



## International Janusz Korczak Association General Council Meeting, Warsaw, September 16, 2017

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome/Introduction/Apologies

##### **Present:**

Batia Gilad- Chairperson , Arie de Bruin, Theo Cappon ( Holland), (Malgorzata Kmita, (UK), Avi Tsur (Israel), Basia Vucic (Australia), Barbara Sochal, Jacek Krogel, Teresa Skudniewska, Marta Ciesielska, Irena Skipor Rybacka (Poland) Urszula Markowska-Manista (UNESCO Chair), Inna Spiakova, Marichka Prokophuk (Ukraine), Daniel Halperin (Switzerland), Roza Valeeva (Russia), Jerry Nussbaum (Canada), Mariola Strahlberg, Tatiana Tsyrlina- Spady (USA), Romain Hulpia (Belgium), Conny Muller (Germany), Hatem Elabed ( Tunisia), Tomasz Polkowski (Dziecko i Rodzina), Ewa Górecka ( Serce) and friends.

Discussion and acceptance of agenda by all members

Apologies from full members and from supporters who couldn't attend.

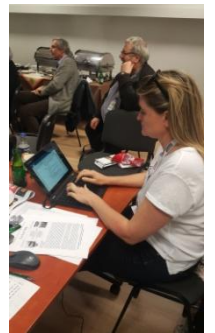
#### 2. **Nominating** the chairperson of the meeting and the secretary:

Chairperson – Batia Gilad

Secretary – Basia Vucic

agreed by all the participants.

#### 3. **Minutes** of the last meeting (15.10.2016, Koos Vorrink House, Lage Vuursche, Holland) were circulated and accepted with signatures from all attendees.



#### 4. Chairperson's Report

○ 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on the Rights of the Child/8<sup>th</sup> International Korczak Conference:

▪ 150 proposals from the Call for Papers

▪ **Thanks to:**

- Iwona Brzewska for initiating contact with POLIN and facilitating an excellent relationship with the Museum director, Zygmunt Stepinski - RPD

- Ombudsman on Children Rights, Marek Michalak and the BRPD team – Daria Bielenin-Palecka, Maciej Stadtmuller, Adam Nieweglowski, Dorota Zawadzka and all those behind the scenes

- APS

- City of Warsaw

- To the IKA members as a conference team - Tomek Polkowski, Basia Vucic, Marta Ciesielska, Avi Tsur, Teresa Skudniewska



- **Taiwan** – Korczak book published in Mandarin by the Ministry of Health (Ombudsman) who are responsible for children's rights and a large exhibition of Korczak in Taipei. Barbara Smolinska-Theiss, Marek Michalak & Batia Gilad attended the launch of the book and presented a seminar at the university. Met with an NGO which is working with children out-of-school and a visit to a democratic boarding school.
- May 2017 gathered the Conference organisation and scientific committees to meet at Korczakianum.
- May 2017 Batia was awarded the Order of the Smile in Osiecznica – she had to drink squeezed lemon while keeping her smile.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Janusz Korczak-UNCRC Seminar in Geneva held 10 June 2017 with 2 groups of high school students from Paris and Switzerland.
- Next year – September, 2018 for 2 days for the 10<sup>th</sup> Seminar.
- Marta Santos-Pais proposed a Korczak seminar in New York In 2019 celebrating 30 years of the UNCRC.
- IKA attended for the 5<sup>th</sup> time to Korczakowo summer camp (11.7-21.7.2017). An excellent example of a child-led event, a number of activities were presented including the art exhibition related to the theme 'I Love Earth'. A photo was presented of the first Janusz Korczak monument in the world. Batia hopes to have an International Korczakowo in the future.
- 22.07.2017 Batia attended the Remembrance Day for the transport of Jews from Warsaw Ghetto to Treblinka with a touching display created to mark the occasions.

- Project for the Council of Europe’s cultural routes based around the great pedagogues – proposal from the l’ Association Heloise. Jonathan Levy will be representing IKA within the negotiations for this project. The cities of origin for each of the ‘great pedagogues’ would be linked as an educational tourism route. If successful, it is proposed that 20 November 2019 as the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNCRC would be a launch date with a focus on Korczak as the inspiration behind the Convention. There are proposed a 3-stage conference program. It is not clear where it may be based nor which organisation will be the project co-ordinator possibly UNESCO or UNICEF.
  
