

SSSK was founded in 1998, with two aims:

- to raise awareness about the potential of the millions of children all over the world who have to live and work on the streets, struggling to survive, extremely vulnerable, and missing out on happy and safe childhoods;
- to raise funds for charities working with street children internationally that SSSK has committed to support financially. These projects are chosen because members of SSSK have worked directly with them.

Registered Charity Nos.
1070646 (England and Wales)
SC041706 (Scotland)



Hello from the Trustees

Firstly, thank you to everyone who has been involved with the charity this year. We hope that you will continue to support SSSK in the future, and, most importantly, enjoy taking part in the diverse branch activities.

This year, our branches have achieved a lot and welcomed new members. We've also had our first SSSK wedding... "Clare and I met at RendezVous where a date for charity ended up as a cheeky kiss followed by wedding bells 8 years later. I never thought my £10 entry fee would get me so much....!" Congratulations Pete and Clare Edworthy.

Our partner NGO organisations continue to thrive. SEED in Kolkata have made real progress. Turn to page 6 for more information. Internationally, the profile of street children has been raised significantly by the Street Child

World Cup in Durban, South Africa. This aimed to give street children a voice and to put them into both government and international agency agendas. You can find more information on the event inside.

Next year, we hope to expand and we're in discussions with several students about forming new branches of SSSK. We will keep you updated on progress. In addition, the revamp of the website is well underway and should be completed by the end of the month. This should make finding information and materials easier, and will also allow online donations!

Our student branches are the lifeblood of SSSK, and the reason for the organisation's continued success. As every branch is different, we know you'll have your own ideas about what you want to achieve next year. It may be

challenging to fundraise in a recession, but issues affecting vulnerable people abroad continue to concern the British public, as the recent DEC appeals for Haiti and Pakistan prove. Also, every event held for SSSK contributes to raising awareness of street children, which is one of our organisation's key goals.

The Trustees are always keen to offer help and advice on any aspect of SSSK's activities, so please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM, which is a great opportunity to meet other members and swap stories.

It only remains for us to wish you the best for all your efforts in 2011.

And remember – if it ain't fun, it ain't SSSK.

The Day of the Street Child

12th April 2011

SSSK is a member of the Consortium for Street Children (CSC) who are promoting a specific 'Day' to raise public and government awareness of street children's rights in over 25 countries worldwide.

Currently the issues connected with street children aren't directly tackled in any of the major inter-government initiatives like the Millennium Development Goals, nor by UNICEF, and it is increasingly being recognised by NGOs who are directly involved that street children need a voice. This is one of the messages promoted from the Street Child World Cup.

What is the issue ?

Street children are often ignored and stigmatised. They generally have no support - no family, school, or healthcare; they face daily violence, hunger and abuse.

Did you know that death squads in Brazil can earn up to \$50 for killing a street child? Or that of 400,000 street children in Bangladesh, nearly 10% have been forced into prostitution?

"They are street children - and above all, they are children - who deserve the care and protection of all adults." (Sir John Major - in support of the proposed Day)

