

## Convention on the Rights of the Child campaign

Our first major activity is to work with others to obtain USA ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a U.N. treaty that has been ratified by every viable member government except ours. We are working with the Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the CRC, a national group that counts over 200 organizations among its supporters.

We invite others in the area to work with us. We do educational work, engage media, bring people together to work on the campaign. We have drafted a resolution to be considered by the Grand Rapids City Commission, and are working with the City otherwise. We wish to collaborate with those who are working on other human rights treaties, such as the Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women.

## Who we are

Parents, educators, concerned citizens and others who believe peacemaking starts with each of us and our families, and that we each can make a difference through how we choose to live and act daily. We also believe we must cooperate to make systems more responsive to the needs of children and all of us.

We operate under the auspices of the Grand Rapids, Michigan based Institute for Global Education, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

*The link is clear...between major social changes — both calamitous and positive — and how societies treated their children.*

-Robin Grille, author of Parenting for a Peaceful World



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## Parenting for Peace

*A Grand Rapids area education and advocacy initiative to:*

Promote children's rights and well-being;

Support parents/caregivers rights and well-being, and their efforts to raise healthy, happy children;

Make connections between peaceful parenting and a peaceful world;

Bring diverse groups together to learn from each other and strengthen our collective voice.



*“When society brings peace to the children, the children will bring peace to society.”*

## Our Vision

A world in which all children have family love, clean air to breathe, clean water, comprehensive health care, adequate nutritious food, secure homes, and full educational and recreational opportunity; a world where none are abused, neglected, deliberately hurt, or demeaned.

Parents have all the material, educational, social, and spiritual support they need to reach their best potential and pass the same opportunity on to their children.

All government, business, educational, non-profit, and other institutions work together to implement these values and goals.



*The health and integrity of America's children are systemically linked to the well-being of children the world over.*

-Sharna Olfman, child advocate and author

## How we operate

We work toward our vision in the following ways:

### ***Education***

We compile and disseminate information on what parenting for peace means and what it can do, and on how parents and children can best be supported. We arrange public discussions and other events. We offer speakers. We maintain a website. We provide or refer people to other resources.

### ***Advocacy***

We promote changes that help parents and children reach their potential. Such changes include nurturing, non-judgmental approaches to parents, and respectful dialogue with children. We reach out to those in government, education, various other institutions, and the community generally

### ***Cooperation***

We work with other institutions and individuals, and seek to unite diverse groups.

*Children need positive and authentic adult role models as well as voices challenging our cultural addictions to power, money, celebrity, violence, alcohol, drugs, as well as obsessive materialism and individualism.*

-Marian Wright Edelman

## Some pertinent facts



Relating to children in a respectful, loving, nonviolent manner correlates later with more peaceful behavior, greater tolerance, better school performance, less depression, and several other positive outcomes.

The single greatest difference between people who joined or passively accepted Hitler's Nazi Party and those who actively resisted by helping Jewish people was the way they were raised. Nazism grew in a country with extremely harsh and punitive discipline; it was unable to establish such strong roots in other countries where children were treated less harshly.

The United Nations has called for an end to all hitting or demeaning treatment of children. Two dozen countries, most of them within the last few years, have adopted laws accordingly. The clear trend worldwide is to protect the rights and provide the support needed to parents as well as children, so that all may reach their greatest potential.