



DATES



The International Children's Day is celebrated in numerous countries, usually (but not always) on June 1 each year.

The day had its origin in the World Conference for the Well-being of Children in Geneva, Switzerland in 1925. It is not clear as to why June 1 was chosen as the International Children's Day: one theory has it that the Chinese consul-general in San Francisco gathered a number of Chinese orphans to celebrate the Dragon Boat-Festival in 1925, which happened to be on June 1 that year, and also coincided with the conference in Geneva.

June 1 has since been observed as the International Children's Day by numerous countries; in the Western world the International Children's Day is usually celebrated on other days of the year (if at all), and there is often little public awareness about these celebrations.



In 2001 a special UN General Assembly Resolution was adopted to declare the former African Refugee Day as the International Refugee Day as an expression of solidarity with Africa, which hosts the most refugees.

The General Assembly noted that 2001 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had agreed to have the International Refugee Day coincide with African Refugee Day on 20 June.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



"Democratic suicide"

"Democracies which violate human rights are not only threatening individuals, they are threatening themselves. It is democratic suicide," Secretary General Terry Davis told the opening session of the third Forum for the Future of Democracy in Stockholm, Sweden, on 13 June.

"Democracy, the rule of law and human rights cannot function in a society which tolerates bigotry, prejudice and hate," he added. The theme of the 2007 Forum on the Future of Democracy was "Power and empowerment - the interdependence of democracy and human rights". The Forum was held in Stockholm and Sigtuna in Sweden from 13-15 June.

LEARN ABOUT...



The programme of the Council of Europe „Building a Europe for and with children”

The programme "Building a Europe for and with children" is being implemented further to the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Warsaw 2005).

The programme comprises two closely related stands: the promotion of children's rights and the protection of children from violence.

The programme's main objective is to help all decisions makers and players concerned to design and implement national strategies for the protection of children's rights and the prevention of violence against children.

The website informs on the activities of the programme "Building a Europe for and with children". By using a global approach, it aims to show the inter-dependence of the Organisation's different entities, and how each combines its particular expertise with that of others to fulfil objectives. It should also enable users to keep abreast of the activities relevant to children that are taking place throughout the Council of Europe.

www.coe.int/children

COMPETITIONS



Entries PRIX EUROPA SPOT

Young European talents are invited to shoot and enter one-minute films under the heading I am Europe! Europe is made of individuals. You, too, are Europe. Who are you and what is European about you? Considering these aspects, the spots should be understood across all language barriers and be visually strong.

Deadline for entries: 1 August 2007.

All details regarding the competition are available on:

http://prix-europa.de/publish/n_article.html?lang=GB&id=2256