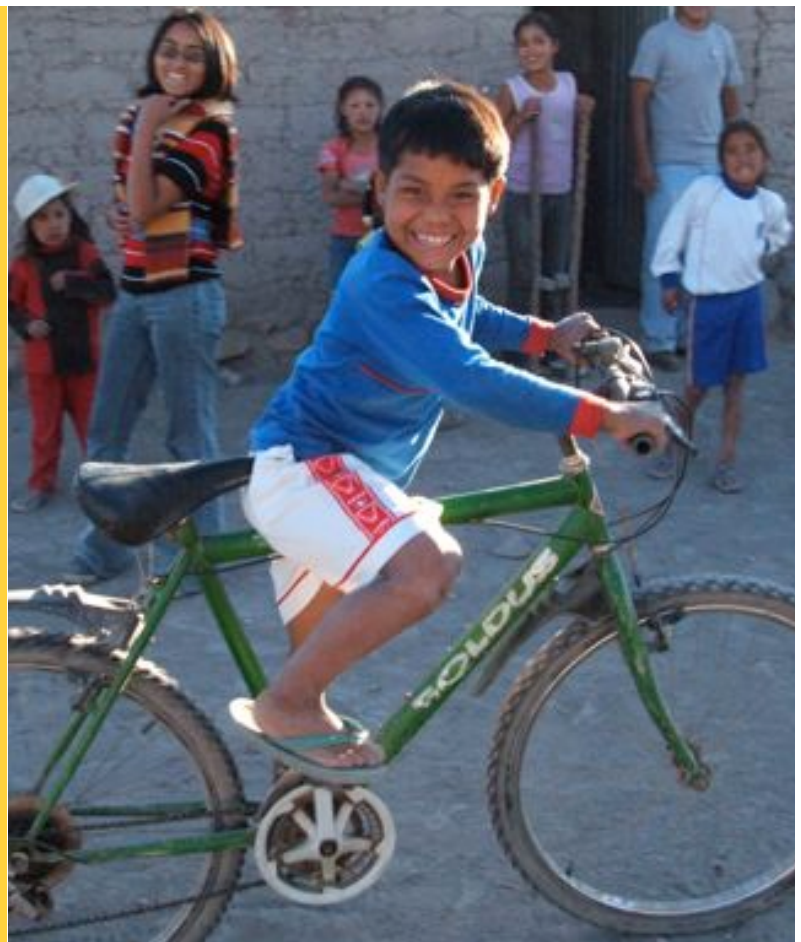
Unless governments take responsibility and change policy and practice to include street children, for every child currently helped, another two will be forced by circumstances to come onto the street. It is an increasingly important issue.

Let's speak out

The Day of the Street Child will raise awareness about street children worldwide. We are asking the public, businesses, governments and NGOs to speak out on behalf of street children in April 2011, to change policy and practice, and to celebrate events like the Street Child World Cup which alter people's attitudes and mindset.

We in SSSK should be able to play a role in this, and branches may like to consider what they can do next year to highlight the 'Day', and to raise awareness within their various areas of influence.

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Street Child World Cup Durban, South Africa - March 2010

A little while ago, many of us were completely absorbed by the World Cup matches in South Africa. The Street Child event was different, and the team who lost every match and scored only one goal went home with pride and confidence, and with twelve transformed individuals. A total contrast to the return of the England team in July!

SSSK backed the SCWC event and provided some sponsorship.

Various branches held events to highlight what it was about, in terms of providing street children with a unique opportunity to demonstrate their abilities and potential.

One of the trustees went to Durban as a volunteer helper, and there's a series of short videos about the football, the art exhibition and the conference, on the SSSK website. DO have a look at these, and you'll get a flavour of the enthusiasm involved.

The SCWC had all the trappings of the FIFA event:

- the arriving teams from Brazil, India, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Tanzania, Ukraine and the UK, were all greeted enthusiastically at the airport by their hosts (street children from Durban) with singing, flags and dancing
- the tournament had a parade with flags and national anthems both at the start and finish.

The competition was 7-a-side round robin, and it was a condition that there was at least one girl on the pitch all the time. The boys and girls were all aged between 14 and 16.

It was an extraordinary, emotional and exhausting ten days! Intense, interesting, informative and inspiring. It was also my introduction to the buzz of the vuvuleza.



As a potential global contribution to tackling the issues raised by the existence of street children, and work to help them realise their potential, the Street Child World Cup idea is unique



What was different about this event (the first of its kind) was that street children and ex-street children speaking different languages, who had never travelled before, interacted in amazing ways. They made friendships, sometimes by sign language, with each other and with South African children in township schools where they jointly created an art exhibition about their experiences. The children also made friendships with the volunteer helpers.

