



Plenary Speaker

Andrée Ruffo

Children and Mental Health

Wednesday, June 27, 2007 (1:30-3:00 p.m.)

BIOGRAPHY



Andrée Ruffo has dedicated her life to children's rights. Trained in the arts, pedagogy, adult education and law, Andrée Ruffo practiced as a lawyer and as a judge in Quebec. She is the founder of the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) and the sponsor of Magicians Without Borders. She has been a champion of children in need of protection for thirty years. Andrée Ruffo is an international speaker, a prolific writer with over nine books and over 50 specialized articles and numerous other collaborative works, as well as being a poet and an artist. Andrée Ruffo speaks out with courage and integrity against the indifference and irresponsibility of adults toward children who are repeatedly let down by those who promise them a better world, and then betray them.

SUMMARY

Andrée Ruffo brings a wealth of experience and examples from her work in Québec as a judge and child advocate. She will speak about the importance of being clear about who we are, in order to do our work well. She will examine what happens when we are not clear about who we are, yet work in positions of responsibility. When we have the authority to make decisions that affect others without the foundation of knowing who we are, this has an impact on our work, on the mental health of children and families, and on our contribution to society.