

“OUR HAPPY CHILDHOOD...”

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Youth is a very important period in the life of man. This is the time when a person discovers the world and tries to determine the place in the universe. Young people face lots of problems which are very important for them and do not differ much from those that once their parents had to deal with. At the same time every generation is unique. It differs from the one that preceded it in its experience, ideals and a system of values.



Young people of today do not directly accept the standards of their parents who believe that they are right because they are older. The adults don't want their values to be questioned. The young on the other hand can not accept the values of their "fathers". All these differences generate a generation gap when the young and adult do not understand one another.

The majority of the young people do not want to live in the past. They have their own ideals. They want to make their own mistakes rather than to listen to the warnings of the adults and repeat the mistakes of the older generation. They want to overcome their own difficulties without looking back. However, the life of the young is frequently determined by the adults .



*There are 28 million children in Russia today.*

*In the year 2009 there appeared 114715 of new children deprived of parental care (314 per day in average), among them 50323 (138 every day in average ) became orphans.*

*About 600,0 thousand children are situated in different child welfare institutions.*

*Numbers of homeless children increased last time. 2, 17 per cent of total number of children in Russia are homeless. It 's the level of the Civil War (not even the Great Patriotic War)*

**1. States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child`s or his or her parent`s or legal guardian`s race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.**

**2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment**

**3. States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff,**



With its strong presence in 155 countries, UNICEF is the world's leading advocate for children. They have the global authority to influence decision-makers, and the variety of partners at the grassroots level to turn the most innovative ideas into reality. They believe that nurturing and caring for children are the cornerstones of human progress .

UNICEF works to build a system of services to support families with children, decreasing the number of 'social orphans' (children not living with their families but who actually have at least one living parent) and decreasing the number of residential institutions (children's homes and orphanages).

They also support services to protect street children and children living in shelters,

Youth population  
(thousand persons)

age	1995	2009
15	2268	1454
16	2207	1450
17	2194	1676
18	2155	1841

Youth age structure (% of total number of youth)

age	1995	2009
15-19	35,5	25,8

Youth population  
(thousand persons)  
(Saratov region)

Age	1995	2009
15-29	570	592





In March 2011 Russia must submit to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) its combined "Forth & Fifth State Periodic Report on Realization in Russian Federation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2003-2010". On 12 August 2010 Ministry of Health Care and Social Development of Russia formed the Interdepartmental Working Group with a task to draft ASAP the State Periodic Report - 2011; the Group is chaired by Deputy Minister Maxim Topilin. They will have problems to find something good to write about, and children's rights advocates of Russia will surely prepare their Alternative Report after State Report will be submitted to Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The main message of the Alternative Reports 1998 and 2005 was the following: Russia systematically ignores and not implement the recommendations of the CRC's Concluding Observations of 1993 and 1999 correspondingly. Unfortunately the same must be repeated today as regards to the CRC's Concluding Observations - 2005. In the end of 2009 and mostly in 2010 the Hope appeared that real measures will be taken to improve Russian system of protection of children's rights.

Now let us look at some basic issues of non-fulfillment by Russia of the CRC's recommendations:

The repeated (in 1993, 1999, 2005) advices to pass the laws on Juvenile justice are still ignored.

According to the State Federal statistics in the year 2009 there appeared 114715 of new children deprived of parental care (314 per day in average), among them 50323 (138 every day in average) became orphans because of the Courts' decisions on deprivation of their parents of parental rights. And only 9578 kids (8.4%) were returned back to their biological parents during the year 2009.

**Number of orphans and children deprived of parental care**  
**(Saratov region)**  
**(thousand persons)**

<i>2000</i>	<i>2003</i>
7,176	7,578

**Saratov region : 51 Children's Homes Internats**

**8360 children live there**

**3233 children – orphans and children deprived of  
parental care**

**40 per cent children with problems of health**

**Our school : 6 children deprived of parental care**

**21 children belong to extended families**

**37 per cent children with problems of health**

**Rehabilitation centers for disabled youth aged 18-25**

<i>year</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2009</i>
<i>Numbers of centers</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>10</i>

**Morbidity of youth with mental and behavioral disorders caused by use of psychoactive substances ( per 100000 person)**

	<i>15-17 (years old)</i>		<i>18-19 (year old)</i>	
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2009</i>
<i>Alcoholism</i>	<i>23,4</i>	<i>31,4</i>	<i>285,3</i>	<i>238,6</i>
<i>Narcomani a</i>	<i>155,0</i>	<i>22,6</i>	<i>768,7</i>	<i>240,1</i>
<i>Toxicomani a</i>	<i>57,5</i>	<i>62,6</i>	<i>53,0</i>	<i>62,4</i>

**Morbidity of youth aged 15-17 (registered diseases diagnosed for the first time in patient's life)**

	<i>1995 (thousand persons)</i>	<i>2009 (thousand persons)</i>
<i>All diseases</i>	<i>4653,2</i>	<i>6751,8</i>



**Per 100000 youth of respective age**

	<i>1995</i>	<i>2009</i>
<i>All diseases</i>	<i>71010,1</i>	<i>141504,0</i>

*In Russia, in spite of many times repeated recommendation of CRC, it is not created yet the Federal Interdepartmental Body responsible for implementation of Convention on the Rights of the Child, and authorized in particular to read attentively the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee.*



On 16 March 2009 President Medvedev said at the Meeting dedicated to prevention of violence against children: “Russia vitally needs modern system of protection of childhood. At present we don’t have system at all!”.

With his Decree from 1 September 2009 the new position of the President’s Ombudsman for Children’s Rights was established.

In January 2010 President Medvedev signed the National Educational Initiative “Our New School” where most positive things were declared, including the necessity of “individual approach” in the ordinary schools .

We must fight against the stigma and discrimination in society that prevents children from enjoying the rights they all have .

Our government should promote social inclusion of children from especially poor and vulnerable families, migrant children, disabled children Ensuring their access to kindergartens, schools and other social services, where they pose no harm to others and where ignorance is the main barrier.

Social exclusion is a major obstacle to maximizing the potential of any child. A cohesive society where differences are respected and celebrated benefits every person – man, woman and child.