



## **SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

### **SAF Children's Participation Consultations**

#### **1. 1<sup>st</sup> Children's Participation Consultation, Pakistan, July 2006**

Seven girls and five boys took part in the Regional Children's Consultation. This Consultation was held before the South Asia Forum for Ending Violence against Children. In this consultation, children got a chance to meet on their own to discuss our experiences of early marriage and physical and psychological punishment and share our ideas on what can be done to stop such violence.

The Consultation was held at the beautiful city of Rawalpindi in Pakistan on 22-23 July 2006. Children came from six different countries in South Asia - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Some children who were chosen through a National Consultation process to attend this Consultation.

At the Consultation children discussed:

- The causes of early marriage and physical and psychological punishment.
- How children are affected.
- What needs to be done by the family, school, community, governments and NGOs to end the practice of early marriage and physical and psychological punishment.
- How children can stop such violence from happening in our countries.

#### **2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Children's Participation Consultation, Kathmandu, August 2008**

Children and young people played an important role in the Regional Consultation. During a two day preparatory meeting, participating young people had an opportunity to review the program, plan for the WCIII and prepare for their participation at the Regional Consultation. The focus was on linking up with existing children and youth initiatives in the region to ensure better possibilities of follow-up after the Congress. The aim was for greater representation and substantive participation of a core group of children and youth who are either at-risk or survivors of CSEC and directly involved in advocacy work, rather than having large numbers of children participating from all SAF countries.

The objectives of Children and Young People's Participation at the SAF Regional Consultation were:

- To provide an opportunity for children and young people to share their experiences, good practices and models of successful child and youth-led interventions against sexual exploitation in the region.
- To contribute to the formulation of measurable advocacy targets (specific targets/goals with indicators) for the governments at the regional level and present these at the Regional Preparatory Consultation
- To ensure processes so that the children and young people's contribution from the regional consultation are incorporated into thematic contributions to the World Congress III

- To select South Asia child and youth representatives to participate at the World Congress III in Rio and establish preparation processes leading up to the WC III
- To ensure follow-up mechanisms (in terms of sharing of outcomes/implementation of the recommendations of the Regional Consultation and the World Congress III) with wider groups of children and young people in the region, and to see follow up institutionalized in relevant organizations, youth network and projects in the region
- To strengthen the institutionalization of meaningful CYP participation within SACG/SAF

Children developed a series of recommendations which were brought forward to governments and at the III World Congress.

### **3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Children's Participation Consultation, Kathmandu, June 2010**

From the 20th until the 23rd of June, 2010, children and adolescents from South Asia came together to discuss and to give recommendations to the SAIEVAC mechanism on issues related to violence against children. Children's representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and worked together to define violence, determine priority issues and developed recommendations for the SAIEVAC, national governments and children to take action on violence against children. The recommendations were presented to the Ministers of each of the member country at the SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting on the 23rd of June, 2010.