- CATS – This year’s theme was “Inclusion” with 160 adults and 140 children showcased working together working together to model children’s participation. Jonathan explained that CATS is faithful to Korczak in a contemporary and internationalised setting. Children examine a range of problems and co-design pedagogical activities with people ranging in age from 2 to 90 years. This year there was a presentation from who detailed the discrimination they faced. A number of groups are sponsored to attend CATS including an Israeli group with both Jewish and Arab children. Groups included children in residential care, disabilities and children of imprisoned parents. Everyone lives together communally sharing the space. One of the attendees changed the law regarding foster care provision. Concluded with a 90-day challenge after the visit which has resulted in child-led movements emerging in France, Australia and India.  
 IKA has been involved from the very beginning of CATS.  
 This year children from CATS also visited the European parliament and engaged in a similar way to adult visitors. July Ward -Member of the European Parliament invited other associations to send child delegates in November, 2017.  
 Next year’s theme: “Towards a world where violence has no place”
  
- **New associations proposals to affiliate** – both were unanimously accepted:  
*Association of the Heart (Serce)* – based in their own locale, Świdnica (near Wrocław) is an NGO which has worked with children in problematic circumstances. The main activity is leading a social club in its own centre acquired from the Municipality, Nicknamed Dom Serca (House of the Heart). The children had input into the design of the building and child self-government which can influence the operation of the organization. The centre provides daily support for up to 60 children who can have a meal, enjoy leisure activities and gain assistance with homework during school time and vacations. The contact person - Ewa Górecka  
 The foundation grew out of the Association and wish to join IKA as we view our activities as closely aligned to Korczakian values.  
*Tunisian Korczak Association* – the President, Hatem Elabed completing his studies in 1997 he has since worked for 20 years as a supervisor of kindergartens. Returning to university for a Masters in Artistic Mediation, he encountered a Professor of psychology from France who introduced him to Korczak. Pursuing self-education via the internet, he struggled to access materials on Korczak in Arabic and eventually contacted IKA. Inspired to join a global movement, he experienced resistance and difficulty in Tunisia (and Arabic countries in general) to establish an organisation with Jewish- Israeli

connections. He travelled to Warsaw accompanied by the Association's treasurer, who works with the Ministry of Finance and a Board member, who is a professor and specialist in theatre methods.

- Belgian Association have a new logo created by a young artist.

## 5. Secretary General's Report

- Court issues for IKA have been resolved after 2 years.
- IKA Facebook page created.
- Conference organisation:
  - Partnership with City of Warsaw which reprinted and financed the Fotobiografia with improved translations by Canadian Korczak Association and new introductions from Marek Michalek, Batia Gilad and Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Mayor of Warsaw.
  - Also financed was production of the new map "Janusz Korczak's Warsaw", which had been distributed to all conference participants and other organisations including the Polish Association, Korczakianum and the City.
- Leaflet produced for IKA.
- Publishing of Korczak writings "Dzieła 13" which marks an important step in this large project which has been running for over 30 years and anticipate conclusion next year with a final 'During War Years' volume. Congratulations to Marta Ciesielska and Korczakianum!
- New IKA website has had a domain reserved [www.ika-korczak.com](http://www.ika-korczak.com) and construction of the site has begun. It is hoped that it will contain links to each Member Association.
- Treasurer's Report was resented also by 3 documents :
  - cash flows 2011-2017
  - membership fees 2012-2017
  - budget proposal

Highlight that Batia's family member continues to financially support IKA activities allowing for especially significant events such as the Conference.
- Reminder for Associations to pay membership fees prior to March each year.
- **The report was accepted by all the participants.**

## 6. Audit Committee accepted.

- Accounts were carefully reviewed in regards to questions raised by Theo Cappon (Dutch Korczak Association). Noted that administration and travel expenses were remarkably low given the increase in IKA activities.