A centrepiece activity was a three-day conference where the children were able to share their experiences, ideas and hopes about home/shelter; violence; access to health care and education. Each team put together a manifesto to take back to their own country outlining changes they thought necessary.

An enormous amount of work went into preparing and running the event, with huge inputs from Christian groups and in particular the Amos Trust (www.amostrust.org). The dedication and hard work of the main organisers was awesome. The logistics of getting the children passports and visas was daunting, as was getting the necessary finance to enable it all to happen.

The Art Exhibition came to London in September at the Foundling Museum.

The outcome of it all was 100-120 children returning to their countries enthusiastic, empowered and confident and it had similar effects on the street children from Durban. The sponsoring organisations in the different countries were also enthused and strengthened.

The activity is ongoing. The returning teams are all working to share the insights gained with others in their country. A further tournament in Brazil in 2014 is being planned, and possibly an event in the UK in 2012, to keep up the momentum.

As a potential global contribution to tackling the issues raised by the existence of street children, and work to help them realise their potential, the Street Child World Cup idea is unique, and SSSK is proud of being a part of it.

by Gordon Couch,
SSSK Trustee

The comments from the children say it all.....

Jagjit Singh, 15, from India

Jagjit has been sleeping rough in the Mukandpur region of the Punjab since 2006. He relies on food handouts from a Sikh temple. He says: "I grew up living in one room with my parents and two brothers. I have never had the luxury of shoes or an education. I decided to take to the streets to see if I could earn money but I was only able to send small amounts back. At times I felt depressed. But one day I found an old football lying around." Soon Jagjit's new hobby developed into a passion and a nearby football charity spotted his skills. He was recruited as a striker for India's winning team. Jagjit says: "Lifting the cup has lifted our spirits like nothing else could."

Lorelyn Cabanavan, 15, from the Philippines

Lorelyn recently found refuge in a shelter in the Tuloy Sa Don Bosco area of Manila. She has been sleeping rough since the age of 12. She explained: "My family are very poor and it was always a struggle for them to feed me and my brothers and sisters. When I was 12, my parents separated and it was impossible for my mum to make ends meet. I thought I could make some money to help

her and also I would be less of a burden to her. I ended up living in a cardboard box. Often I would just survive on scraps of food." She is really positive about her trip to South Africa: "This tournament has helped me to believe in the world again and to believe in myself."

Artom, 14, from Ukraine

Artom lives in the country's Kharkiv region. The child of a broken home, Artom has spent most of his childhood between the streets and an orphanage. He said: "Leaving the Ukraine for the very first time has been an incredible experience. Everything in South Africa looks so natural - the grass, trees and flowers. I have always loved playing football - it has got me through some really difficult times." Back at home, Artom is being helped by a charity called Depaul Kharkiv. He feels reassured having met others at the event: "Hearing the stories of other children here has helped me understand my own country is not the only one with problems."

The Durban Declaration

The outcome from the conference in Durban, duly translated and distilled has resulted in a call to action.

It starts off: "Listen to us: we have the right to be heard. The government don't do anything for children on the street, they don't even think about them. When they see those children they do not even make a case for them. They should take them by the hand and say: I am going to support you, I am going to help you, you are not alone. But no - they look at them as they would anything else, like any other rubbish."

The Declaration provides us with information and ammunition, and we would do well to look at all the issues raised by the children and see what we can do to act effectively to change things.



FAQs: a quick reminder of why SSSK is unique and brilliant!

Why does SSSK exist?

- Because we believe every child matters and deserves a childhood. No child should have to sleep on the street.
- Because we want to raise money for our partner NGOs, who have expertise working with street children.
- Because we want to raise awareness of street children and the problems they face.
- Because we can enable students and others to get involved with global issues.
- Because we believe the problems street children face can be overcome.

Who are we?

- Active, engaged students
- NGO staff
- Street children
- Supporters – short and long-term
- Trustees

Why are we unique?

