



ACTIVE celebrates the 60th anniversary of the UDHR and demands stronger process in the protection of Human Rights of the youngest

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60 years ago to the day, the United Nations General Assembly solemnly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). It is a happy day and ACTIVE joins in its celebration.

But it is also a serious day. A day to reflect upon the question: How far has the international community come in the past 60 years? Being well aware of the successes over the years, ACTIVE demands continuous efforts in implementing the promise of Human Rights - in all societies, for all people and sectors of society.

The face of our world still sees many crisis spots. But all too often does the international attention not perceive them. To name an example close to the heart of ACTIVE and its member organizations: in Europe there are 9 Million children suffering, there are 115,000 deaths per year and there are costs to the European society of 125 Billion € (data from 2003). These are atrocities common to a war area - Darfur, Congo and many more. In Europe the cause is alcohol.

That makes alcohol an ecological, economical and public health problem. ACTIVE demands that it be assessed as this - with all necessary measures by political decision makers. Moreover it demands a better protection of the youngest. That children and adolescents have to grow up in families where one or even both parents are alcohol addicts (9 Million) is in fact a humanitarian crisis. ACTIVE urges political decision makers as well as civil society to pay attention to this problem.

The UDHR highlights the right to live in "freedom from fear... and universal respect". "The United Nations has... determined to promote social progress and better standards of life..." Holding high these values, on this special day, ACTIVE demands political decision makers not to compromise the well being of children and to therefore take all actions to end the atrocities that alcohol causes.

For further information:
Maik Duennbier
press@activeeurope.org
www.activeeurope.org

"Active- sobriety, friendship and peace" is a non - governmental organisation gathering European youth organisations working for peace and solidarity, promoting a lifestyle free from alcohol and other drugs. We have more than 25 000 members - 25 000 young Europeans who do not drink alcohol in any amount.