

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

Geneva, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## DGD Hubs Guidelines

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### 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.