



# THE WATCHDOG

The Youth Coalition's Quarterly Newsletter

## where are the caribbean youth?

By Tanya Baker (Canada) and Shannon Kowalski (Australia)

(Photo: YC representatives with youth in Port of Spain)

During the first day of the subregional meeting for ICPD '04 in Port of Spain this November, government delegations spoke positively about providing reproductive and sexual health education and services to adolescents and youth. But there was a noticeable lack of young people on governmental and NGO delegations.



Prior to the meeting we met with seven young activists in Trinidad and Tobago to brainstorm about the state of young peoples' sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Caribbean and to give them a briefing about the subregional meeting of the CDCC on the ICPD Programme of Action that was about to take place. None of them were aware of the meeting or how they can use ICPD to advocate for the protection of their health and rights. This is unacceptable.

The ICPD Programme of Action specifically calls for the full inclusion of young people in decision-making about issues that affect our lives, including our participation in policy-making and evaluation. In keeping with ICPD, governments should be ensuring that young people

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## Heading into busy times...

By Gemma Hobcraft  
(England)

Welcome to a fresh Watchdog, and a window on an ever-expanding Youth Coalition. New staff, new members and lots of activities to keep us all on our toes and keep young people's sexual and reproductive rights firmly rooted on the international agenda.

We are now two Annual General Meetings old, and whilst writing this our staff, members and participants are working like crazy to ensure that our Asia Pacific Advocacy training workshop (December, Bangkok) is as much of a success for all those involved as the Africa Workshop in Zambia was last June. What has come out of the Africa Workshop is immense - the majority of the participants are working to form a regional network and the energy being fired out on all cylinders is enough to bowl any opposition over.

YC has already made its mark in the ICPD+10 process; we are part of the steering committee for the upcoming Roundtable on ICPD+10 an NGO event to mark the watershed as Cairo hits adolescence. Two of our members were the some of the very few youth present at the regional meeting in Port of Spain (you can read about their work on this page).

The Youth Coalition is certainly coming of age and we are ready and preparing ourselves to continue the hard work. Energy is high. 2004 is going to be a busy year. But that's because rights aren't as much a reality as they must be for young people. We'll be busy busy YC bees for a long time. So keep your eye on the Watchdog, contact us, subscribe to our ycnews list serve (through our website at [www.youthcoalition.org](http://www.youthcoalition.org)), and hopefully this edition of the Watchdog will give you an insight into some of the news, views and ideas that make up the YC. Enjoy. And watch this dog!

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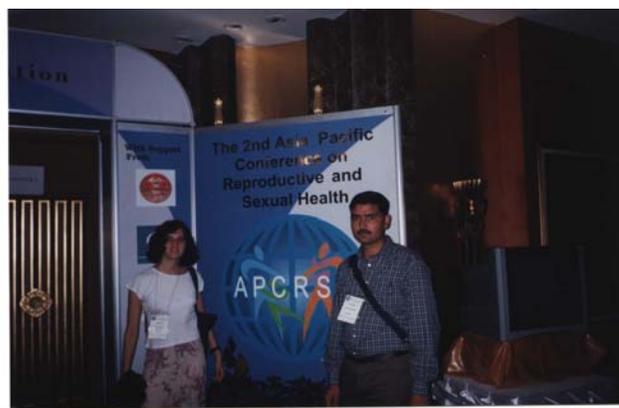


## ¿Jóvenes hablando sobre jóvenes?: Suena genial!

By Maria Eugenia Miranda (Argentina)

Alrededor de 1500 personas participaron de la 2a Conferencia de Salud Sexual y Reproductiva de Asia Pacífico, que se realizó en Bangkok en octubre pasado. Muchos de ellos fueron jóvenes, que participaron en el evento asistiendo a paneles, conferencias, sesiones paralelas, y cócteles. En muchos de esos lugares, se habló de la situación de la salud sexual y reproductiva de los jóvenes en el Asia Pacífico. Pero pocos fueron los jóvenes que tuvieron la posibilidad de exponer y hacer oír su voz en esos espacios. En general, los jóvenes fueron representados, como suele suceder, por la voz de los adultos.

