



Stuart N. Hart-International Advocate for Children

Stuart N. Hart, Ph.D., received his BA in Psychology and Education (1960) and his MA in Educational Psychology (1964) from California State at Long Beach. During the 1960's he was a teacher, counselor, and psychometrist in schools in California and Indiana. He earned a Doctor of Philosophy in School Psychology from Indiana State University in 1972. In 1980 he became the Director of the Office for the Study of the Psychological Rights of the Child at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

In the 1980's, Dr. Hart focused his research and writings on the mental status of abused children and the possible therapeutic benefits of counseling for them. This era also saw him speaking around the country on the topic of child psychology as applied to the school setting, abuse prevention, and crisis intervention.

While researching further into child maltreatment issues during the early 1990's, Hart provided comprehensive information on the historical perspectives of children's rights while using the information to convey to the world the progress made to date. However, with child maltreatment still prevalent around the globe, he led extensive campaigns with the UN toward the goal of establishing universal children's rights. These campaigns were based not only on the historical perspectives provided, but also through his research on child abuse in home settings and "civilized" society.

In the late 1990's, Dr. Hart continued to pursue his work in international child abuse prevention, including gaining valuable insights into the views of children regarding education and abuse prevention/intervention. This was also carried out through extensive research on the effects of the maltreatment of children in many settings. One of his main missions during this time was to campaign worldwide for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child. In addition to traveling around the country and the globe to speak on this matter, Dr. Hart also encouraged many non-governmental agencies to get involved in the campaign. While striving toward ratification, he also worked to find a responsible and scientific way to monitor the agreements of the UN resolution.

In the beginning of the new millennium, Dr. Hart once again focused his research upon the school community. This involved the effects of psychological and emotional abuse among classmates and teachers. This led to a plethora of research into what specifically qualified an action as psychological or emotional abuse. He also focused on discipline in schools, especially eliminating corporal punishment and emotional embarrassment.



The National Children's Advocacy Center

The NCAC models, promotes and delivers excellence in child abuse response and prevention through service, education and leadership.

In the most recent years, Dr. Hart has been taking his research around the globe, speaking to educators and administrators about the rights of children in school settings. He has continued to focus much of his work on implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Subsequent projects include a Bill of Health Rights for Children and studying the effects of re-victimization in formerly abused children. Currently he is Deputy Director of the International Institute for Child Rights and Development, Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria, in British Columbia.

Dr. Hart co-authored the chapter “Psychological Maltreatment” in the recently released third edition of *The APSAC Handbook on Child Maltreatment*, edited by John E. B. Myers.