- We were created by students, for students.
- Our student branches make all their own decisions and members learn from each other.
- We believe you should have fun being members of SSSK.
- We have personal contact with the small NGOs we support.
- All the money we raise goes directly to our partner NGOs. We may be the most efficient charity in the UK!



Bmycharity: help for easy fundraising



As you may have noticed from the website, we have registered with Bmycharity which we would encourage everyone to use for fundraising events.

All you need to do is to go to www.bmycharity.com/sssk which takes you to the SSSK page. From there you can quickly set up your own fundraising page for any event, and then it's easy to encourage friends (and others) to your page, using the 'Sponsor a fundraiser' button.

We've chosen Bmycharity as it provides a cheaper alternative to other sites such as JustGiving; any deductions from donations will only total around 2-3%, compared with 15-20% with JustGiving at our level of usage. Whilst the Trustees cover all such costs, it's sensible for a small charity such as ours to reduce costs wherever possible. Using Bmycharity we will be able to recover Gift Aid on donations from donors who are UK taxpayers.

We hope that you find Bmycharity easy to use, but welcome feedback. So please email any comments to the Trustees. Happy fundraising!



Sarah's SEED Story

An update from India

Sarah was part of the SSSK branch at Cambridge University, but it was only after she had finished her legal practice course a couple of years later that she thought again about SSSK. Sarah contacted the trustees to organise a visit to one of SSSK's partner organisations, and in October 2009, Sarah and Claire stayed with SSSK's partner organisation SEED, in Kolkata, India. This is their story.

'We stayed at SEED's home for boys, where 35 boys, aged between 3 and 18, live in a new large three storey house, in peaceful countryside surroundings outside of Kolkata.



The boys have arrived at this home after a long rehabilitation process. Most are either orphans or have been forced to leave home and were found at Howrah Station. They were living on the platform, scavenging on trains for bottles or newspapers to sell, and many were addicted to glue. The goal of SEED (in many cases successfully achieved) is to reunite the boys with their families. However some are so young they cannot remember their addresses and for others it is not possible to return. In this case, the boys are re-homed, with SEED.

Two SEED members of staff, Bijoy and Chatterjee, live on site with the boys, and are affectionately referred to as 'uncle', as well as Guria, a lady who works full time as a cook. The boys have an organised daily routine, including meditation in the morning, football when they all return from school and time set aside for their homework.

SEED is always looking for innovative ways to give the boys better opportunities, including using Skype as a way to help the boys learn English. Using a computer and internet connection in the SEED office, the boys ring an English teacher in America, and take turns to speak into the microphone. Like any other teenager, the boys love

using the net and want it to be set up at the boy's home.

We spent a couple of hours at Howrah station, and saw for ourselves the upsetting sight of a 10 year old boy, high on glue, rolling around the platform and putting together papers to sell. Most boys use glue as a way of banishing their hunger pangs, and at about half the price of food, the choice is not a difficult one. Bijoy also told us about a girl he knew who had been pregnant numerous times and lost the babies due to her glue addiction. The contrast between these children on the platform, and the boys at the end of the journey in the boys' home, excited about using Skype, further highlighted the amazing work of SEED.

Bijoy knew all of these children on the platform. He visits Howrah station daily and spends 1-2 hours speaking to the children. He encourages, but never forces them, to come with him to the Day Protection Centre and night shelter. These shelters provide food and a safe space. However, funding shortages have meant that SEED has had difficulty keeping the shelters open. This is a real problem because these shelters provide the contact points with the platform children; it is only through these that the repatriation and rehabilitation

processes can begin. Because there was no day centre running, we had to walk away and leave the boy rolling around on the platform.

We were amazed by the kindness, intelligence and politeness of the boys and the overwhelmingly happy atmosphere in the home. This is a tribute both to the boys themselves and to the SEED organisation.'

If you would like more information about SEED you can visit their website at www.seedkolkata.org. For updates on progress made on individual projects, please contact the Trustees.