## 7. Member Reports:

- **UNESCO Chair, APS** – 11<sup>th</sup> International Summer School ‘International - 238 application from 36 countries with only 16 UNESCO scholarships with invitations extended to 14 countries. A range of activities;



- Intercultural Workshop
- One participant shared an exhibition, “The Kids of East Timor on the Road for a Better Future” which was displayed at the opening of the Congress at APS.
- Book launch: Liebel, M. & Markowska-Manista, U. (2017) ‘Prawa Dziecka w kontekście międzykulturowości – Janusz Korczak na nowo odczytany’, Warsaw; APS Publishers [„Rights of the Child in intercultural contexts – A New Reading of Janusz Korczak”]

- **Belgium**



- Due to a multitude of issues the Association had to be renewed
- Newly written French language play ‘Korczak with his head held high’ designed for a cast of 3 as a theatre production. It is planned to have an English translation in 2018. Available for purchase for 8 Euro.
- Co-operation with RIZSAS which offers alternative activities for out-of-school students. Introducing Korczak principals.

- **Holland**



- Award presented by the Princess of Orange to WALHALLA (NGO) working with children out-of-school. The Association has now a good connection with the Princess who has an affinity.
- National Annual Lecture.
- Nash Dom Summer Camp.
- Range of training activities.
- Holocaust project held a conference about ‘Lessons about the holocaust in multi-ethnic schools’ in Rotterdam. The children aged 10-14 years conduct research .
- Arie travelling twice a year to Africa to conduct training sessions with teachers

- **UK**



- Lecture and an article for the Ukrainian Association: Lost and Wonder – the child’s experience with nature
- Warsaw lecture
- Building the Children’s War Museum

- Found introducing JK at the social centres via cooking activities and discussion how Korczak could feed 200 children
- Judeo-Christian tradition
- Partnership in negotiation with Congo charity for a project
- Book due to be published

○ **France**



- Change of direction to be more hands-on and dynamic
- Social pedagogy collaboration
- Training in schools working with children with additional needs
- Creating board positions for children and young people
- Events in planning
  - Child-adult co-constructed
  - In October, a post-CATS group created their own event with support of the Association aimed at teacher development in child participation.

○ **Israel**



- Condolences:
  - Frieda Nadel, wife of Shlomo
  - Isaac Skalka at the age of 95
- Yad Vashem Memorial Service held at Korczak Square on August 8 which although hosting 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generations and unfortunately no original graduates were in attendance. Some from the ‘generations’ were in attendance at the Conference.
- The Festival of Lights was renewed as a tradition three years ago, with the lighting of Chanuka candles. Every child received a Chanuka postcard from Korczak upon their first year in the Home.
- Working with the Ministry of Education to introduce Korczak principals within with an intention of renewing “The Korczak Prize” which recognises a school working in the spirit of Korczak
- Arab speaking and Hebrew speaking school partnership bringing in-service training and instigate dialogue between them
- Amichai Pardo staged over 100 times, the ‘one-man’ play Ten Matchboxes written by Korczak.
- Pilot project with 4 in-service centres involving 15 Boarding schools instigating student councils. Successful outcomes and plans to continue the project.
- Involvement in international events such as the meetings and Korczakowo
- Establishment of The Korczak Centre at the Education Department of Western Galilee College which hosts diverse students.

○ **Canada**

- Thank you to the Batia and the team for organising the Conference/Congress





- Extension of the 2015/16 Interdisciplinary Lecture Series has become an annual event.
  - Commencing at the beginning of the year with the award ceremony of the Korczak medal
  - Paediatrics
  - Lawyers and social workers in Montreal
  - Korczak's scholarship with the keynote speaker, UNICEF Canada
- Anticipating the introduction at the University of British Columbia a credit course teaching Korczak in partnership with Tatyana writing the syllabus
- Online professional practice course in development
- Betty Lifton 'Biography' will be republished in October, 2017
- In August, signed a contract for an 800 page English translation of Korczak Selected Works, financed through a number of partnerships.

○ **Japan**

- Delivered by Batia with apologies from Inoue Fakimatsu for not being able to attend
- General research planning tour of Poland by the Committee

