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ChangeMakers Seeks Youth Board Representative!

The ChangeMakers Refugee Forum Board has two youth representatives. Currently we have a vacancy for one youth representative.

What's special about being a Youth Board member?

You'll bring a unique perspective to the Board meetings – as well as your creativity and fresh thinking, you'll be bringing an understanding of refugee-background youth issues which the adults on the Board might not have. You will bring youth views and issues to the meetings.

What's a Board?

A Board is a group of people who govern an organisation. They provide leadership for the organisation and set out the vision and direction. They're kind of the big bosses. The boss's boss.

The positions are reserved for youth **aged 13 to 29**.

Please contact Sen@crf.org.nz or call 04 801 5812 if you are interested in applying for the position or want to find out more.

Youth Education Project – Know your rights!

Need to know more about your rights in employment, tenancy, consumer, sex & health, police, and family law?

The Youth Education Project offers interactive, practical legal sessions to let you know of your rights and responsibilities as young people from refugee-backgrounds.

Sessions are run for youth by youth through Victoria University Law School and the Community Law Centre. Trained student volunteers presenting the one hour sessions focus on getting across what is really useful for everyday life in a fun and relaxed way.

The programme has been running for 18 months in the Wellington community and has received great feedback. The six sessions offered include employment, tenancy, consumer, sex & health, police, and family.

Please contact sen@crf.org.nz or call 04 801 5812 if you are interested in attending a session or want to find out more.

Save the Children

Save the Children is looking for young people committed to leading change in their organisation by taking part in the establishment of a Child and Youth Council (CYC). The CYC will have national representation and with a representative on the Save the Children Board.

The CYC will be the active voice of children and youth at Save the Children, informing their domestic programmes and advocacy campaigns.

You can find out more about the work Save the Children does by going here <http://www.savethechildren.org>

Please contact sen@crf.org.nz or call 04 801 5812 if you are interested in applying or want to find out more.

Health Barriers

In May 2011, ChangeMakers ran focus groups to identify the barriers to achieving and maintaining good health outcomes in refugee-background communities. 12 youth from refugee-backgrounds participated in the focus group research.

To find out more about this and the recommendations communities made to address poor health outcomes go to:

<http://www.crf.org.nz/node/118>

Collabor8 – Youth Drama Project

Collabor8 is a group of eight refugee-background youth living in the Wellington region. They are originally from Burma, Iraq, Rwanda, and Sudan. The group has been attending drama workshops since October 2010.

On World Refugee Day (12 June, 2011) the group performed an original drama piece that focused on bullying – a key area of concern for refugee-background youth.

A bullying resource based on Collabor8's experience of the drama process is also currently being developed for refugee-background families, their communities, educators, and refugee organisations in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Please contact sen@crf.org.nz or call 04 801 5812 if you want to find out more.

Like Minds, Like Mine Research Project

The Mental Health Foundation is running a new research project to explore young people's (aged 18-24) experiences of discrimination associated with mental health problems or having a family member who has this experience.

The Mental Health Foundation plan to hold a specific focus group with young people from refugee-backgrounds in July/August.

The research will give a voice to young people who experience discrimination in relation to mental health problems. It is also likely that young people will want to address the impacts of other forms of discrimination such as racism and homophobia.

Please contact sen@crf.org.nz or call 04 801 5812 if you want to be involved to find out more information.

Do you know about Vibe – Lower Hutt?

“To enable Hutt Valley young people to access services that promote their wellbeing”.

Vibe have friendly staff who are qualified, experienced and professional, and who are dedicated to giving you the best advice and service, while communicating with you as an adult - in total confidentiality.

Vibe supports young people in the Hutt in a number of ways including:

- Providing clinics (first contact assessment and treatment = primary healthcare) and other allied services that will offer a comfortable atmosphere for all young people and be relevant to, directed by and empowering for young people.
- Providing referrals to specialist services and existing community agencies for young people.
- Supporting young people within family relationships.

- Providing workshops and groups that encourage the health and development of young people.

So take control of your health and give them a call on 04 566 0525, or just drop in when it suits - you are always welcome, whatever your vibe. Go to <http://www.vibe.org.nz> for more information.