



## **International Network for School Social Work**

**<http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>**

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#### **Status of School Social Work in Mongolia**

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Landlocked between Russia and China, Mongolia is the least densely populated country in the world with a population of 2.8 million spread over 1.5 million square kilometers. Following the adoption of democracy in 1990, Mongolia implemented school social work, starting in 1997, in order to address increasing dropout rates and other emerging problems. A school social work pilot project was designed to create child friendly learning environments and improve the rights of children in educational settings. The country's first school social workers were placed in schools in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital, followed by swift adoption to other areas of the country. By 2000, every public school in Mongolia had an operational school social work program. The country adopted a job description for school social workers in 2000, which was revised in 2009. The Ministry of Education will probably overhaul the job description this year, as it has often been criticized as having roles and responsibilities that are too broad. Mongolia currently has 624 school social workers, with each public school designating at least one worker for the role. Although it is encouraging that each school has at least one worker in place, many individuals who fill social work positions lack the necessary training and certification as social workers. For many reasons, it has been difficult to fill the school social work positions with skilled and professional, social workers.

In July 2012, Mongolia elected a new parliament, which will undoubtedly affect the face of school social work. While it is still too early to know exactly what will take place under the new government (Mongolian Democratic Party), many believe positive changes for school social work are coming. The new government has identified an education policy focus on "Attention for Every Child," which aims to protect and nurture all children in school settings. Moreover, the government plans to tackle this goal through three distinct methods: (1) professional development for teachers, (2) programs and educational opportunities that develop students' talents and strengths, and (3) a book program for every school and community. Under the priorities of the new government, school social work is poised to become even more critical to Mongolia's schools. The unique role of school social work is positively suited for educating teachers and other school staff on issues relating to children's needs and providing outreach to parents and community members. However, it will be vital that school social work professional development is also improved in the coming years in order to provide school social workers with new skills and techniques to support their work.

School social work is changing rapidly and growing in Mongolia; it is an exciting time for the profession's development. Mongolia is well positioned to be the host of the next International School Social Work Conference, which will be held in Ulaanbaatar in June 2015. The Mongolian Ministry of Education will collaborate with the Mongolian Association of School Social Workers to host the conference. As information becomes available on the conference, details will be shared with the international community. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding school social work in Mongolia or the 2015 conference, please feel free to contact us at: [massw.mn@gmail.com](mailto:massw.mn@gmail.com).

## **A post-2015 Global Consultation on Education co-convened by UNESCO and UNICEF is taking place between December 2012 and February 2013.**

**The Millennium Development Goals Target 2.A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling**

According to the 2012 report on the Goals, ensuring that all children are able to complete primary education remains a fundamental, but unfulfilled, target that has an impact on all the other Goals. There is progress in completion of primary school but it has slowed since 2004. <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2012/English2012.pdf>

As the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, there are increasing debates on what a post-2015 agenda and framework should look like. The Global Consultation on Education aims to bring together youth, civil society, NGOs, academia, Governments and private sector to contribute their experiences and ideas on how to achieve better, wider and more equitable access to quality learning for all around the globe. The E-consultation provides an opportunity for stakeholders to review progress on the Education for All goals and the MDGs and discuss the options to ensure that the issues around education are effectively addressed and are in a central place in post-2015 development framework.

You can join the final part of the discussion, sharing your opinions and ideas by registering at <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/education2015>.

### **A Song for Girls in Pashto with Sub-titles – *Jenaiy - Girl***

<http://www.rferl.org/content/pakistan-malala-shayla-cram-music-video-zardari-unesco/24794297.html>

In the handsomely produced video for the song, dedicated to "all the courageous women of Pakistan," Cram plays acoustic guitar and is accompanied by a musician on the *rabab*, an ancient instrument similar to the sitar. (The song features a few memorable *rabab* riffs.) The musicians sit in a peaceful pastoral setting and play for a small group of smiling Pakistani schoolgirls. This video provides a good discussion topic for your small groups, especially groups for girls. Below is a segment of the lyrics.

*What is your dream, girl? Your future is bright. Is it in your own hands, Or has your voice been blocked? Nothing is fair in this world. But efforts still continue. We can work together, We are independent and fearless. Girls, girls, keep hope. Girls, tomorrow change will come. Girls, girls, keep hope. Girls, tomorrow change will come. Courageous, strong girl, Support is with you. The nation is tired of this fighting. Where, now, is peace?*