World Scout Bureau, Central Office
Bureau Mondial du Scoutisme, Siège

36th World Scout Conference in Thessaloniki, 2002 : (Extract of the Conference Resolution)

7/02 KEEPING SCOUTS SAFE FROM HARM

The Conference
- recognising that the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child requests States to ensure that children are protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse

- noting that there is a growing awareness in society of the need to protect young people from all forms of abuse

- considering that Scouting is an educational Movement whose mission is to help young people develop their full potential in accordance with the Scout Method, which involves the effective functioning of the peer group under appropriate adult guidance

- emphasising that the achievement of Scouting's mission makes it essential for the Movement to provide young people with a 'safe passage' which respects their integrity and their right to develop in a non-constraining environment

- further emphasising that providing this 'safe passage' is possible only if young people are protected from all forms of abuse, i.e. verbal, physical, sexual and emotional, neglect and peer pressures

- welcoming the fact that a number of NSOs have developed effective policies and procedures aimed at ensuring the 'safe passage' for their young people in Scouting

• urges NSOs to adopt and implement policies and procedures to ensure the safe passage of young people throughout their time in the Movement

• recommends that in developing such policies associations should ensure that legal requirements within a country, and the standards set out within the Convention on the Rights of the Child, are met

• further recommends that NSOs ensure that such policies are duly reflected in the totality of the association's activities, in particular:
  - at the level of the youth programme - that it instils self-confidence and self-esteem in young people and develops the ability to protect and express themselves
  - at the level of adult leadership - that recruitment policies ensure that only appropriate adults are recruited and that all adults, irrespective of their role, receive training and support in this area
  - at the level of management of the association - that policies and procedures for intervention, including risk management, incident management and public relations are put into place

• recommends to the World Scout Committee that tools and documents are developed to support National Scout Organizations with this implementation

• urges the World Scout Regions to strongly advocate and support this course of action.