



# HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION (HRF)

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## Towards Finalising a National Policy on the Child

*Southern India Consultation on the National Commission  
 for Children Bill - 2001, The Children's Code Bill 2000  
 and the GOI's II India Country Report to the  
 U.N. Child Rights Committee.*

Dear *Dr. Sampat K. Krishnan,*

Thank you for your confirmation to participate in the **South India Consultation Promoting Children's Rights : A Review of Recent Policy and Law Reforms for Children**. The Consultation will begin with a brief Inaugural Session at 10 a.m. sharp.

<b>Dates</b>	: 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2001
<b>Venue for Consultation</b>	: Conference Hall, ICSA Guest House, No.93, Pantheon Road, (opp. to children's museum), Egmore, Chennai-600 008.
<b>Place of Accommodation</b>	: Accommodation is also reserved at the same meeting venue i.e. ICSA Guest House

### *We have 5 tasks before us.*

1. Discussion on the Draft Code Bill 2000.
2. Discussion on the National Commission for Children Bill 2001
3. Discussion on the II<sup>nd</sup> India Country Chapter or General Principles (we are yet to get a full copy of the Report)
4. Discussion on Pre-final Draft of a Citizens National Policy on the Child.
5. Discussion on Draft Recommendations to the Chairperson, Justice V.R.Krishna Iyer, Sub-Committee on Fundamental Rights of the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC), on changes needed in the Constitution for protecting childrens rights.

TO: DR. SKK  
 (223) 31/7/01

We need to end the Consultation with a **POSITION NOTE** on each of these documents in order for us to communicate to different interest groups our views on these matters and strengthen the Child Rights Movement. Specifically we need to come to a consensus on the minimum policy issues and standards which are in the best interests of children so as to evaluate all legal measures based on such a policy. All of us are aware that since 1974 Indian Government has not finalised a National Policy on the Child. It declared a National Plan of Action Commitment to the Child (1992) and presented reports to the World Summit and the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child. This is far short of a National Policy on the Child. Due to the absence of such a policy various laws are being drafted that may not necessarily be in the best interests of children.

Please find enclosed a copy of some of the documents. If you already have them kindly pass it on to a friend or like minded organisation. The Draft Citizens National Policy will reach you shortly.

Kindly take time off to analyse these issues and please come with **written comments** (however brief) reviewing these policy / law statements.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

  
Ossie Fernandes  
Director