



mine

Mothers Centers International
Network for Empowerment

For immediate use

Press release

International Conference on the Theme: How do we want to Raise our Children?
held in Bratislava, Slovakia 17 – 20 November

Objective is to stimulate a dialog process as a bottom up approach to redefining child-rearing through parental self reflection, peer exchange and a peer learning process.

The International Conference opens on 18th November in Bratislava, Slovakia, bringing together representatives of governments, experts from pediatrics and psychology with more than 75 international Mother Centers and grassroots women's groups and networks from 22 countries. They meet to seek ways for starting a widespread general debate about raising children and the changing terms and conditions of parenting. They will also discuss the position of Mother Centres in the system of family policy and public welfare.

The International conference in Bratislava, Slovakia is led by Mrs. Silvia Gasparovicova, First Lady of Slovakia, and Mrs. Monika Jaeckel, the President of the *mine* network. The conference is like the international campaign named **How do we want to raise our children?**

This campaign started locally by local Mother Centers and groups initiating local debates in their centers on the issue "How do we want to raise our children?" These reflections were structured by a questionnaire and common guidelines. The debates at grassroots level drew out the knowledge and competencies developed in every day life with children and give a picture of "contemporary parenthood" as it is shaped and formed by everyday challenges and how parents deal and cope with them throughout different cultural, ethnic and social backgrounds.

The body of knowledge developed through this process will be the base for debates and negotiations with other stakeholders in society: kindergarten and school teachers, psychologists and pediatricians, urban planners, local authorities, representatives of the retail industry, representatives of medical professions, religious institutions, universities and the media. These debates will take on a broader perspective: The question "How do we want to raise our children?" will develop into reflections on "What kind of environment is needed to raise our children as we want?"



mine

- 2 -

The conference brings together representatives of the existing Mother Centers and related grassroots groups from Argentina, Bosnia , Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Cameroon, Czech Republic, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Poland, Russia, Slovak Republic, The Netherlands, Trinidad, Turkey, Uganda and USA.

In addition, the Conference will adopt the Mothers Plattform of Action Statement. It will be delivered to the National Council of the Slovak Republic on Tuesday, 21st November 2006.

Note to journalists:

For further information see www.materskecentra.sk (English), or www.mine.cc, or contact Saskia Repcikova, +421 (0)905 741 565, saskia@materskecentra.sk.

- Mothers Centers International Network for Empowerment (**mine** eV.)•
- Union of Mother Centres • Únia materských centie • Baštová 5 • 811 03 Bratislava •
- Kontakt: Saskia Repčíková • E: saskia@materskecentra.sk • cell: + 421(0)905 741 565 •
- T /F.: 00421 2 544 179 06 • www.materskecentra.sk • www.mine.cc •