**Contributions of the Center for Youth Studies to the work with children in Cuba.**

The Center for Youth Studies (CESJ) is a Non-Governmental Organization. It is the only Cuban institution dedicated entirely to the study of the problems of adolescents and young people, which since 1999 has had consultative status in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and has been represented in important conclaves convened by the United Nations.

For five decades, the Center for Youth Studies (CESJ) has worked intensively in actions that watch over and promote the development and well-being of Cuban children. The most important actions are:

**With respect to Article 1 of the Convention:**

* In March 2021, with the presence of experts and representatives of 10 ministries related to these age groups, we developed the **workshop** **"Seeking Consensus on periodization of childhood and adolescence in Cuba"** in which we discussed the different ages that are taken into account in the country for the development of processes and actions that include children and the relevance of trying to homogenize them.
* The **module** **"Psycho-social characterization of children and adolescents"** has been developed three times in the Diploma in Adolescence and Youth with about 200 participants from all provinces of the country.

**With respect to Article 2 of the Convention:**

* During the last five years, the **Community Project** **"Building the Future"** has been developed in the Juanelo neighborhood in the municipality of San Miguel del Padrón, with the participation of adolescents between 12 and 15 years of age. Work has been carried out with more than 100 families, developing exchange actions, capacity building, visits to places of interest and others.
* The **"Adolescence and Youth"** **diploma course** also addressed the issue of the rights of children and adolescents without discrimination.
* The **Revista Estudio**, a biannual publication of the Centro de Estudios Sobre la Juventud (CESJ), dedicated to issues related to childhood, adolescence and youth, has devoted issues 24, 26 and 28 to addressing issues on the realities and rights of our young populations.

**With respect to Article 3 of the Convention:**

* In conjunction with the **Population Fund for Children in Cuba (UNICEF) we developed the international collaboration project "Protective environments and peace building"**, through which we are working for the creation of capacities in actors for the protection of children, we have developed workshops on different topics that take into account the main satisfactions and concerns of children in several provinces of the country. We have trained 125 teachers, 100 arts instructors and 160 physical education teachers.)
* Several **investigations** on children's rights, participation and empowerment for positive decision making have been developed over the years.

**With respect to Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention:**

* The **Debate Space** **"Dialoguing about young people"** has been developed, where the fulfillment of children's rights in Cuba was discussed in depth.
* The **Children's Cultural Festival for Peace** was held, where the free expression of children was promoted, with emphasis on their rights through culture. A total of 260 children and adolescents from 13 provinces participated.
* A commission was created at the **"Dialogue on Youth" Outcome Workshop** with more than 200 participants from all over the country.
* For two years we have been working to promote the rights of children and young people in Cuba through the photographic contest **"Jóvenes en el Lente" (Young People in the Lens).**

**With respect to Article 6 of the Convention:**

* The most outstanding action is related to **direct action in the neighborhoods and the development of community activities**. On this occasion we are working directly in the capital municipalities of San Miguel del Padrón and Regla.

**With respect to Articles 12 and 13 of the Convention:**

* We have developed **8 discussion workshops** on ways to express rights.
* The **Scientific Colloquium on Critical Thinking "Young people as the most important people they are"** was held, where a section was dedicated to this topic in the group on childhood and adolescence.
* Together with the **José Martí Pioneers Organization, we have worked on methodological tools** to create capacities in teachers and pioneer guides to be able to listen and enable open discussion spaces among children and adolescents.
* Researches on **child participation**.
* **The results of research on rights have been published in 3 books.**

**With respect to Article 16 of the Convention:**

* In conjunction with the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, 12 workshops on sexual rights were held.
* Research on sexuality in adolescence is being carried out.
* In June 2021, the book *Adolescentes y jóvenes cubanos en los ámbitos de familia y relaciones de pareja* (*Cuban adolescents and young people in the areas of family and couple relationships*) was published, showing the results of the research project of the same name.
* National and international events and workshops have been held, where the results of research and experiences on issues concerning children and adolescents have been socialized.
* We have participated in television and radio programs aimed at adolescents and others for adults, where we have been able to discuss and reflect on various topics related to rights.

**With respect to Article 17 of the Convention:**

* Advice is provided to producers of children and youth programs.
* Three contests for children and adolescents have been announced.
* Research on consumption issues and ICTs in child and youth populations is being carried out.

**With respect to Articles 19 and 20 of the Convention:**

* Intervention and research project in conjunction with UNICEF and the University of Havana.
* Four preparation workshops have been held.

**With respect to Article 23 of the Convention:**

* Equal participation is promoted for boys and girls with disabilities.
* Strategic alliances are consolidated with Cuban associations for the care and participation of people with disabilities.
* Research is developed to reinforce social inclusion.

**With respect to Article 28 of the Convention:**

* Several studies have been conducted on the quality of education and the relationship from the perception of children and adolescents on this process.
* It participates in the central commissions that evaluate the subject.

**With respect to Article 31 of the Convention:**

* In conjunction with the Association of Pedagogues of Cuba, we are working on the scientific event of Play and Society.
* Journalistic and scientific articles have been prepared.
* We have developed 2 contests and activities with children.
* We work in a creative workshop with La Colmenita, which brings together 100 children and their families.

**With respect to Article 32 of the Convention:**

* We participate in the meetings and commissions that work on the subject.
* Scientific events have been held to discuss the subject.

**With respect to Article 33 of the Convention:**

* We carry out an investigation.
* We elaborated teaching materials.
* Courses have been developed for professionals on the subject with the participation of 50 people.
* Five workshops on addictions have been developed with children and adolescents.

CESJ's systematic work promotes inclusive and participatory actions for children and adolescents. The actions conceived jointly with these populations offer the development of their potential, the knowledge of their rights, free creation and expression, and the integral development of their personality to contribute to a safer and happier childhood.