Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence against Children

Building the Children's Delegation: The Recruitment and Selection Process

Background

The Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence against Children (hereby referred to as "the Conference") will take place on November 7-8, 2024, in Bogota, Colombia and will be co-hosted by the Government of Colombia, the Government of Sweden, the WHO, UNICEF, and the Office of the Secretary General's Special Representative on Violence Against Children (OSGSRVAC). It is an important moment to make sure children are at the heart of the proceedings - leading up to, during and post Conference.

Children's Delegation

There are twelve funded places for the children's delegation, alongside youth and public survivors. This guidance provides details of the recruitment and selection process for the children's delegation, led by the CSO Forum - Child and Youth Participation Working Group.

It is important to build a children's delegation that is:

- diverse, inclusive, and representative
- focused on issues that are rooted locally yet relevant globally.
- brings the diverse voices and agency of children from across different contexts and vulnerable settings.
- can bring leaders to account and shape decision making towards ending violence against children today and for the future.
- peer selected where children bring their own experiences and perspectives as well as those of their peers.
- supported, respected, trusted and recognised as an equal partner & influencer in the conference where their participation is safe, ethical, and meaningful.
The children’s delegation role includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leading up to the Conference</th>
<th>During the Conference</th>
<th>Post Conference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory sessions locally with peers, their supporting organisation and parent/carers</td>
<td>Participating in the two-day children’s preparatory sessions in-country</td>
<td>Implement action plans and follow up activities with peers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participating in two virtual global child delegation group sessions (August/October)</td>
<td>Leading the Children’s Twilight Session</td>
<td>Engage in an EVAC follow up meeting with government/leaders.</td>
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<td>Engaging, where feasible, with the National Preparation process and Session [NPS]</td>
<td>Participating in the Opening Ceremony- children’s call to action</td>
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<td>Preparing key documentation to support travel plans &amp; participation in the conference proceedings</td>
<td>Engaging in an Intergenerational Dialogue. Taking part in the High-Level Panel Sessions.</td>
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<td>Engaging in activities related to the conference exhibition space.</td>
<td>Participating in the NPS Closing Ceremony- including a children’s call for accountability</td>
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<td>Supporting the first-ever global child/youth-led movement dedicated to child violence prevention</td>
<td>Considering the vision and plans to pioneer the</td>
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<td>Potentially supporting a satellite event (6th November)</td>
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<td>Supporting the child to facilitate a session (s) with the peers/local leadership to provide feedback.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Facilitate a meeting with government representatives in relation to accountability for their pledge(s).</td>
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<td>Ensure safeguarding.</td>
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**Supporting Organization**

As a supporting organisation it is your role to support the participation of the children's delegation member- leading up to, during and post conference for example,

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<td>Complete the application process and follow up steps including confirming key details, completion of consent forms and key travel documentation.</td>
<td>Chaperoning – guidance to be provided by the CSO Forum</td>
<td>Support the child’s meaningful participation in post EVAC activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support the child to safely engage in the NPS process (if feasible, &amp; taking place in your country)</td>
<td>Supporting the child’s participation in the two-day child preparatory session*.</td>
<td>Assist the child to facilitate a session (s) with the peers/local leadership to provide feedback.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support the child delegate to attend two virtual global child delegation group sessions (August/October)</td>
<td>Supporting final preparations for the child’s participation in the twilight session and conference proceedings.</td>
<td>Facilitate a meeting with government representatives in relation to accountability for their pledge(s).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide in-country logistical support including acquiring a passport, visas, travel/flight arrangements, other key documentation, briefing parent/carers, developing a risk management plan, ensuring safeguarding, facilitating peer engagement, as well as 1:1 support to the child delegate, and chaperoning activities throughout the process (further guidance to be provided)</td>
<td>Risk management, ensuring safeguarding &amp; an enabling/supportive environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilitating in country preparations to support the child delegates participation in the conference</td>
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including - supporting briefing will be provided by the CSO Forum Child and Youth Participation Working Group

*Child preparatory session*
A two-day event that will take place on the 5th and 6th of November. A child friendly space dedicated to the preparation of the twelve children to get to know each other, engage in meaningful discussions, share their experiences and knowledge, and further prepare for their interventions during the Ministerial Conference including the Children’s Twilight Session.

*Twilight Session*
To be held on 6th November for the children’s delegation to engage with leaders ahead of the conference opening. An important platform to foster an inspiring collaborative environment where children’s voices are heard, inform policy-making processes, and leadership accountability.

**Application Process**
The twelve positions for the children’s delegation are open to all children interested in participating taking into account the following principles and criteria, making this process an **Open Call**. Children will not be able to apply independently to ensure appropriate logistical and safeguarding measures.