La Coalición de los Jóvenes (Youth Coalition), en conjunto con el Dutch Council on Youth and Population, presentó un panel en esta conferencia llamado "Involucrando a l@s jóvenes en el cabildeo por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos: ¡La participación juvenil es prioridad! Varios asistentes de la conferencia comentaron la dinámica innovadora del taller, donde no hubo sólo presentaciones en power point por parte de un panel de oradores, sino que los participantes pudieron juntarse en grupos de discusión. Allí intercambiaron experiencias, información y vivencias propias acerca del trabajo que estaban haciendo en sus ONG's o que conocían que se estaba haciendo con respecto a jóvenes y salud sexual y reproductiva, evaluando en qué medida en esos casos existía una verdadera participación juvenil, y no únicamente la participación de jóvenes como educadores de pares.



(Photo: Maria Eugenia Miranda and Athar Ali, YC representatives, at the Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health.)

Pero lo más comentado de este taller fue que se trató de un panel que hablaba sobre jóvenes y que fue totalmente ideado, preparado y ejecutado por jóvenes. Jóvenes hablando de ellos mismos, de otros jóvenes, de lo que les sucede, de lo que desean y necesitan. Jóvenes expresándose e intercambiando ideas con otros jóvenes que participaron del taller, pero también con adultos, quienes intervinieron activamente en la actividad y se mostraron sumamente interesados en escuchar lo que la propia juventud sentía y tenía para decir de sí misma. Una experiencia enriquecedora tanto para los jóvenes como para los adultos ¡Qué se repita!

### *Caribbean Youth, continued from page 1*

from their countries are included and heard. Only Caribbean youth know about the issues that are specifically affecting them and how to most effectively address them. As the background document states, "programs for adolescents have proven most effective when and where they have secured the full involvement of adolescents in identifying their development and health needs, including reproductive and sexual health" (para. 5.8).

Young peoples' sexual and reproductive health is a focal issue of this meeting and the lack of Caribbean youth voices hinders progress and development. Caribbean youth should be speaking about their realities, the issues that they face and their ideas about ways to move forward. When young people are included in these processes we feel empowered and respected and able to take responsibility for our futures. This is what spawns new leaders.

The lack of young people at this table prompted us to work together with Trinidadian youth to create a statement synthesizing issues that affect young peo-

ple in the region. This a just a start. We will be working to ensure that young people are actively involved in the subsequent ECLAC meetings on ICPD implementation in Santiago, Chile, and in San Juan, Puerto Rico. We call upon regional governments and NGOs to do the same.

During the meeting it was great to hear all the advancements that are being made to implement ICPD, particularly in the area of youth sexual and reproductive rights. However, we urge you to recognize past difficulties as well as the challenges that lie ahead, and take real steps, with youth as partners, to improve the realities of young people's lives.

Enough talk! We need action! Deny us our rights and you'll deny us our futures.

Tanya Baker and Shannon Kowalski attended the subregional ICPD review meeting in Port-of-Spain in November 2003.

See page 8 for more information on ICPD '04—the ten-year review of the ICPD Programme of Action.





## What happened to the advocates?

Challenges for youth advocates of SRHR in the Philippines

By Maiden Manzanal Philippines

One-fifth of the Philippine’s population of 82 million are youth between ages 15 and 24. Imagine these young people whose lives could suffer from enumerable risks that could impair their life chances forever. The state of youth advocacy for reproductive health and rights runs parallel to the state of the reproductive health of youth. These are challenging times. Unwanted pregnancies, lack of service provision, lack of programmes that target the marginalized youths, and violations of their dignity remain serious problems. Advocates battle strong opposition and a lack of support in their attempt to create a climate of change.

**The work of youth advocates on SRHR can be characterized as patchy, scattered, and disorganised.**

As young sexual and reproductive rights and health advocates, we could assume that others are out there help their peers, but in unsupportive environments, these youth have been trying hard to reach out, touch their peers, and be heard. Some are successful, but the rest are struggling.

