

## PREP MEETINGS WITH CHILDREN ON CHILD RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING

### How to support children to feed into regional meetings on the 'UN Guidance Note on Child Rights Mainstreaming'

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#### 1) Useful child-friendly links and resources

- [Children's webpage for the UN Guidance Note](#)
- [Useful words on child rights mainstreaming](#)
- [Putting child rights at the core: What is Child Rights Mainstreaming and the UN Guidance Note?](#)
- [CF advocacy paper \(draft\)](#)

#### 2) What is happening?

The UN is developing a new tool, or guidance, to help improve action on child rights across all its work. It is called the 'UN Guidance Note on Child Rights Mainstreaming'! This is happening throughout 2022 and a draft will be ready by the end of this year.

The UN wants to make sure children are central and that children's views and ideas are fed into the development of the new Guidance Note. Children have the right to be heard in this process, and for their views to be taken into account! Child Rights Connect has been working closely with its global Children's Advisory Team to plan and organise this.

Timeline for children's participation (also see [here](#) for an image):

- **August 2022:** Child-friendly survey out! [Click here](#) (deadline 30 September) (review it [here](#))
- **September 2022:** Prep meetings (online or in-person) and regional online meetings with children and adults – read the [Concept note](#)
- **November-December 2022:** Child-friendly version of the draft Guidance Note released and toolkit for children to share their feedback and recommendations
- **Early 2023:** Final Guidance Note launched and opportunities for children to be part of follow-up and putting it into practice! (more details coming)

#### 3) What is this document?

This document is to help adults prepare groups of children to share their views, ideas and recommendations to help make sure that the new Guidance Note is fit for purpose! The aims are to:

- **Educate children on the topic** of child rights mainstreaming and the new UN Guidance Note

- Support children to **reflect on child rights mainstreaming** in their communities, countries and at the UN level
- Empower children to fill-in the **child-friendly online survey** (individually or as a group) and to **participate in the regional meetings** if they wish

**PLEASE NOTE!**

**Are you organising a prep meeting with children?** If so, please complete [this document](#) with your details so that Child Rights Connect can monitor and support.

**Are you a child organising a prep meeting with other children?** Email [Emma](#) so she can answer your questions and offer any support you might need!

#### 4) Organising and taking forward a prep meeting

##### Consent and safeguarding

The most important thing is to make sure **children are safe throughout your activities**, whether online or in-person. Before the prep meeting, it is important to think about any risks that there might be to children's safety, and to find ways to avoid these, using a risk assessment. You can find an example form [here](#) (page 22).

It is important to share with children all the information about what is happening, when and why, and to receive their consent to participate. You can find an example form to use [here](#) and you can find Child Rights Connect's Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure to read and apply [here](#), and a child-friendly version [here](#). Selection processes taken forward (if needed) to identify children to join the regional consultation should be done with children in a child-friendly way. For any questions or for support, please email Emma [here](#).

##### Suggested activities with children

Use the online child-friendly survey to work through the first questions to help them understand: What is the UN? What is child rights mainstreaming and the UN Guidance Note? Why should the UN work on child rights mainstreaming? (You can also do this by using the PDF version [here](#)).

Then, brainstorm together on these two questions (using an online whiteboard or scrap paper and pens):

- **What are examples where child rights are made well-known and put into action (in your community, school, or another place) that could inspire the UN?**
- **What would you like to see the UN doing to make child rights mainstreaming happen? How could they put this in their new Guidance Note?**
  - *Here, you may also wish to ask: "If there was just one thing you would want to make sure is included in the Guidance Note, what would it be?"*

## 5) What next?

- Using the feedback collected, you can **fill in the child-friendly survey questions as a group**, or encourage children to fill it in individually (both can happen during or after your meeting)
- Share that there will be **online regional meetings** happening for children and adults to share their views and ideas for the UN Guidance Note, to see if and how children are interested to take part. If yes, please email [secretariat@childrightsconnect.org](mailto:secretariat@childrightsconnect.org) as soon as possible, or keep checking [this webpage](#) for more details.
- Evaluate how the meeting has gone with children and ask for their feedback on the process so far and if they have ideas on how they'd like to continue their participation - please share!
- Once the first draft of the UN Guidance Note is ready in November, a child-friendly will soon become available, for children to give their feedback. **Keep checking the [child-friendly](#) and [civil society](#) webpages for news and please encourage children to continue their participation in the process** (including through to 2023 and monitoring the UN Guidance Note and putting it into action and holding the UN to account!).