○ **Ukraine**

- Thank you for the planning and running of the Conference/Congress with a reminder of the meeting 4 years ago, regarding this possibility which has come to fruition.
- Painful conditions stemming from conflict between Russia and Ukraine has driven four major projects
- Renaming a Kiev street in the name of Korczak via great effort by Svetlana with an electronic petition. It coincided with Teacher's Day in October 2016 with a well-advertised celebration, workshops and children's concert attended by representatives from Germany, Poland and Israel. Great support was provided by the Polish Institute of Kiev. It was unfortunate that no local government representation was present.
- A number of Korczak events, seminars and workshops involving teachers from rural schools.
- International Korczak School opened with all pedagogical activities based on Korczak philosophy
- The Ukrainian Conference was intended to be dedicated to promoting Korczak ideas within provincial locations. It took on an international character with many representations in the form of either video or articles sent from countries such as Poland, Germany, Canada, Switzerland and Russia. Publication of the conference proceedings is anticipated shortly. The favouring of practical activities highlighted a lack of scientific material. Thankfully, the support of people such as Marta and Barbara (Poland), Michael Kirchner (Germany), Speilgman in Switzerland and Kelvin and Malgorzata, UK has provided worthwhile material for the book.



- Thank you gift presented to Batia in recognition of her support to the Ukrainian Korczak Association
- Collaboration with a number of NGOs including Kiev Children and Youth Support Center and other activities;
  - Masterclasses
  - Creative competitions
  - Parenting seminars
  - Workshops with terminally ill children and their parents

○ **USA**



- 50 members with 5 active
- Majority of activities are taken in the form of lectures, seminars and activities
- Mariola works predominantly with immigrant children using a range of techniques to facilitate reflection and participation. Fulfillment of her dream to create a 'nature trail' dedicated to child rights partnering with a mountain and orienteering clubs resulting in the opening of the Children's Rights Discovery Trail (2.1 miles). The children use a topographical map which incorporates interesting nature features. Visiting 18 stations and are introduced into the concept of rights and privileges (fake rights) which is based on the game developed by Eurochild.
- Exhibition sponsored by the Israel Korczak Association which included a feedback capacity
- Conclusion with a poem



○ **Hungary**

- Written report
- Discontinuous membership but now operating within the frame of the Hungarian Pedagogical Society
- Publication of the Ghetto Diary in Hungarian

○ **Russia** – large country with many branches:



- **St Petersburg** – operating from the library organising meetings, children's activities and Holocaust studies
- **Moscow** – Nash Dom Youth Centre hosts many of the activities in co-operation with the students of the Moscow State University (Department of Psychological Anthropology) with the Korczak Centre is within this university. 25<sup>th</sup> year of summer and winter camps (50 in total since 1992) was celebrated with returning counsellors and campers from different countries reunited at this event. Planning a to renew the tradition of the joint Netherlands-Russia Nash Dom camp for next year.
- **Kazan** – JK for children continues to operate since 1993 including the studying of Korczak, meetings and conferences and practical activities in orphanages. New activity involve children excursions beyond the



orphanage including a New Year's party. Planning a contest for social pedagogues 'Olympiada' which nominated Korczak for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death – the task was to write an essay on the understanding of 'the right of the child to death'. The students aged 18-20 demonstrated deep insight and a publication is planned.

- **Urals** – university staff and students organising rights education activities with young criminals detained in a youth centre with successful outcomes for the detainees.

○ **Poland** – motto “we cannot leave the world as it is”



- JK is patron of almost 500 Polish institutions including hospitals, schools, scout divisions, children's homes, special schools and libraries although not all belong to the Association but co-operation occurs with all who work in the spirit of Korczak.
- The country is divided into regions of voivodships represented within our governing body
- Daily work involving children's governing bodies, children's newspapers etc
- Workshops for children and young adults especially at the community level focussed on special days, local school and synagogue events, theatre and sporting activities
- National Competition for projects which were initiated and elaborated by young people related to educational programs. Short-listed projects were chosen by the jury and via the internet were selected for 80% implementation funding by over 600,000 public votes. This year the focus was on tolerance and action against 'hate'
- National Photography Competition for Children related to the theme of “Janusz Korczak – traces of the memory” where photos are taken with an accompanying explanation of the connection
- Project conducted under the auspices of the Ombudsman for Citizen Rights there is a movement supporting migrants and refugees.
- The mayor of Warsaw has established a JK Warsaw Education Award with the Association
- Partnerships with other organisations for presenting at conferences:
  - Congress of Polish Culture, Warsaw
  - 11<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Summer School (see above)
  - “Child. Culture-Art-Education”, Kraków
- Anniversary celebrations
- [www.pskorczak.org.pl](http://www.pskorczak.org.pl)
- Thank you to everyone for your support and partnership