The rhetoric and patronage towards young people did not translate to better-paved roads for youth advocates. Within the conservative streams of society, the advocates are seriously facing challenges of different forms. The work of youth advocates on SRHR can be characterized as patchy, scattered, and disorganised. At present, they are random movements, which struggle to impact the strategic processes of the whole SRHR community. Their position is marginal; most of the time youth are underrepresented, undervalued, and in the worst case scenario fall prey to tokenism. Most youth organizations have been under the tutelage of adult organizations that promote their agenda but often-limiting accountability and the support necessary to ensure their needs are met.

Like any other groups, youth organizations, be they large or small, take different agendas, interests, and positions on so many issues. But it is observed that

even within the movement, they are detached from national action and invisible. Why? Because most of the youth advocates prefer to work at the grassroots level on community based youth interventions. Some were involved in campus/schools and into peer education activities. The gap between community action and national action is indeed very wide, and as such an impediment to their overall activism.

But even with these differences, the common denominator prevails – being youth, and being activists for reproductive health and rights. Sometimes, that distance can be overcome by making their voices louder so that they are heard. Claiming the youth space is a must.

Double standards about sexuality, myths, and cultural norms dictate the behaviour of the youth when it comes to sexuality and reproductive health. But recent trends note otherwise – young people nowadays have liberal views on issues such as premarital sex, use of contraceptives, living-in arrangements, divorce, and abortion. Risky sexual and non-sexual behaviours are on the rise including the feminization of risky behaviours. These are really serious concerns that must be addressed by all who have stake in their future. Indeed, the rights-based approach to SRHR has a long way to go in the minds of the young people, and that would mean protection of their rights and making sure that there are enabling environments for these rights to be enjoyed. With these challenges, it is certainly an uphill climb for young advocates.

How do we go about achieving more capacity for youth? Participation is the right of the youth and must be upheld by everyone. The full and meaningful youth participation must take centre stage in any of the efforts to address youth SRH problems especially by the youth actors themselves. Social, economic, and familial realities have seriously compounded their plight but there are reasons to celebrate. When you know your work can make a difference in the lives of young people, it would be enough reason to remain steadfast and be a force for change.





## LE SANTE SEXUELLE ET REPRODUCTIVE DES JEUNES EN REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

Par Trésor Kasia (République Démocratique du Congo)

La situation des jeunes en République Démocratique du Congo (RDC) concernant la santé sexuelle et reproductive (SSR) est des plus critiques. Parler de la SSR des jeunes Congolais demeure un sujet délicat. On ne sait pas toujours par où il faut commencer, tellement tous les paramètres sont en rouge : Faut-il d'abord parler du gouvernement qui ne fait aucun effort pour respecter et faire respecter les droits des jeunes en SSR ? Faut-il mentionner les difficultés qu'ont les organisations non-gouvernementales et associations-sans-but-lucratif à mener à bien leur action ? Faut-il prioriser l'ignorance des jeunes eux-mêmes en la matière ? Voilà bien des questions auxquelles on ne répond pas toujours...

Il faut le dire, c'est un secret de polichinelle : les jeunes congolais ne connaissent pas ce que c'est que la santé sexuelle et reproductive, du moins la majorité. Comment pourront-ils réclamer un quelconque droit y relatif ? A qui vont-ils s'adresser ? Quels moyens vont-ils utiliser ?

Les institutions basées sur ce domaine sont rares. Celles qui

existent, à l'instar de notre association le groupe « ELDORADO »/A.C.C.E.S, ne sont pas suffisamment appuyées et presque négligées par l'état et les institutions nationales. On pense que la situation des jeunes n'est pas une priorité. Seul les organismes internationaux, l'UNFPA (Le Fond des Nations Unies pour la Population) en l'occurrence, prête une oreille à la situation des jeunes en RDC.

