

Day of General Discussion 2018 (DGD): Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders

Geneva, 28th September 2018

DGD Hubs Guidelines

What are the DGD Hubs?

More than just a conference, the DGD is a long-term project to promote a **global movement for children human rights defenders**. The Committee on the Rights of the Child is calling on all interested stakeholders to seize the DGD as an opportunity to talk about the *protection and the empowerment of children as human rights defenders* at local, national, regional and international levels before, during and after the DGD and throughout 2018; the year of the 20th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

All types of discussions and debates can be DGD Hubs, before, during and after the DGD, as long as their **main objectives** are:

- to raise awareness and publicity about the topic and the DGD;
- to engage different and relevant stakeholders, including children, in discussions related to the **specific objectives of the DGD** which are outlined in the [concept note](#). These are:
 - (a) Collect children's views about their experiences as human rights defenders;
 - (b) Assess legislation, policies and practices aimed at protecting or empowering children human rights defenders, by providing examples of good practices and challenges, including from children's perspectives;
 - (c) Clarify the States' obligations applicable to children human rights defenders under the CRC and existing standards on human rights defenders;
 - (d) Identify key elements for an effective implementation of a child rights-based approach to the situation of children who are, or want to become, human rights defenders, including specific recommendations for duty bearers that can inform the Committee's recommendations to States.
- To promote the DGD Geneva-based event at the national and local levels.

The **outcomes** of the DGD Hubs can be diverse, depending on the type of discussions and stakeholders involved. Here some examples for inspiration:

- If pupils organize a DGD Hub discussion in their school, the outcome could be a video to be sent to the Committee on the Rights of the Child before the DGD (see [Guidelines for submissions](#));
- If an NGO has already planned a workshop on violence against children, it could include a specific session on the DGD topic into the programme and report key points in the follow-up;
- If a UNICEF or OHCHR Country Office organizes a DGD Hub on the same day of the DGD (28 September 2018), the outcome could be that the participants feed into the Geneva-based discussions through remote participation.

Interested in the DGD Hubs? Here is what you should do

- ✓ Contact the Committee on the Rights of the Child through Child Rights Connect to inform us about your plans;

- ✓ Use the DGD communications toolkit that Child Rights Connect will provide you to make sure that we are talking about the DGD in a joint way;
- ✓ Inform us about the outcomes of your DGD Hub and let's think jointly about follow-up.