

Reflections

ARC Newsletter 2018



Letter from the Executive-Director

Greetings on ARC's 9th Anniversary!

Looking back on 2018, one of the highlights has been the important work we carried out in providing recommendations to the Parliament on the new Child Protection Bill, which will replace the existing Child Protection Act of 1991. In partnership with UNICEF, ARC held consultations with members of civil society to identify their concerns regarding the proposed new Bill, and also held consultations with children, to ensure their voices were heard on the legislation that will directly affect their lives.

Among other key achievements of this year is the international recognition for our HEAL Campaign, promoting Healthy Eating Active & Lifestyles for children. Our awareness video on the message 'Rethink Your Drink' was nominated for Australia's 'Rethink Sugary Drinks Critics Choice Awards'. The video was selected as one of the best nine videos from around the world, portraying negative health impacts from the regular consumption of sugary drinks. In addition, ARC's third children's storybook under the HEAL Campaign was also nominated in this year's Gourmand Awards. The book was a finalist for best in the world, under 4 different categories, including Illustrations, Health and Nutrition and Fundraising.

During the course of the year, we also expanded outreach through our HOPE campaign against child abuse, reaching over 2800 children from 25 islands, including all the islands of G.Dh, Vaavu and Kaafu Atoll. Furthermore, with our emphasis on the important role that teachers play in educating and empowering children against abuse, ARC conducted training sessions for over 160 teachers this year, to strengthen collective efforts on child protection.

At the end of 2018, ARC's 'Children and Culture' Calendar 2019 was launched at a colourful and interactive ceremony with traditional games and activities for children. For the coming year, we hope to launch a nationwide awareness campaign to cultivate interest amongst children on traditional values, culture and heritage.

To maintain our accomplishments and to continue making progress, we hope to stay connected with our members, volunteers and partners and I am honoured to work with you all, as together we aspire to reach greater heights in the service of children throughout our country.

Wishing you a happy and prosperous 2019!

Zeena Zahid
Executive Director

ONGOING CAMPAIGNS AND PROGRAMMES

Creating Safer, Caring Communities

SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN SHELTERS: AIMING FOR A HOLISTIC APPROACH



- Annual Ramazan Collection for Children's Shelters, in association with CHSE and MNDF
- Annual Roadhaveellun hosted by Cheval Blanc Randheli
- Supporting children with disabilities by facilitating therapies and interventions
- Holiday Programme including water sports in partnership with Beach Club Maldives, and fishing trips with Centurion PLC

In partnership with Kurumba Maldives:

- 'Journey of Art' and Group Fitness Programmes at Kudakudhinge Hiya
- Positive Parenting Programme and Capacity-building Training for childcare workers of Fiyavathi

EMPOWERING THE GIRL CHILD: TALKING ABOUT RIGHTS



- GRACE interactive session for girls between the ages 16 -18 years to mark the International Day of the Girl, in partnership with Ministry of Gender and Family.
- Awareness session for Grade 9 students of Billabong High International School on the Convention of Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE: INCREASING AWARENESS AND OUTREACH



In partnership with Ministry of Gender and Family:

- Child abuse prevention sessions for over 2800 students at Sh., Fuvah Mulah and H.A. Atolls, and covering all islands of V., G.Dh. and K. Atoll
- Teacher training for Ghiyasuddin International School, Falaah Preschool, Burooj Preschool, PL Kids and Shine Preschool
- Customized awareness session on child protection for parents with hearing impairments
- Social Partner for the Run To Help Protect Children, at Dhiraagu Maldives Road Race

PROMOTING SOCIAL VALUES: BUILDING RESPECT



In partnership with Club Med:

- Interactive Sessions for Grades 1-4 of Billabong School Dream Campus
- Assembly Sessions for Grades 1-3 students of Billabong High International School
- RESPECT Teacher Training for all teachers of Galolhu Madharusa
- Customized session with a focus on anti-bullying, for parents with hearing impairments
- Parental awareness sessions from RESPECT Campaign for public participation, in Male'

TEACHING INTERNET SAFETY: STAYING ALERT ONLINE



- Launched the Surf Smart Campaign website www.arc.org.mv/surfsmart
- Computer-coding programmes for children in partnership with Forloop Coding Academy to mark Children's Day

PRIORITIZING HEALTH AND NUTRITION: GAINING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION



- ARC's HEAL Campaign storybook "The Grand Plan of the Gunge Gloop Group" selected as a finalist for Best in the World for Children's Books, Illustrations, Health and Nutrition, and Fund-Raising at Gourmand Awards
- HEAL Campaign's 'Rethink Your Drink- Traffic Lights' video selected for Australia's Rethink Sugary Drinks Critics' Choice Awards, amongst the best nine from around the world
- Interactive session for over 100 students at Imaduddin School to promote healthy lifestyles

FOCUSING ON SAFETY STEPS: BEING PREPARED



- Interactive programme to mark the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR), for children and staff of Kudakudhinge Hiya at Bandos Island Resort in association with Maldives Lifeguard Association, Traffic Police, and MNDF



CONFERENCES

Staying Involved

- **Review of the Regional Action Plan on Ending Child Marriage in South Asia,**
12 – 13 May, Thimphu, Bhutan
- **7th SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting,**
14 – 15 May, Thimphu, Bhutan
- **Promoting Disability Inclusive Development Forum,** 23 June
- **National Conference on Promoting Dialogue for Countering Violent Extremism,** 13 – 14 August
- **Third Regional Convening on Using Law to Promote Accountability to End Child Marriage in South Asia,** 10 – 11 September, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- **Regional Validation Workshop on the Draft Regional Strategy on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Including Online Safety,**
12 – 14 September, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- **Consultative Mission to the Maldives on the Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism and Gender Mainstreaming in the Criminal Justice Response to Terrorism,** 8 – 9 October
- **South Asia Regional Consultation on Ending Sexual Exploitation of Children,**
3 – 4 December, Bangkok, Thailand
- **Human Rights Conference 2018, organized by Transparency Maldives,** 10 – 11 December

MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEES:

Maintaining Progress

- Foster Care Panel
- Anti-trafficking Steering Committee against Human Trafficking
- Chair, National Action Coordination Group on Violence Against Children (NACG)
- Steering Committee on National Human Rights Action Plan
- National Advisory Board for the Promotion and Protection of Breastfeeding

Kurumba

event
maldives

PRAXIS

BBM

KAIMOO

happy market

Printlab

CLUB MEDITERRANÉE

BANDOS

dhiraago

Maldives
Finance Company

CHEVAL BLANC

M7 Print

BANDOS



Reflections

ARC Newsletter
2018

www.arc.org.mv

info@arc.org.mv

+960 7799544

ARC Maldives

ARC_maldives