Par exemple, le groupe « ELDORADO »/A.C.C.E.S est l'une de rares associations des jeunes pour les jeunes à travailler dans ce domaine. Mais que de difficultés rencontrons-nous pour être soutenus ! Nous demandons formations, informations, moyens matériels et financiers... et souvent, nous n'ob-

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**TRESOR KASIA EST LE PRESIDENT DU GROUPE « ELDORADO / A.C.C.E.S » ASSOCIATION POUR LE CHANGEMENT DES COMPORTEMENT DANS LA LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA ET POUR L'EDUCATION EN SANTE SEXUELLE ET REPRODUCTIVE EN MILIEU DES JEUNES. (GE/ACCES)**

### A Critical Look At The UNFPA's State Of The World Population Report

**By Nadia van der Linde  
The Netherlands**

This year's State of the World Population, which was released by the World Population Fund (UNFPA) in October, focuses on adolescents. Youth organizations from around the world have applauded this initiative, viewing it as recognition of the importance of the promotion of young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights. I agree that it is terrific to see the UNFPA put so much focus on "investing in adolescents' health and rights" as the report is called. I also appreciate the UNFPA's focus and find much of the report well-written and interesting. But still I would like to urge young people around the world to remain alert.

When it comes to young people's sexuality education, UNFPA above all promotes the "ABC Method" (Abstinence, Be faithful, Condomize), instead of emphasizing youth empowerment, youth participation and young people's rights to make their own decisions regarding their sexuality and sexual behavior. In my opinion, it is not important nor desirable to promote "abstinence" as the first and best choice as is happening right now in the USA and many other countries around the world. The focus should be on giving young people, both boys and girls, the information, skills and power to

make their own decisions regarding their sexual behavior: whether to have sex, with whom to have sex and how to have sex.

The State of the World Population Report also talks about "sexual behavior change communication". I understand the urge to want to limit the spread of sexually transmitted infections (HIV/AIDS is usually emphasized), but disagree with this approach of 'behavior change' because it goes against the notion of respecting individual rights. We cannot say that young people have sexual and reproductive rights, meaning "to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to ones sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence" (as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action, 1995) and then continue with saying that young people "must change their behavior". Besides, it is a very negative and disrespectful approach in which young people that do take responsibility for their sexual behavior are not recognized.

I do not believe in the one perfect sexuality education method, as there are many different young people everywhere. However, any good sexuality education approach must be based on the notion of respect for sexual and reproductive rights for all people involved, and provision of comprehensive information, skills and general improvement of young people's participation.





## What is a Christian doing promoting reproductive health rights?

By Belinda Amatekpor  
Ghana



YC member, Belinda Amatekpor, at the 2003 AGM.

Recognizing that different people hold different principles and values, and that faith can influence these values, Belinda Amatekpor shares how she combines her identity as a Christian with that of an advocate for SRHR.

Born and raised a catholic, I decided to join an interdenominational church which is slanted towards the charismatic faith. My main attraction to this church, besides its proximity to my house (!), was its vibrant youth group. I had found, for myself, a comfortable niche in which I could serve God creatively as well as develop and use the talents that he has blessed me with.

I came into the reproductive health field partly due to my own adolescent experiences and also because of my desire to work with young people. I have always had the desire to work with youth, and started out working on helping address emotional issues that they might have. I have had a chance to try and positively impact young people less fortunate than I am, in terms of information and education.

I have learnt through my work in the field to place my beliefs, morals and religion in the "back seat" if I want to objectively help oth-

ers and to provide a service that when denied young people will be detrimental to them and society and eventually cause greater harm in the future.

Growing up in what I would term an "elite" and advantaged part of Ghana, one would expect that I would have been furnished with the necessary information and education I needed to protect myself from sexually transmitted diseases, and all that it comes with. Unfortunately like less deprived people in other parts of Ghana, I was left to grope around in the dark about reproductive health issues. Being a girl from that part of the world, which looms with taboos about discussing ones sexuality, sexual orientation, etc. didn't make things any easier. I have had to find my own answers albeit, now in retrospect, through the long and arduous way. I have had to struggle to find a meaning, an understanding, and a choice. What I guess I didn't know then is all adolescents go through the same phase.

