

Raising Awareness of the Ongoing Effects of Chernobyl and Commemorating the Anniversary

The workshop was facilitated by Linda Walker and Cindy Marie Jenkins was the main speaker. Elaborating on the talk she had given to the whole conference, Cindy enthused participants about how her very moving play might be used all over the country around the anniversary next year to bring the reality of Chernobyl home to a wide audience.

Ideas which came out of the workshop were:

- Hold readings or performances of Cindy Marie Jenkins dramatisation of 'Voices from Chornobyl' over a two week period in April 2009. Scripts can be obtained by emailing cindy@voicesfromchornobyl.com There is also a short DVD which can be obtained from Cindy or from CCP(UK) on ccprojectUK@gmail.com
- Contact theatre groups – professional or amateur - schools (supply an education pack about Chernobyl accident and what your charity is doing) etc in your area. Students doing drama or media course might like to get involved.
- Put details of your events on Remember Chernobyl website with links to your website. All events to be promoted rather than compete with each other.
- Contact and involve Belarusian sports personalities/celebrities with Belarusian links. Take advantage of UK v Belarus matches.
- Run educational projects such as art, poetry or essay competitions.
- Offer to give talks to schools, rotary clubs, church groups, etc oarticularly in the months before the anniversary
- Use local newspapers and radio when the children visit and in the run up to the anniversary
- Hold a quiz with Chernobyl related questions or use Chernobyl related quotes
- Use something visual like maps showing the contaminated areas. Maps showing the contamination in the UK and statistics about the number of hill farms still contaminated are very effective.
- Get copies of the book 'Voices from Chernobyl' and 'Chernobyl the Forbidden Truth' Learn as much as you can about the accident and its effect on the lives of people in Belarus and Ukraine
- **But be careful that you are not inflating the problem.** Exaggeration of either the health problems or the benefit of recuperative holidays will only play into the hands of those who want to deny the long term nature of Chernobyl's effects.
- Accurate statistics are not available. Apart from thyroid cancer there has not been a great deal of research into many of the illnesses which are likely to be linked to the radiation. The current drive for more new nuclear plants may well be at least part of the reason for this.