

# Children in Scotland

every child - every childhood

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[www.childreninScotland.org.uk](http://www.childreninScotland.org.uk)



**Love the planet**  
the One Planet Schools approach

**Looked after children**  
establishing Government priorities

**Streets Ahead**  
developing a new community project

# Educating on violence

**Samara, an Austrian child protection agency, has been working to prevent sexual abuse and violence for more than 20 years. Here, they share progress of a new pilot project and observations from a study visit to Scotland**

In July 2011, Samara launched a four-year pilot project to integrate the prevention of violence into child protection, regardless of religious, cultural, ethnic or social background. The focus of the approach is proactive and transcultural, recognising and respecting the equality of different cultures and learning from each other.

The project is understood to be unique in Europe. As such, part of the project is to visit other European countries with the intention of sharing our work as well as finding new perspectives in the prevention of practice and good practice models. In September 2012, three members of the Samara team completed a five-day study trip through Scotland visiting primary schools, universities, and organisations based in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling.

Through visiting a range of facilities and organisations we heard about the importance and benefits of a solutions focused approach as well as the results of intense, targeted projects such as the domestic abuse programme CEDAR and the education run Families and Schools Together, as well as working directly with particular ethnic or social groups. We also heard about work to find, implement, evaluate and improve evidence based programmes and research, as well as a variety of approaches that focus on prevention, intervention and counselling.

Whether sexual and domestic violence should be discussed openly at schools seems however to be a controversial issue in Scotland, as does how to approach it. There appears to be much more investment in primary prevention than in the treatment of children and young people who have experienced different forms of

violence. It does however appear common to take "proactive" measures, such as organisations approaching schools directly asking to work together on awareness or support projects. From this, we sense that there is much more coordination and clarity in the system in Scotland than in Austria, providing good practice that we, and others, could learn from.

One of the goals of our visit was also to intensify international exchange of ideas among experts in Scotland and Austria. Impressed by the concept of a 'Rights Respecting School', as promoted at Castleview Primary School, Edinburgh we hope to take this way of communicating and respecting the rights of young people back to Austria. The work to encourage the socially underprivileged parents to support their children's education, which has seen improved behaviour, is also a central factor with the school's behaviour support teachers demonstrating solution orientated and proactive measures, used in an innovative way. We hope to welcome some of the teachers from Edinburgh to Vienna to work directly with our project schools in due course. We also look forward to engaging more with RespectMe, Scotland's Anti Bullying Service, when Director Brian Donnelly delivers a training workshop for the Viennese network against sexual violence against girls, boys and young people in April 2013.

**Ardjana Gashi, Raina Ruschmann and Amina Barakat are representatives of Samara - Prevention of Sexual Assault and Violence, Vienna, Austria**

**For more information on Samara, visit [www.prevention-samara.at](http://www.prevention-samara.at) or [www.transkulturell-samara.at](http://www.transkulturell-samara.at)**

## Transcultural prevention of violence and promotion of health project

**June 2011 – July 2015**

*Aim:* For prevention of violence to become an integral part of child protection regardless of religious, cultural, ethnic, or social background.

*Implementation:* Launched in July 2011, the pilot project has been implemented in six primary schools and teacher colleges in Vienna with every child participating in the project taking part in a series of workshops and all teachers

undertaking additional training and learning. All schools in Vienna have the opportunity to send teachers to further training free of charge, delivered by the two teacher colleges in Vienna who are project partners and special teaching materials, including a teachers handbook, are currently being developed. Parents and guardians are involved through parent evenings. Counselling is offered in a range of languages, which are widely spoken in Vienna.

*Evaluation:* The project will be evaluated by a scientific research team throughout the four-year period.

## Scottish study visit

During our time in Scotland we visited:

- Castleview Primary School, Edinburgh
- Craigroyston Primary School, Edinburgh
- With Scotland, School of Applied Social Science University of Stirling
- NSPCC Child Protection Research Centre, University of Edinburgh
- STEP – Scottish

Traveller Education Programme, University of Edinburgh

- Zero Tolerance
- Respectme
- Shakti Women's Aid
- Roshi
- Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Children in Scotland

For details of each individual visit, view <http://www.transkulturell-samara.at/assets/2012/11/Study-visit-Scotland-5.11.12.pdf>