

# The Delft Manifesto on a Child Friendly Urban Environment

Considering that a city friendly to children is a city friendly to all;

Recognizing that

- in recent decades children worldwide have gradually lost much of their traditional outdoor habitat, especially city streets and public space;
- this loss of children's habitat has been significantly caused by the increase in motorized traffic;
- children's home environment is fundamental for their healthy development;
- the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recognizes the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development; and
- by ratifying the CRC, 192 national governments accepted responsibility for the implementation of this right;

building on the Declaration of London<sup>1</sup> which states that the fulfilment of the rights of children and young people in regard to their physical and social environment should have a high priority in policy making, planning and participation processes;

the participants of Childstreet2005, coming from 22 countries worldwide, call upon politicians, urban planners, public officials and decision makers everywhere to implement the following recommendations:

1. Guarantee adequate and safe public space for playing, walking and socializing near every child's house, supporting the development of children's potentials, protected from the dangers of motorized traffic.
2. Enable children to reach all important places in their daily environment by themselves by such means as instituting appropriate speed limits, ensuring adequate and safe crossing points of roads, and training and testing children in the safe negotiation of traffic.
3. Systematically include children and parents in the evaluation of local traffic safety and the development of transportation improvements that support children's independent mobility.
4. Design and plan streets as learning environments that are inclusive of the social, economic and cultural diversity of their local community.
5. Distribute the real costs of motorized traffic in equitable ways and use financial and other instruments to support alternative modes of transportation.
6. Evaluate and monitor urban environments for the impacts of air, soil, and noise pollution on children, and ensure compliance with appropriate standards.
7. Encourage providers of child services to facilitate accessibility.

On behalf of the Childstreet2005 participants,

Tjeerd Deelstra  
Chair, Conference Steering Committee

Delft, 26 august 2005

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<sup>1</sup> The Declaration of London was presented on 22 October 2004, at the Second European 'Child in the City' Conference by the Co-ordinating Committee of the European Network for Child-Friendly Cities (ENCFC), to participants from 23 countries in the European Union and elsewhere.