



Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

Children's Experiences, Views and Perspectives on their Deprivation of Liberty

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Objective

This document presents an overview of the child participation component of the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, in addition to specific information for organizations who may be interested in contributing to this specific component.

Background

Children deprived of liberty remain an invisible and forgotten group in society in spite of increasing evidence of being victims of human rights violations. To address this situation, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, by [resolution 69/157](#), invited the UN Secretary-General to commission an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty.

International law firmly requires that children have the right to a say in matters that affect them, in accordance with Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. To be rights compliant, therefore, the Global Study must take account of the views, experiences and perspectives of children. In addition, it is also apparent that the perspectives, views and experiences of children are indispensable to an accurate and complete picture of children's deprivation of liberty. It is essential to its credibility, therefore, that the Global Study incorporate a plan for the participation of children. To that end, a small working group, the Global Study Child Participation Working Group, (GSCPWG) has been established to coordinate the various components of child participation in the GS. Coordinated by Terre des hommes Foundation (Tdh) and in partnership with Professor Ursula Kilkelly (University College Cork) and Professor Laura Lundy (Queens University Belfast).

The GSCPWG will liaise and work with all relevant stakeholders (the team of the Independent Expert, the NGO Core Group, the thematic research groups, the NGO panel) to ensure that child participation is mainstreamed throughout the Global Study.

Methodology

The methodology of the GS CPWG consists of:

1) Literature review of existing research

A desk-based methodology to identify all relevant research (i.e research that has gathered children's views directly on their experiences of being deprived of their liberty) and documentation from academic databases and sources of grey literature. It would attempt to include all forms of deprivation of liberty from all regions of the world.

2) Coordination of a global consultation with children deprived of their liberty

This will be informed by the literature review and will focus on areas where we do not yet have adequate information about children's views and experiences. The GSCPWG will develop a single coherent set of questions and options for methods that will be used by NGO partners and other conducting national or regional consultations. The results will be collated and reported in a single report.

For more details on the methodology please see PDF file entitled : "*GSCDL CPWG briefing September2018*"

Ethical considerations

The work of the CPWG is conducted in line with the principles for meaningful child participation defined by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (General Comment 12, 2009), namely ensuring that participation is: transparent and informative; voluntary; respectful; relevant; child-friendly; inclusive; supported by training; safe and sensible to risk; accountable.

To that end, the CPWG is committed to a number of steps:

- Seeking approval from the ethics committee of one of the partnering universities
- Establishing a young person's advisory board to provide feedback on the research tools
- Providing concrete ethical guidance to any organization interested in contributing to the global consultation, including regarding the implementation of informed consent and confidentiality;
- Prioritise the safeguarding of child participants by encouraging all possible measures be taken to ensure that a child's participation in this work will not put them at risk or compromise their well-being.

Information Sheet for interested NGOs

1) Why may you be interested in contributing to this component of the study ?

Do you work in an organization that works with or has direct contact with children deprived of liberty? If so, you are uniquely placed to contribute to the child participation component of the study, because you can share valuable insights about children's experiences, views and perspectives about their deprivation of liberty in your country.

2) What are the different ways that you / your organization can contribute to the child participation part of the Global Study?

There are several ways that you can contribute to the Global Study:

- **By sharing information:** the CPWG welcomes any studies, reports or consultations that have been conducted in which children were asked about their views and experiences of their deprivation of liberty, to be included in the literature review.
- **Being involved in a regional/thematic consultations:** a number of regional consultations have taken place around the world (in Ethiopia and Thailand in May 2018; in Pretoria in July 2018), and more are scheduled (in Uruguay in October 2018). The CPWG is keen to contact organizations that may support in organizing the presence of children who have been deprived of liberty at one of these events.
- **Contributing to the global consultation with children:** the CPWG is developing a toolkit to conduct primary data collection with children who are / have been deprived of liberty.

3) If you are interested in being involved, what will this entail?

All organisations and individuals who contribute to the child participation component of the Global Study will be named and acknowledged in the Global Study report, unless you explicitly request to not be named due to privacy. Due to resource limitations, the Global Study and the CPWG are not in a position to provide any financial support to organisations or individuals who are interested in contributing to the child participation component. This means that and time or resources (including implementation of toolkit during the global consultation and any translation required), will be provided on a pro bono-basis.

4) If you want to be involved, what should you do?

If you feel that you are in a position to contribute to the child participation component of the Global Study, please complete, by **5th October 2018**, the following survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GSCDLCPWGEN>

Please also use the survey to raise any questions you may have. If you have technical problems or cannot access the survey, please email, specifying "Child Participation" in the subject:

globalstudy@defenceforchildren.org