

Day of General Discussion 2020

Call for Child and Young Person Advisors!

What is the Day of General Discussion (DGD)?

The United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) holds a Day of General Discussion every two years.

The Day of General discussion is an opportunity for children, youth and policy makers to come together for a day and talk about a specific issue related to children's rights. This year the theme will be **Children in Alternative Care**. The event will take place on **18th September** in **Geneva**.

It will be an opportunity to discuss issues that are important to children and young people who have experienced living in alternative care and give them an opportunity to share their opinions.



The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

What are Child and Young People's Advisory Teams?

It is really important that children and young people are fully involved in the DGD from the planning until the follow up afterwards. That is why we are putting together two groups to take a leading role in these preparations.

The Child Advisory Team (CAT) will be for children aged up to and including 17 years old and a separate Young people's Advisory Team (YAT) will be for young people aged 18 to 25. The groups will be made up of children and young people from all around the world, who have experienced different types of alternative care and or child protection services. They will meet regularly online and work with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as other organisers, to make key decisions about the DGD.

What will your role be as a Child or Young Person Advisor?

As a child or young person advisor, you will have a really important role as part of the CAT/YAT. Your tasks might include:

- Helping to develop important child-friendly documents.
- Designing and choosing a logo for the DGD
- Helping choose speakers for the DGD.
- Helping with preparations for consultations with children in your country.

What do we mean by “Alternative Care”?

The Convention on the Rights of the Child says that all children have the right to be cared for by their families. Children should only be separated from their parents if it is in their best interests, and in those cases children always have a right to the very best alternative care.

Alternative care refers to care which is not provided by birth parents. This includes: orphanages, institutions and other forms of residential services, foster care and kinship care where children live with extended family or friends. The DGD will also focus on how to prevent family separation, so we are interested to hear from children who have used services which helped them stay with their families, such as inclusive education for children with disabilities. The experience of care leavers are also a very important topic for the DGD to cover.



The UN in Geneva

Supporting organisations

All children and young people who are taking part in the advisory teams will need to have a supporting organisation (these can be peer-led).

By endorsing an application, the supporting organisation agrees to support the Advisor in fulfilling their role. This will include taking responsibility for safeguarding duties, supporting travel, and assisting with in-country consultations.

The full list of responsibilities of a supporting organisation can be found in the [terms of reference](#) for the Advisory Teams.

How are Child and Young Person Advisors Chosen?

Anyone can apply to be a child or young person advisor!

You can find out about the selection criteria and how to apply in the [Terms of Reference](#) for the Advisory Teams.

Are You Interested?

To apply to be a Child or Young Person Advisor, follow [this link](#)

If you have any questions, please email Nancy at:

Nancy.maguire@wearelumos.org

Child Participation Guidelines for DGD 2020

Participation will be guided by the nine Participation Guidelines of the CRC:

1. We will provide **information** about the project in an understandable way. (Please let us know if anything is unclear).
2. It is your **choice to participate** and you can decide not to take part at any point.
3. Your views and ideas to be listened to, **taken into account and respected by adults.**
4. The activities will be **interesting and relevant** to you. There will be space for you to discuss any issues that are important to you related to the topic.
5. We will create a **comfortable and friendly space** to ensure all children feel happy to participate in the activities.
6. The activities are **open equally to all children** to take part. We are looking for children from a wide range of communities and backgrounds, including children with disabilities.
7. **Adults will be prepared** for the different activities so that all children are comfortable, feel supported and listened to.
8. Adults will make sure that **children are safe** and know who to talk to if they feel unsafe.
9. **Follow-up:** you will get feedback on how your views have been acted, and the chance to give your opinion on the results of this project and the activities you took part in. You will also be supported to plan next steps. We hope your participation will not end at the DGD!