

The Red Hand Day Campaign

ONE MILLION RED HANDS AGAINST THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS

On November 20th the Convention on the Rights of the Child turns 19! Celebrate two decades of children's rights by organizing a Red Hand Day event to end the use of child soldiers.

On February 12, 2002, an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child came into effect, banning the use of children under age 18 in war. Unfortunately, the United Nations estimates that up to 250,000 children are still being used as soldiers in 17 armed conflicts worldwide.

Children have initiated the Red Hand Campaign to urge officials at the United Nations to act. Create your message on a sheet of paper including your name, your town, state and country. As an expression of your protest, please include your handprint in red paint. These messages will be forwarded to the United Nations.

The aim of this global campaign is to present UN officials in New York with one million red hands on Red Hand Day 2009 (February 12), the anniversary of the day the treaty to ban child soldiers took effect. We will make clear that we expect more than a ban – we want it to be enforced.

Organize a Red Hand event on November 20

Post PHOTOS and VIDEO CLIPS of your event at www.redhandday.org. Please send in your Red Hands before February 2009 to:

Belgium: Pax Christi Vlaanderen, Italiëlei 98a - 2000 Antwerpen

France: Terre des Hommes-France, Action Main Rouge, 10 bis, Rue Sugar, 93200 St-Denis

Germany: terre des hommes Germany e.V., Stichwort: Aktion Rote Hand, Ruppenkampstraße 11 a, D-49084 Osnabrück, Postfach 4126, 49031 Osnabrück

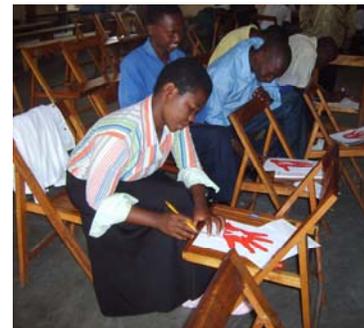
Italy: Terre des Hommes-Italy, Viale Monza 57, 20143 Milano

Japan: Human Rights Watch, Iwanamishoten Annex 7 F, 2-3-1, Kanda-Jinbochou, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0041

UK: Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, 4th Floor, 9 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1EP

US: Human Right Watch, 350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor, New York, NY 10118, USA

Other countries: Please send your Red Hands to Germany, the UK or the US.



On 12 February 2008, hundreds of children in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo joined thousands of other children and adults around the world for the launch of the Red Hand Day Campaign.



Students from Berufskolleg-Kleve in Kleve, Germany display their banner of Red Hands.



For more information about child soldiers, visit the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers at www.child-soldiers.org.



Students at Venice High School in California, USA made 531 red hands and signed large red hands to send to the office of their congressional representative.