

CONSULTATION ON THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

INVITATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 18

For background information and more explanation, read the 2nd page!

WHY ARE WE REACHING OUT TO YOU?

In 2026, the **United Nations Human Rights Committee** is developing new guidance on a key human right: the **right to freedom of association**!

We, **Amnesty International** and **Child Rights Connect**, will facilitate an online consultation between children and members of the **UN Human Rights Committee** to discuss children's right to freedom of association and this new guidance with recommendations to Governments.

We are especially looking to hear from **children who have experience** in joining, creating, or participating in groups, movements, or organizations.

If you can reply any of these questions, this means **you have a valuable experience to share with the UN Human Rights Committee**.

-  Have you been part of a group, association, or movement?
-  Did authorities, schools, or others ever restrict or discourage your participation? How?
-  Did you face any difficulties joining or creating a group?
-  Have you taken part in groups or activities online? Did you face any challenges or restrictions there?
-  Did you ever feel unsafe because of your involvement in a group?
-  What support helped you participate? What would make it easier for other children?

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

-  **When:** June 2026 (after school or Saturdays)
-  **How:** 3 online video calls (max. 2 hours each)
-  **Who:** Children who will not turn 18 before August 2026, living anywhere in the world
-  **Language:** English, Spanish and French (other languages could be explored)
-  **Adult support:** your supporting organisation and adult can participate at the meetings
-  **Application:** until 3 May 2026. Click [HERE](#) to apply.



WHAT IS THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION?

This right means that **you can freely come together with others** to pursue shared goals, interests, or activities.

Associations can include:

- Youth groups or student groups
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Religious or community groups
- Movements led by human rights or environmental defenders
- Trade unions or other organized groups.

These groups can be:

- **Formal** (officially registered), or
- **Informal** (not registered, but still real and important).

What matters is that people **choose freely to organize together!**



WHAT ELSE TO KNOW AHEAD OF THE CONSULTATION?

- **The Human Rights Committee** is a group of independent experts at the United Nations that monitors how countries respect the human rights included in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- The **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)** is an international treaty. Countries that join it commit to protecting important rights, including freedom of association (Article 22).
- A **General Comment** is guidance written by the Committee to explain what a right means in practice and what governments must do to respect and protect it. The Committee is now writing about Article 22, the right to freedom of association.

Why your experience is important?

In many places, children face challenges when trying to:

- Join or create groups
- Speak out or take part in collective activities
- Be taken seriously within organizations
- Act safely without fear of restrictions or punishment.

The Committee wants to understand these realities directly from you. Your input will help shape guidance to governments on how to ensure that children can fully exercise their right to freedom of association.