Being a Christian, this should have been easy. The word of God commands abstinence. So why am I having these feelings, these emotions, these passions? Feelings that just wouldn't go away with prayers.

*I have had to find my own answers albeit, now in retrospect, through the long and arduous way.*

Curiosity intensifies till one loses control. Did I feel better after that? Not exactly! Would I have felt better to bottle up pent up unexplained, misunderstood and unresolved feelings? I should have known better as a devoted Christian girl, right? Wrong! I know what would have helped make a difference though. Someone who cared enough to tell a host of other young people and myself that being a Christian didn't mean that I wouldn't have those feelings. I should have been told how to man-

age those feelings in the least or the choices available to me to deal with them.

*Being able to understand one's body, how it functions, and what it needs in order to be healthy, go a long way to helping one make informed and wise choices.*

Christianity, in my opinion, has in many ways shrouded itself in hypocrisy and pretense. Many people in my faith are engaging in unprotected sex blindly and more often that not as a result of lack of education, information or access to services and this occurs within the church. Some people of my religion would rather not broach the subject. They wouldn't want to admit that yes these are true and natural human feelings. They wouldn't want to be the ones responsible for leading others "astray" – to hell. Researching in the area of adolescent reproductive health made me decide to work in this area. I believed that I could make a difference in other young people's lives if I could frankly discuss these feelings, what to do about them and where to go for help. I have been rewarded (contrary to what some people of my religion would say that I am promoting promiscuity) with seeing how young people especially girls, are being empowered with knowledge and information and how many of them are using this knowledge wisely! Being able to understand one's body, how it functions, and what it needs in order to be healthy, go a long way to helping one make informed and wise choices.

Working on the international scene opened a whole new perspective on helping other unique kinds of young people.

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## And What About Pornography?

By Gabriela Cano Azcarraga (Mexico)

Pornography is one of the most controversial issues related to human sexuality and its social representations. Voices in favour and against it have risen around the world with different perspectives but here I will share with you my perspective on it, following a feminist analysis of the issue.

Our bodies with all our shapes, colours and gestures are simply wonderful. The human body is a magnificent creation of nature that deserves to be admired and enjoyed by all the senses. Our bodies have been the inspiration of every thought and idea in different ages from the prehistoric times, in the beginning of western civilization until now when technology, sciences and arts have it in a crucial place for their interests. The curves, shadows and corners formed by one single body or by the encounter between bodies is nothing but a delight, but pornography has nothing to do with this kind of perception.

The word pornography comes from the Greek pornographies: *porno* which means prostitute or captive woman and *graphos* which means to write so pornography refers to the act of writing, and in modern time filming, recording, photographing, about prostitutes. In this sense, pornography also makes reference to the inequalities of power that allow sex to be used as a weapon to dominate and oppress women, children and other human beings that are in vulnerable social positions (for example, gays and lesbians).

Pornography works with a discourse of violence and submission, denigration and dehumanisation of the person(s) involved in the images, which can be shown as film, as pictures, etc. Pornography promotes all kind of stereotypes and myths, such as: women enjoy the pain and humiliation so they are collaborators of their own victimization, or that during the sexual intercourse it is always necessary for one person to take all the control and the other can not and shouldn't even attempt to be in control of the situation. Stereotypes of beauty and stereotypes of "race" shown in pornography can be simply ridiculous (e.g. penis 40cm long, Latin people always wanting to have sexual intercourse, men who can not control their "instincts"). These stereotypes reduce human beings to a sum of organs with sexual functions but without any intelligence and sensibility, and as such, human beings become objects to be possessed and manipulated.

This manipulation of images, ideas and feelings of human sexuality within pornography of women, children and other vulnerable populations also means that these people could be seen as inferior beings, dehumanised (not human), which also promotes the psychological roots for common acts of violence performed against other people.

