

# Terms of Reference for Child and Young Person Advisory Teams for the Day of General Discussion 2020 on Children in Alternative Care

## 1. Background to the Day of General Discussion

The Day of General Discussion (DGD) is an event held by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child every two years at the UN headquarters in Geneva. The event focuses on a particular issue relating to children's rights.

In 2019, a group of civil society organisations put forward a proposal for the theme of the 2020 DGD to be 'children in alternative care'. This proposal was accepted by the Committee, and the group who put forward the proposal are now leading the planning for the DGD.

The DGD will be an excellent opportunity to discuss key issues relating to children in alternative care. Engaging children and young people with lived experience is crucial to the success of the event. The format of the DGD and the expected outcomes will be decided by the Child and Young Person Advisory Teams. In the months leading up to the DGD there will be a global consultation with a wider group of children and young people on their experiences and views of alternative care. This will also help shape the programme.

## 2. Purpose of the Child and Young Person Advisory Teams

It is crucial that children and young people play a role in every aspect of the DGD, including setting the agenda. We are creating two groups to ensure this happens. The Child Advisory Team (CAT) will be made up of children (aged 17 and under) and a Young Person Advisory Team (YAT) will be for young people aged between 18 and 25 who have lived experience of alternative care and/or child protection services. We are looking for children and young people from around the world to participate - we want as diverse and representative group as possible.

Both groups will advise the DGD organisers and make key decisions about the event. We hope that the children and young people will be inspired by their work on the teams and continue to collaborate after the DGD.

## 3. Activities of Child and Young Person Advisors

The activities of Child and Young Person Advisors are likely to include the following:

- a. Meet regularly with other members of the CAT or YAT (on skype/calls)
- b. Help plan the DGD, including the topics which will be discussed, how to make the day child friendly, selecting the speakers and the risk assessment for the day
- c. Help design and create a logo for the event
- d. Provide feedback on the DGD concept note and help to make a child friendly version
- e. Help shape the consultations will be conducted with other children around the world and lead consultations with peers in your country.
- f. Take an active role in the DGD, including participating in the preparation and debrief days in Geneva.

#### 4. Selection Criteria for Child and Young Person Advisors

We are hoping to find a good balance of gender, age, language, region and experience. We are committed to ensuring children and young people with disabilities, and those from minority backgrounds, are fully included in the CAT and YAT. We are aiming for 12-15 children and young people in each group.

The candidates will be expected to fulfil the following criteria:

- a. Be 17 or younger on September 18 2020 for the CAT and between 18 and 25 for the YAT.
- b. Have a strong commitment to children's rights and already engaging with activism. We particularly welcome applications from children and young people who have been involved in organising events before.
- c. Be able to speak French, English, or Spanish (unless their supporting organisation can provide full translation and interpretation support to support the child advisor in another language).
- d. Be available to take part in activities from March until the end of September 2020, including being able to travel to Geneva for the DGD from 17-19th September 2020.
- e. They should be engaged in some capacity with an organisation already taking part in the planning and preparations for the DGD or wishing to be involved. This organisation must agree to act as a "supporting organisation", and be able to fulfil their necessary duties (see below).
- f. Be able to access an internet connection to enable them to take part in online meetings and activities. \*This can be through the supporting organisation
- g. Have had experience of living in some form of alternative care during their childhood or child protection or preventative services such as inclusive education. We also welcome applications from children and young people who do not have direct experience themselves, but are involved in advocating for friends, peers or family members who do have experience of alternative care.

#### 5. Role of Supporting Organisations

Every Child and Young Person Advisor will need to have a supporting organisation to facilitate their participation. A supporting organisation will need to be able to commit to the following when they decide to endorse an application. The supporting organisation must:

- a. have a working and up to date safeguarding policy and have the capacity and training to support the child or young person, ensuring their protection throughout the project.
- b. provide in-country assistance as necessary to the child or young person during national-level activities, such as the dissemination of information about the DGD, and the consultations with children.
- c. Commit to regular calls and contact from Lumos and other partners organising the DGD (minimum of fortnightly).
- d. Facilitate and support travel arrangements for children and support persons where necessary, and support with other logistical arrangements, including risk assessment, translation and interpretation of key documents and events.
- e. Following up with the child after the DGD.

- f. Financially support the child's participation at the DGD, including the preparation and debrief days. This includes all costs associated with their trip to Geneva. There will be opportunities for children and young people to participate in the day remotely, but we would really prefer the advisors to be able to attend in person.

## 6. Timeline of Activities

See Appendix 1.

## 7. Safeguarding

All organisations supporting a child or young person should have an up to date safeguarding policy, which should be in line with the standards of the organising committee. The child and young person advisors, their parent/guardian and supporting organisation will be expected to sign a Safeguarding agreement, as well as a code of conduct.

## 8. Remuneration

The Child and Young Person Advisory Groups are voluntary opportunities. Support will be provided by the organisers, and the partner organisation will sponsor the child or young person to attend the DGD in Geneva. In return the child and young person advisors are expected to take part in regular calls - at least one per month and respond to emails until February 2021.

## Appendix 1. Timeline of Activities

Activity	Date	Location	Involvement of CAT
Deadline for Call for Applications	2 March	Global	This is the final deadline when we will be able to accept applications to join the CAT and YAT. Any children and young people who are interested will need to have completed their application by this date.
Selection of Child Advisors	W/B 2 March	Global	Child advisors will be selected by partner organisations based on the criteria listed in part 4.
Plan for child and young person participation at the DGD developed	Mid-March	Global	This plan will be developed by partner organisations, with input from the advisory teams.
Workshop on DGD agenda and concept note with child and young person advisors	March/April	TBC – possibly online	This workshop will be an opportunity for all members of the advisory teams to discuss important aspects of the DGD in person. It will likely be a full day meeting, and may take place in person or online.
Child-friendly concept note prepared	End of March	Global	The advisory teams will have fed into this document. It will be a vital document for helping children and young people understand what the DGD is and how they can be involved.
Toolkit for consultations with children and young people prepared	End of March	Global	The advisory teams will have fed into this document. The toolkit will inform how the consultations with young people are carried out.
Child Advisor’s input into the agenda finalised	Mid-April	Global	The advisory teams will have the opportunity to feed into the agenda for the DGD, and will submit their feedback by mid-April.
Online survey finalised	End of April	Global	The advisory teams will have the opportunity to feed into the questions of the online survey.
Online survey goes live	End of April	Global	The advisory teams will help with encouraging engagement in the survey in their individual countries.
Agenda finalised	May	Global	The advisory teams will have had the opportunity to feed into this document.
Collation of children and young people’s views into a child-friendly report	June – July	Global	The advisory teams will have had the opportunity to feed into this document.
Child-friendly report finalised	End of July	Global	The advisory teams will have had the opportunity to feed into this document.
Background document finalised	Mid-August	Global	The advisory teams will have had the opportunity to feed into this document.
DGD preparation day for children and young people	17 September	Geneva	

DGD	18 September	Geneva	
DGD debrief day for children and young people	19 September	Geneva	