

The Neurim Declaration

The Neurim* Declaration on Training Child Care Workers

The expert's seminar of the Federation Internationale des Communautés Educatives (FICE), convening in July 1991, at Neurim youth village in Israel, taking into account:

- That children and young people represent the future of humankind, and merit investment in their development;
- The exploitation of children, the disabilities suffered by children and the damage done to children and young people by displacements, rapid social change, political conflicts, social deprivation and natural causes;
- The acceptance by the United Nations and many countries of the Convention of the rights of the child;
- That the United Nations has recognized FICE as Messenger of Peace;

Calls upon the United Nations, governments and agencies responsible for services for children and young people to ensure that:

- Child and youth care workers are provided with knowledge, skills and experience to match the nature and complexity of the tasks required of them;
- Education and training are provided for child and youth care workers (a) to prepare them for their work, (b) at a level of qualification to match allied professions, (c) at post-qualifying level and (d) through in-service-training throughout their careers;
- Special attention is paid to training needs of child and youth care workers directly with children and young people and their families, in the community, in day care or on residential care;
- The care of children and young people, especially in residential establishments, is a difficult and demanding job, requiring a wide range of skills and knowledge;
- Patterns of education and training promote appropriate links with other professions in order to exchange ideas and diminish rigid demarcations;
- Promote the development of professional bodies so that they can contribute to the improvement of services for children and young people through the establishment of progressively higher standards of professionalism, the development of ideas and their dissemination;
- Training for child and youth care workers reflects the diversity of cultures, religions and social systems found in different countries, and need for those to coexist;
- Training of child and youth care workers is designed to encourage them to work sensitively and creatively, and to renew their motivation and maintain fresh approach to each individual child and young person;
- Information about practice, theory and research concerning child and youth care is shared between nations;
- Fundamental values are maintained, such as love and respect for the individual, so that children and young people may overcome their disabilities and problems, and play a full role as adults.

* Neurim is the name of the youth village in Israel where the FICE expert's seminar took place.

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CHILD AND YOUTH CARE AROUND THE WORLD