



## December Newsletter

### Upcoming events...

**Sunday November 25 – Monday December 10 – Amnesty International's 16 Days of Action.** Amnesty International are presenting 16 ways in 16 days to stop violence against women. To view their calendar of events visit [http://wa.amnesty.org.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/82044/16\\_Days\\_Calendar\\_Nov\\_07.pdf](http://wa.amnesty.org.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/82044/16_Days_Calendar_Nov_07.pdf). Help is needed during this time to run stalls at WA hospitals to raise awareness and funds. Dates and locations that volunteers are needed are listed on the News page of the SWB website.

**Sunday December 9 – Human Rights Torch Relay.** The Human Rights Torch Relay is an international campaign that seeks to bring an end to all human rights abuses against the people of China, while highlighting the persecution of Falun Gong - the most severely persecuted group in China today. During the run up to the 2008 Olympics, the HRTR will host events in 37 countries across six continents to present its message: The Olympics and crimes against humanity cannot coexist in China. The Perth event will take place at Forrest Place in the city, 1:00pm – 3:00pm. For more info contact: 0407 783057 or [wa@cipfg.net](mailto:wa@cipfg.net)

**Sunday December 9 – Monday December 10 – Human Rights Arts & Film Festival.** Over these two evenings HRAFF will screen films on the theme of Human Rights at the Television & Film Institute in Fremantle. The event will begin at 6pm, and guest speakers will include Ray and Peter Mickelberg who have been Human Rights advocates for 25 years following their wrongful arrest and the events they witnessed whilst in prison. The full program is listed on the News page of the SWB website along with ticket details, or you can visit <http://www.hraff.org.au> where you can also view trailers of the films that will be screened.

**Monday December 10 – John Huelin Human Rights Day Lecture.** 59 years ago today the Universal Declaration for Human Rights was signed by the United Nations. The United Nations Association, with the support of the Dept of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Amnesty International Australia (WA) and the Institute of Advanced Studies (UWA) , will host a lecture presented by The Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Dr Kenneth Michael AC. This is a free event and will begin at 6pm. Full details are on the News page of the SWB website.

### Campaign Updates...

**JET Childcare Assistance Campaign** – the rally held in Fremantle this October was a great success with over 100 people turning up in support. In June the Government reinstated JET assistance for up to one year following a forum organised by Rebekah Ozanne, Peta Miller and Clare Middlemas. This was an amazing achievement, but the campaign will continue until the Government understand the impact this is having on single parents and low-income families, and reinstates the scheme for the entire duration of study. SWB are fundraising for 8 scholarships per year to assist with childcare by running BBQs on Bush Court. So far we have raised \$4000 and we will continue with Thursday BBQs next semester. We are hoping that the Government will match the funds we have raised, and if they do we will be offering 8 scholarships per semester. If you want to get involved in the campaign e-mail Peta - [parism@inet.net.au](mailto:parism@inet.net.au) or Rebekah - [ozanne2000@yahoo.com.au](mailto:ozanne2000@yahoo.com.au) or visit <http://groups.google.com/group/jetactiongroup/web/get-involved-events>. If you can help with the BBQ, e-mail [swb@guild.murdoch.edu.au](mailto:swb@guild.murdoch.edu.au). If you would like to apply for a childcare assistance scholarship, application forms will be available in January.

**Wheelchairs for Iraq** – Curtin student, Riyadh Alkimi, has continued in his efforts to provide wheelchairs to children in Iraq. This year he has managed to get 327 brand new children's wheelchairs donated by Wheelchairs for Kids, and has persuaded Woodside to cover the cost of transporting them to Sydney. Woodside has also offered to provide other items such as blankets for the children. Riyadh has also arranged for the Australian Defence Force to fly them for free to Kuwait, from where he will ensure they reach their destinations. The wheelchairs have made it to Sydney already, and are now awaiting transport to Kuwait. Riyadh is hoping that by delivering these wheelchairs to both Sunni and Shi'ite towns it will help to bridge the division that has opened up since the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Once these wheelchairs have been developed, campaigning will continue. Riyadh's efforts have been outstanding and SWB will continue to support his hard work.

**8Ball Computer Recycling Program** – over the last 30 months 12,000 computers have been refurbished and donated to low-income students and disadvantaged community members. This number also includes around 100 computers that were sent to Uganda this year. The 8Ball Program won ACUMA's 2007 Runner Up for Best Student Development Program and received ACUMA's Honourable Mention. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped out with refurbishing computers this year. If you would like to volunteer for the 8Ball program, or you have equipment you want to donate, please e-mail [swb@guild.murdoch.edu.au](mailto:swb@guild.murdoch.edu.au). To apply for a computer you can collect an application form from the Student Guild Building, or download it from the On Campus Programs page of the SWB website.

**Social Justice Centre** – SWB, in partnership with Oxfam, are opening a Social Justice Centre on campus in February. It's located next to the Guild Shop on Bush Court, and will provide a central hub for anyone wanting to learn about how they can get involved in areas such as human rights, community development, sustainability, animal rights and climate change. We are creating partnerships with local branches of NGOs such as Greenpeace, WWF, Amnesty International and Save the Children. We will be providing information about the work done by these organisations, campaigns and events they are running, internships they are offering, and access to activism websites. We will also be running information sessions, workshops and film nights from Semester 1 2008. Information on the groups already involved can be found on the Social Justice Centre page of the SWB website.

If you have any articles that you would like to see printed in the Students Without Borders magazine, please e-mail them through to [swb@guild.murdoch.edu.au](mailto:swb@guild.murdoch.edu.au). The magazine will be published early in Semester 1.

Finally, a big thanks to everyone who has been involved with Students Without Borders this year – your help really has made a difference! Have a great Christmas and I look forward to working with you again in 2008.

