

## **Where children's rights matter: Cross-national perspectives**

Elizabeth Swadener

This paper draws from research focusing on children's rights and voices in several nations, with an emphasis on child consultation and participation in diverse communities. Children's rights, as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989), are examined in all their ramifications: as discourse, as law, as constitutive commitments, and as a set of policies and services that impact the everyday life experiences of children. The paper will share examples from countries, municipalities, and organizations that have strong public commitments to children's rights, have created and established key infrastructures and universal entitlements to promote child and family well-being, and enacted policies to end child poverty and promote the "progressive realization" of children's rights. Implications for children in marginalized communities are emphasized.