○ **Child and Family Organisation**

- Child's right to family and deinstitutionalisation 'Opening Doors' campaign



- Strengthening families through promoting attachment studies, training 1000 specialists, international projects, advocacy and lobbying for changes in law

- **Switzerland**

- Bringing the gift of Swiss chocolate
- Newsletter published in French 3 times a year detailing
- Updated website in French, German and English
- Practical activities supporting immigrant families
- International program in India
- In partnership with France and Belgium hosts a Korczak award for a children's book by child vote aged 6-12 years which promotes Korczak and reading with thousands of school children
- Encouraging French language translations of Korczak – published about 10 titles in the past 7-8 years and will soon have available Moski, Joski, Srule. Later in the year, will have a new publication of Confessions of the Butterfly in French.



- **Austria** – written report tabled

- **Australia**

- Conference organization support for IKA:
  - Writing 'Call for Papers'
  - Set up of the English-Polish website for the IKA conference.
  - Translation of conference materials and general administrative support including social media (e.g. Facebook page, IKA email)
  - Representation on the Organizational and Academic Committees
  - Co-organizer of Day 2
  - Invitation to a number of speakers including Prof. Michael Freeman
  - Support for accommodation and local 'Warsaw' knowledge
- Promotion of Korczak ideas:
  - Presentations:
    - An introductory talk was presented at the UCL Doctoral conference in London at the Institute of Education.
    - Meetings with Prof. Freeman, founding editor of the International Journal of Child Rights on strategies to promote Korczak.
    - Presentation of a lecture and facilitating a workshop at the IKA-UN CRC seminar in Geneva. Inviting others to present and participate including a post-graduate children's research from the UK and a former member of the Canadian parliament. Interest expressed by faculty members of the University of Geneva for attending next year's seminar.
    - Membership of CREAN – Child Rights European Alliance Network and presenting at the 5th Child Rights Symposium in Geneva. The presentation was specifically aimed at using a Korczak approach to promote inter-disciplinary dialogue and members of the audience



included law and sociology professors, international child rights specialists and researchers of childhood. There was a very positive response from the audience, with special mention of feedback from Prof. Laura Lundy and Prof. Berry Mayall.

- Preliminary discussions with individual researchers in CREAN interested in attending and/or presenting their work at future Korczak-ian events.
- Co-ordinated a visit to Korczak’s old university, APS with a presentation on his early childhood principles for a Munich kindergarten association (2016) which was included within the book published for the visit.
- Publications and Other:
  - Co-authored social pedagogy article promoting Korczak perspectives within infant research
  - Chapter on comparative perspectives between Korczak and Foucault to be published in September, 2017 in the book, Odrowaz-Coates, Goswami (eds.) "Symbolic violence in socio-educational contexts. A post-colonial critique". It is anticipated this will introduce Korczak to a small but influential group engaged in critical pedagogy.
  - Digitizing Korczak affiliated works using analytic software to assist with archiving and retrieval of valuable knowledge held by current scholars and researchers.

○ **Observers:**



- Korczakowo – summer camp is live now!
  - Full at capacity
  - Ukraine and Israel continue to send groups
  - Hoping to make the camp more international and provide activities throughout the year
- Norway
  - Child-led newspaper inspired by Korczak – first edition 2000 copies, with second edition followed by circulation of 20,000



**8. Future Plans:**

- Joint Geneva seminar, Korczakowo etc
- Invitation to the 2018 North American Korczak Conference “Education for Excellence, Diversity and Respect: Transformative 21<sup>st</sup> Century Innovations” as a joint partnership between Canadian and US Associations. Focused on promoting contemporary humanistic education and practical change. A range of keynote speakers have already been secured but hope to

see many “Korczakians without Borders” attending. Information on venue and accommodation has been supplied and a conference website is being constructed. Dates: August 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

9. **Next meeting:** Seattle, 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

Closing with a poem ‘Once then Now’ written by Sofia Moralez (8<sup>th</sup> grade, USA, 2017)



Thanks to Basia Vucic for writing the minutes.



*International Janusz Korczak Association  
Międzynarodowe Stowarzyszenie im. Janusza Korczaka  
ul. Jaktorowska 6, 01-202 Warszawa, Polska  
KRS: 0000030828; NIP: 526-17-31-946  
Bank account:  
BPKO PLPWPL 08 1020 1156 0000 7402 0058 6917*