Several studies have shown that increasingly male consumers of pornography are demanding more violence in the products (magazines, films, pictures, and books, CD programs...), and that the market of child pornography is in a major constant growth. Each day the violence is presented, as a fake way of eroticism becomes more common and accepted, directly impacting the day-to-day life of millions of human beings that are the victims of sexual violence in real life.

It is necessary that each person make a personal analysis of the role that pornography plays in their lives and what it is telling us about the way we interact and understand women, children and other human beings. Pornographic industries that make millions of dollars each year promote roles that have been damaging our society for ages, such as the "super value of virginity" or the "need to punish dirty prostitutes, (mainly female ones but males too) that do have sex outside of marriage or for pleasure". We should approach pornography with a human rights perspective to understand the size of the problem, and compare what pornography promotes with the content of human rights of all people underlining the rights to equality, to freedom, and to live without violence from others...

Pornography has nothing to do with sexual freedom but with the opposite: with repression, with the promotion of sexual violence, with the objectification of human beings, under within the logic of the economic interest that supports the exclusion and the exploitation of the people.

I said it before and I'll say it again—there is nothing more delightful than admiring a human body in all its splendour, there is nothing more poetic than appreciating the fusion of the bodies during sex. But pornography has nothing to do with either.

### Pornography or eroticism? Four quick things to look for:

- Is there someone that is acting with violence? OR Is there someone that seems enjoying it?
- Is there someone taking all the control of the situation? OR Is there someone there that seems unable to act freely?
- Do the images seem realistic? (the kind of feelings the people show, the way the people look like...)
- Do the people seems to have feelings or just instincts?



## Le SSR en RDC, continued from page 4

tenons pour toute réponse qu'un silence de mort. Décourageant...

Nous avons mené, avec nos pairs, une étude sur la situation des jeunes congolais par rapport à leurs santé sexuelle et reproductive. Voici quelques grands points :

### I. DIFFICULTES

**a) Accès difficile à l'information et aux services :** c'est l'un des plus grands problèmes. Les jeunes en RDC n'ont, pour la plus part, aucune information sur la SSR et ignorent même qu'ils ont des droits en cette matière. Les services sont rares, soit de mauvaises qualité, soit trop coûteux... ou traités par des personnes jugées embarrassants par les jeunes.

**b) Obstacles culturelles et/ou religieuses :** jusqu'à ce jour, parler de sexualité ou des droits y relatifs est tabou pour beaucoup de parents. Ils estiment qu'en parler à leurs enfants serait une façon d'encourager le dévergondage sexuel et de soutenir le rejet de l'autorité parentale.

**c) Indifférence de l'état:** depuis toujours, les gouvernements de notre pays ne prennent aucune mesure pour faire respecter les droits des jeunes en SSR et d'écouter leurs opinions ; ils étouffent leurs épanouissement au lieu de les appuyer. Néanmoins, une lueur d'espoir vient de naître il y a quelques mois avec l'instauration du Programme National pour la Santé de l'Adolescent (PNSA) soutenu par l'UNFPA.

### II. CONSEQUENCES

Les conséquences entraînées par les quelques difficultés ci-haut mentionnées sont diverses : Viols, exploitations sexuelles, mariages forcés, expansion du VIH/SIDA et des IST, prolifération des filles-

## Christian promoting SRHR, continued from page 5

Young people who's sexual orientation would be frowned upon if they were from my background. I am talking about gay and lesbian adolescents. I have come to experience them as one of the most warm and loving people that anyone could encounter. They are very human and deserve to be given attention and the same services as other young people receive. Lets think about it, which would be a lesser evil? Pretending they don't exist and looking the other way while our future leaders – denied of reproductive health rights and services – die of HIV/AIDS? Would we then be justified that we as Christians had nothing to do with their choice? Would we – on the flip side – be justified that we equally did nothing to "save" them. I think not. The great book commands us to love the lord our God with all our heart, with all our might, and with all our strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. What would we wish for ourselves?

