



*International Janusz Korczak
Association*

*Międzynarodowe Stowarzyszenie
im. Janusza Korczaka*



3.7.2009

Geneva Report

We had an exceptional important meeting which took place in Geneva at the Polish Mission to the UN on the 6th of June 2009 and we particularly wish to thank Prof Waltraut Kerber-Ganse for all the efforts in making this event happen.

Over 50 delegates and participants took part in the International Seminar devoted to the Polish Jewish Pioneer on Children's Human Rights Janusz Korczak and the Today's Convention on the Rights of the Child as International Law.



During the International Seminar we had the pleasure to have representatives and guests of Honour who included:

Ambassador Z. Rapacki, Ambassador-Permanent Representative of Poland to the UNOG,
Representative of the UN High Commission on Human Rights - Ibrahim Salama,
Yanhee Lee - Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child,
Thomas Hammarberg - The High Commissioner on Human Rights of the Council of Europe and the

Chair of the IKA Batia Gilad.

Korczak Associations were represented by several countries, which included: Switzerland, UK, Poland, France, the Netherlands, Israel, Germany. We were particularly pleased with the presence of the Members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and guests who came from all over the world and showed their commitment to the issues discussed.

There were three keynote lectures given by:

- Thoams Hammarberg spoke about the importance of the legacy of Korczak and the relevance to the rights of the Child in the modern world. He emphasised how important it is to know Korczak's writings and to implement his values in the context of legislation, education and rights of the child;
- Peter Newell from the UK shared with us the understanding of implications of violence against children in different countries;
- Marek Michalik, the Ombudsman for the Rights of the Child from Poland spoke about the wisdom of Korczak and contemporary issues raised within the context of the Polish Society.

There were two main subjects represented in two complementary ways;

One addressed the issues through the eyes of Korczak and the second addressed the issues relevant to the Convention.

The speakers addressed the issues which focused at:

- Learning from Korczak and the relevance of Korczak for today – represented mainly by the Korczakians.

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- Relevance of Korczak’s legacy for the Convention and its progress – represented mainly by members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The main achievements of the seminar included:

- Mr Hammarberg and Ambassador Rapacki agreed that seminars on Korczak’s legacy and its relevance to the Convention will take place every year in Geneva and will be connected to the Meetings of Committee on the Rights of the Child and will be organised by the Polish Mission to the UNOG.
- Thomas Hammarberg from the Council of Europe agreed to publish a booklet on J. Korczak and deliver five lectures on different subjects in different languages dealing with the Rights of Child in the spirit of Korczak and the Convention.
- Thomas Hammarberg emphasised how important it is to publish the works of J.Korczak in English and other languages and offered his commitment to further this cause.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the UN Office at Geneva for their support and hospitality in making this event take place.

We would like to thank all the speakers and contributors to the event and all the delegates who showed their commitment and contribution to further the legacy of J. Korczak to improve the rights of the child all over the world.



In the spirit of Korczak and in the hope that the achievements of this seminar will raise the awareness and will lead us to cooperate on behalf of the Children’s Rights.

Batia Gilad

Chairperson
IKA

Malgorzata Kmita

Secretary-General
IKA