

## Concept Note

### UN Guidance Note on Child Rights Mainstreaming:

#### Regional online consultations with children and civil society

##### 1. Introduction

Child Rights Mainstreaming and the development of the UN Guidance Note is an initiative of the UN Secretary-General. The objective of this initiative is to give child rights more importance, put them into practice and dedicate special attention to children and their rights in the work of the UN. Find more information on what child rights mainstreaming is [here](#). Find the child-friendly page [here](#).

To draft this Guidance Note, the UN wants to **gather the views and inputs from civil society including children!** The group of UN bodies in charge of the development of the Guidance Note (the core group) includes the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights Office), UNICEF, the UN expert on violence against children and the UN expert on children in armed conflict.

On behalf of this group, the UN Human Rights Office has launched an **online survey** for civil society ([English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#)) and for children ([English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#)) to feed into the drafting process. In addition, the UN Human Rights Office is organising **regional online consultations, or meetings**.

##### 2. What?

The regional meetings are a space for **awareness-raising, first reflections and discussions** on child rights mainstreaming at the UN, and to talk about the UN Guidance Note and **collect ideas from children and adults** on what it should include. It is an opportunity for participants to share information and discuss what the UN is doing well, and what it should do better to improve the mainstreaming of child rights.

If your organisation is interested in supporting the preparations and helping to lead a meeting in your region, please contact [Emma Grindulis](#). Emma works with Child Rights Connect, a civil society partner.

##### 3. Who?

The online regional meetings will be open to **all interested children and adults** (such as NGOs or experts working on child rights or working closely with the UN). The aim is for inputs to the development of the UN Guidance Note should be as participatory as possible, with participants from all communities and backgrounds working at all levels (global, regional, national and local).

Members of the UN Core Group will participate and actively engage with children during the calls.

The [Children's Advisory Team \(CAT\)](#) of Child Rights Connect will be supporting the process to help guarantee the meaningful, inclusive and empowering participation of children. The child advisors are also supporting the planning of the meetings.

At every meeting, a focal point for child safeguarding will be appointed as part of Child Rights Connect's child safeguarding policy and procedure.

#### 4. Where?

**Seven regional online meetings** will be held in different time zones and in different languages (it is possible to add other languages if there are organisations that can support this):

- North America & Caribbean (English)
- Latin America (Spanish)
- Europe (English)
- Africa (English and French)
- Middle East and North Africa region (Arabic)
- Asia (English)
- Pacific & Australia (English)

#### 5. How?

These meetings will happen online (on the **Zoom** platform).

**Tip!** You will need a computer/laptop/phone, a stable internet connection and if possible, headphones/headset. There may be screenings held by civil society organisations so that children and adults can participate as a group.

Each meeting will start with a welcome and introduction with all participants, followed by breakout rooms. Questions will be prepared in advance on a digital whiteboard tool (Jamboard slides) for the breakout rooms. The breakout rooms will be moderated by adults and children.

#### 6. When?

These meetings are planned to take place in September 2022. The duration of each meeting will be 1.5 hours.

#### 7. What's next?

The results of these online regional meetings and the online survey (mentioned above) will help the UN Core Group to draft the UN Guidance Note.

A second round of consultations is planned for November 2022, once a draft of the UN Guidance Note is published.

**More details will be coming soon!**