I have had my fair share of inner struggles as to whether I am doing the right thing in the sight of God. I curtail all my mixed feelings and remind myself that love is overlooking other people's sexual orientations, religious affiliations, ethnic or cultural backgrounds and doing my best as a child of God to lend a helping and healing hand towards the task at hand. The task of making peoples lives worth living. From the accolades and encouragements I receive, I believe I am doing more good than harm. Of course there will always be the few who (without a doubt, entitled to their opinions) will think and believe that I am promoting promiscuity.

I am still very much a born-again Christian. I love my religion and it guards and directs my life and the decisions I make. I also believe that I've been blessed to make a difference in the lives of other young people. And I CHOOSE to do it this way.



Groupe « ELDORADO »/ACCES après un forum sur la santé sexuelle et reproductive des jeunes. (Au milieu (debout) : Docteur Jean MONKOLOT, chef de la zone de santé de Biyela à Kimbanseke/ Kinshasa (RDC). A droite du docteur (debout), en chapeau Trésor KASIA, le président.)

mères, taux élevé d'avortements à risque, stigmatisation des filles-mères et des enfants, consommation exagéré d'aphrodisiaques et des drogues, etc...

### III. CONCLUSION ET SOLUTIONS

Sans aucun doute, l'ignorance et le non respect des droits des jeunes (et enfants) en SSR, le nonaccès de ces derniers à l'information et aux services, sont les plus grands problèmes qui attaquent la SSR des jeunes en RDC. Pour palier à cette situation, l'une des meilleurs solutions serait de soutenir les initiatives des jeunes eux-même, telle que le groupe « ELDORADO » A.C.C. E.S. Ces associations pourront à leurs tours, par exemple, multiplier le nombre des pairs éducateurs et des avocats des jeunes, multiplier les activités d'information, d'éducation et de communication pour le changement des comportements de leurs pairs... multiplier les activités de revendication pour révolutionner les choses.

Ceci peut être tenu pour un « SOS » en faveur de la SSR des jeunes en RDC.



## The European Youth Network

The Dutch Council on Youth and Population (DCYP), established 1997, is a changing group of about 15 young people who are aiming for the realisation of sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) and health of young people worldwide.

Advocacy and awareness-raising activities on young people's SSR issues are their main strategies. Even though the importance of involving youth in these issues is widely recognized, members of the DCYP noticed that the voice of European youth is almost completely lacking at UN-conferences.

Therefore the DCYP, together with the EuroNGO youth group, decided to establish a European Youth Network on SRR. In the weekend 27-28th of September seven young people from all over Europe came together in the Netherlands to work on the mission, goals, strategies and structure of the Network-to-be.

In a short time period of only two days a huge amount of work was done and the network will probably be launched in September 2004.

For more information please contact Anneke Wensing: a.wensing@wfpf.org.



(Youth Coalition members and staff at the 2003 AGM, Bangkok.)

## CONTACT US!



youth coalition

Working internationally for sexual and reproductive rights

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## ICPD '04:

### Regional Review Meetings for the International Conference on Population and Development

2004 marks the ten-year anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and the *Programme of Action* that was created there.

In order to review the implementation of the recommendations and measures outlined in this document, the 5 UN Regional Commissions - Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, West Asia - are conducting regional reviews. For more general information on ICPD '04, visit:

<http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/10/>.

Keep your eyes open for information on upcoming regional meetings in Latin America and the Caribbean, West Asia and Africa on the following sites:

- ✓ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): <http://www.eclac.org/celade>
- ✓ Economic Commission for Africa (ECA): <http://www.uneca.org/POPIA> (click on "gateways" and then "Follow-up of the DND/ICPD")
- ✓ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA): <http://www.escwa.org.lb>

For information about the results of the regional review meetings in Asia and the Pacific and Europe, visit the following sites:

- ✓ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP): <http://www.unescap.org/pop/5appc/index.htm>
- ✓ Economic Commission for Europe (ECE): <http://www.unece.org/ead/pau/epf/>

Articles in *The Watchdog* express the views of the individual authors and not of the Youth Coalition.