**Principles**

- **Safe, ethical, and meaningful child participation** [UN Basic Requirements for the Meaningful Participation of Children](#).
- **Local Leadership**- shifting of power and resources to local actors so that we harness the power of local people, knowledge, and communities where relevance, rootedness, and constituency/movement mindset is trusted, respected and where external resources including funding builds on local resources, expertise, and assets.
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)** – the participation of children from the most discriminated and marginalized groups will be prioritized including girls, boys, and children with non-binary identities, child refugees, street connected children, and children with disabilities as well as diversity of cultures, contexts, socio-economic status, and backgrounds.

**Provide** key information through communication processes that enable children to understand the purpose, process, and key principles for participation in the conference.

**Opportunity** – clearly articulate the opportunity, commitments required leading up to, during and post conference.

**What** key messages about ending violence against children do children want to see prioritized and what are their challenges, questions, and recommendations for leaders? *
Enable a nomination process *(if the children decide they would like to nominate a child)* that is fair, transparent and embeds the key application process principles referred to above *(Child participation, Local leadership, and DEI)*.

Reach a consensus on the child nomination *(selected by their peers)* and support the child to complete the application by the deadline 14 August 2024.

**The Open Call encourages supporting organizations to facilitate a process with children that will:**

The CSO Forum Child and Youth Participation Working Group supports local leadership and encourages INGOs and others to support the local/ national organizations throughout the process including, providing technical and logistical support, as and when required/requested by the local/ national organisation to ensure the safe, meaningful, and ethical participation of children leading up to, during and post conference.

**Eligibility Criteria**
For a child to be considered for membership of the children's delegation they must fulfill the following minimum requirements:

- Aged between 12 to 17 years old at the time of the Conference.
- Committed to Ending Violence against Children
- Engaged on EVAC issues important to children in their community.
- Peer Selected
- Supporting statement by the child making the case for their inclusion submitted by the deadline.
- Supporting statement by the organisation on their capability, commitment and support to the child nominated, if selected.
- Nominations completed by the deadline **14 August 2024**.

**Supporting Statement**
The supporting statement should be up to 600 words expressing the child’s motivation for applying and representing their peers, priority issues of concern related to Ending Violence Against Children, experience of participating in EVAC related activities/ processes or discussions in their community, and key message/s or questions for the leaders attending the conference. In addition, a brief supporting statement to be included by the supporting organisation on their commitment and support to the child nominated, if selected. The application processes list questions related to the above key points for completion.

**Submit the Child Nomination Application by 14th August 2024**: [APPLY HERE](#)

*Please share the children's insights even if they choose not to nominate a child so that these can inform the children’s delegations’ plans and communication/advocacy products, (you may wish to use/adapt the form provided in the NPS guidance for childrens participation: Template for sharing Childrens Insights)*
The Selection Process

The CSO Forum Child and Youth Participation Working Group will review the peer nominations by 16th August taking into consideration the following child delegation group profile:

- **Geographical Balance**: Ensuring representation from all regions to bring diverse experiences, perspectives, and insights, enriching discussions, capability sharing, and fostering mutual understanding across cultures, contexts, and processes.

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**: girls, boys, and children with non-binary identities have voice and agency on an equal basis. Priority focuses include Disability, Refugee, and Street connected children's right to be free from all forms of violence. Diverse cultures, contexts, socio-economic status, and backgrounds to be reflected in the group profile.

- **Ending Violence against Children** diverse expertise and key messages across issues, contexts, and processes (locally, nationally, and globally) reflected.

- **Supported by organizations committed to the principles of Local Leadership, DEI, and with the capacity** to, provide the necessary support to ensure the safe, ethical, and meaningful participation of children leading up to, during and post conference.

The children selected to be a member of the children's delegation will be informed by 21 August 2024. We encourage all organizations to build momentum leading up to and around the conference with children in their communities and country to further advance their right to be protected, safe, and heard in matters concerning their lives and important to them. [Watch this Space!](#)

Thank you for your solidarity with children!

Contact Details
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Appendix

Opportunities

The CSO Forum Child and Youth Participation Working Group recognize only a limited number of children will be attending the conference and will continue to explore opportunities that further the rights of children to be heard on matters impacting their lives, so that more children, regardless of the possibility to physically attend the Conference, are able to engage meaningfully towards ending violence against children.

Examples include:

- **Wear My Shoes Podcast** - A podcast series of five episodes for intergenerational dialogue between children and delegates of pathfinding countries to discuss perspectives about violence against children (VAC) in their contexts; progress on SDG 16.2 since 2015; child-led initiatives to end violence against children (EVAC); and children’s questions to country delegations attending the Ministerial Conference

- **Violence Against Children films** – up to 3-minute films capturing children’s call to action/accountability.

- **Avatars Exhibit** – A series of profiles depicting the diversity of contexts children experience violence as well as their vision for change.

- **Butterfly Exhibit** – global expression of solidarity.