**Call to Action: Committee on the Rights of the Child session is coming to Samoa!**

From 2-6 March 2020, [the Committee](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1393&Lang=en) on the Rights of the Child will hold an in-country/region session for the very first time in the Treaty Bodies system. The extraordinary session will take place in Apia, Samoa and will include three country reviews (**Micronesia, Cook Islands, Tuvalu**), and one country pre-session (**Kiribati**) - check the [programme of work](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCRC%2fPOW%2f84%2f31306&Lang=en). The session will be an additional session to the three usual annual sessions that the Committee holds in Geneva and has confirmed for 2020.

There will be **several capacity-building opportunities, events, training and other activities** happening during the week for many different actors to participate including civil society and crucially, children! This will include training on CRC reporting, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and broader UN human rights mechanisms and instruments for both **children and adults,** and an event on the environment and climate change, among other initiatives to be confirmed. It is also possible to organise your own side events, for example on the SDGs or child rights in your country.

[**Child Rights Connect**](https://www.childrightsconnect.org/) is a global children’s network that will be present in Samoa and its main goal is to **strengthen civil society in the Pacific at the grassroots level** in a long-term, sustainable way, by making lasting connections and **maximising this unique opportunity** of the Committee’s presence and activities in the region. It is collaborating with partners including OHCHR, UNICEF, Pacific Commonwealth Equality Project Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) and the UN Resident Coordinator in Samoa.

**Funding:** The [UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples](https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/ipeoples/ipeoplesfund/pages/ipeoplesfundindex.aspx) has confirmed it can consider funding applications for participation to the Samoa session from the countries under review. There are other possible funding options for broader participation across the region, where Child Rights Connect can further advise.

Please contact Emma Grindulis at Child Rights Connect (grindulis@childrightsconnect.org) as soon as possible (since timing is quite tight!) if you are interested to engage / would like to know more / wish to explore funding options. We can also connect you with other relevant partners.

Please feel free to circulate this call for action to your wider networks and we hope to mobilise many civil society actors, including children!

For more information about the CRC sessions, you can visit the Child Rights Connect [CRC reporting mini-site](http://crcreporting.childrightsconnect.org/convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child-session/) and [Handbook for Adults Monitoring and Engaging in a Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child](https://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/crcreporting_s_handbook_adults_en.pdf).