony a number of speakers, including **Ms. Belinda Bidwell**, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, emphasised the importance of collaboration between agencies in an effort to improve the lives of all children in The Gambia. The American Ambassador, **Mr. Jackson McDonald**, stated I hope that the Alliance knows that the US Government is a partner, not

only financially, but also morally in support of the work that it is doing on behalf of children. More support was pledged to the Child Protection Alliance from the Save The Children Sweden Regional Project Officer, **Ms. sa Rapp-Baro**. She encouraged the participants to consider the CRC and realize it as a useful tool that can be used anywhere, including here in The Gambia.

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VOICE members listening to the Keynote Addresses

The Child Protection Alliance would like to offer its highest gratitude to UNICEF, through The Gambia Government Country Programme for providing financial support for this Newsletter.



Launch of Report on Child Sex Tourism

By Mireille Bjinndorp and Nancy Swartwood

On the 5th of February, 2003, the Child Protection Alliance, in collaboration with Terre des Hommes Netherlands, officially launched the report 'Gambia ...the Smiling Coast!' A Study of Child Sex Tourism in The Gambia and the Involvement of Dutch Tourists. The Report sheds, for the first time, some light onto this unacceptable side of tourism, providing evidence

and some quantification of the incidence of child sexual abuse in the region.

The event was chaired by CPA's National Co-ordinator, and featured keynote statements from the Gambian Tourism Authority's Director Tourism/Human Resources, **Mr. Kaliba Senghore**; the Secretary General of ASSET, **Mr. Adama**

Bah; the Director of Social Welfare, **Ms. Fanta Sisay**; and the Chairperson of the CPA Board of Directors, **Mr. Sheikh Lewis**.

A representative from Terre des Hommes also attended the Launch and gave an informative presentation on Child Sex

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