

FIDE Social Commission

October, 2021

Informative report to 3rd Council Meeting, October 2021

1. Overall status

The Social Commission is currently undergoing a busy period, with important activities in all prioritized areas: Chess for Protection, Chess for Freedom and Chess for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

In addition, a survey is being conducted to map chess related social activities in FIDE federations around the world.

2. Chess for Protection



1 The Chess for Protection project in the refugee camp Kakuma in northern Kenya is now ongoing, including a special Girl Club project

The Chess for Protection project in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, conducted by FIDE Social Commission, with UNHCR, LWC and Chess Kenya as partners, is currently completing its third month of activity.

The project has two main parts: the school project, offering chess training to 1.600 learners from 40 schools, of which 10 schools have started out in phase one this autumn.

And then there is the Girl Club project, with a specially designed program targeted for girls in three girl schools within the Kakuma camp, focusing on improving chess skills and also

many inspirational examples, monthly book club sessions and other.

3. Chess for Freedom

This project, initially launched by Chicago Prison and currently being run in close cooperation with FIDE, delivered a landmark event on 13-15. October 2021, with the first Intercontinental Online Chess Championship for Prisoners.

Some 41 teams from a total of 30 countries from all continents around the world participated, easily



2 A team from Mongolia won the first Intercontinental Online Chess Championship for Prisoners

making it the largest event of its kind ever, and in the end a team from Mongolia emerged victorious, beating Zimbabwe in the finals. Also, several women prison teams participated.

This tournament succeeded the «Seminar-and-Exhibition Tournament» event back in May this year, and the plan is to organise an even bigger Intercontinental tournament in 2022. International press coverage from the October tournament was impressive and positive.

Another Social Commission initiative in quarter 4 2021 is to offer prisons with planned or ongoing chess activity access to a network of peers, with seminars, toolkits, and support as part of the program.

4. Chess for children with ASD



Also in October 2021, a second seminar on the subject of chess for children with autism spectrum disorder was organised on the Zoom platform, with an impressive approximately 150 participants, being presented with subjects such as – what is ASD, - how to teach chess to children with autism, and practical issue such as – how to prepare the class room. This conference succeeded a similar event back in March 2021.

Going forward, The FIDE Social Commission aim to structure a project for developing and testing well prepared chess training programs for children with ASD, and if results are encouraging, move on to actually conducting a full research project to document the benefits of chess for children with ASD, and most likely applying for Erasmus funding in the process.

5. Other activities

The FIDE Social Commission is currently conducting a survey to map chess initiatives with a social angle around the world. A report is planned to be tabled towards the end of the year.

In the process, the current initiatives run by the Social Commission will be assessed to identify how best to expand those and also launch at least one new project next year – with «Chess for Active Aging» being among the top candidates.

The Social Commission had its most recent full commission meeting on September 9th, and will have one more meeting sometime during quarter 4 2021.