

Call for child advisor applications: Children's Advisory Team 2021!

You will find below:

- ↳ Who is Child Rights Connect?
 - ↳ What is happening?
 - ↳ What does being a child advisor involve?
 - ↳ Why apply?
 - ↳ What commitment is expected?
 - ↳ What is a supporting organisation?
 - ↳ Who can apply and what is the selection process?
 - ↳ **How to apply?**
 - ↳ 9 guidelines for child participation
-

Who is Child Rights Connect?

Child Rights Connect is a non-government organisation with a small office in Geneva, Switzerland, and a network of over 90 member organisations across the world. It works to push for the [human rights of children](#) to be enjoyed by every child.



Key info!

What is happening?

Child Rights Connect has a global Children's Advisory Team, which is a permanent group within the organisation and central to advancing its efforts to empower children globally to learn about children's rights and act to defend theirs and others human rights! It was set up at the beginning of 2020.

The Team of 12 child advisors across different regions choose a term of 1 or 2 years and are key to our goal of raising the recognition, protection and empowerment of child human rights defenders, including through child participation at national, regional and international levels.

This year, 6 child advisors will continue, and 6 child advisors will end, their terms. This means that **we are opening applications for 6 new child advisors to join the Team!**

As a new Team, we will continue to build on the achievements and lessons of previous Children's Advisory Teams and the current child advisors will be involved throughout the applications process.

What does being a child advisor involve?

There will be lots of different activities that we will take forward together as a Team, and these will be developed with the child advisors themselves.

The activities will range from, for example, helping to develop new child-friendly resources for children about their rights and the UN, to consulting with your peers on specific themes to help shape new UN standards, to giving advice to Child Rights Connect on how it can reach out to, and empower, child-led groups, and to help us to do so!

Overall, the tasks will fit within these key goals, to:

- ★ Guide Child Rights Connect in delivering its new 4-year plan (see it [here](#));
- ★ Help to make a stronger connection between UN advocacy and children's local and national environments and realities, for more positive impact;

- ★ Reach out to, and mobilise, child-led initiatives, to become part of the Child Rights Connect network;
- ★ Act like a solid global platform for children to speak with one voice in front of the UN.

Each child advisor will be asked to apply with a supporting organisation or can seek the help of Child Rights Connect to find one. They will have the responsibility to help and guide child advisors with all their tasks. More details on the supporting organisations are below!

Our [Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure](#) will be applied and at the core of all our activities to make sure all children involved in the Team and its activities are safe from harm.

Why apply?

- ✓ You will be supported as a human rights defender through human rights education and training, including learning how to empower other children to increase our positive impact;
- ✓ You will be able to connect and exchange closely with other children on a global scale to develop knowledge and understanding of different challenges and good practices on children's rights;
- ✓ You will have the opportunity to bring new and creative ideas to the Team and build projects and activities;
- ✓ You will have the chance to take any existing activities and campaigns that you might be involved in at the local or national level to an international stage, representing your peers!

What commitment is expected?



Key info!

We communicate with child advisors using an online platform called **Basecamp** and it is expected that everyone would check this platform weekly, to check on any updates and news. If you do not have regular access to the internet, your supporting organisation could help you with this.

We will have **online group calls around once or twice per month** which would be for one hour (we will decide as a Team when we want to have these calls!) and sometimes there might be more calls if some of the Team are busy with a certain activity!

We expect that on average, the different activities might take around **5 hours per month** in total. This will be flexible and change depending on the different tasks where some might require more time.

It is likely that in-between our calls, there will be some activities as the Team agrees, such as discussing with other children in your local or national groups.

There will never be pressure to take part in activities if you wish not to or you are busy with other commitments and school.

- ★ **Please note:** We hope for an occasion where all child advisors are able to travel and meet in Geneva. However, with the current COVID-19 pandemic, we are still unsure if/when this could happen towards the second half of 2021. We will keep both child advisors and supporting organisations regularly updated.

What is the supporting organisation?

The supporting organisation is a member or a partner organisation of Child Rights Connect and can also be a child-led organisation. They must commit to giving support and guidance to a child advisor in fulfilling his or her role.

This can include having regular calls or meetings to help with activities, translating documents if needed, supporting consultations with other children in your country and being in regular contact with Child Rights Connect with child safeguarding as a priority.

It is essential that each child advisor has a supporting organisation because they will be the main contact in your country to help you in your role and to make sure all the activities are safe and meaningful.

We have developed a separate Terms of Reference for the supporting organisations, so they can learn more about this role and what is required. It can be found [here](#).

Who can apply and what is the selection process?



Key info!

- ★ Children who will **not** turn 18 years old before 31 December 2021.
- ★ Children who can commit to being part of the Team from February 2021 to December 2021 (there is an option to stay in the Team for 2 years, providing you remain under the age of 18 during this time!).
- ★ Children that are already part of a local or national group of children with whom they can gain support and learn from each other.
- ★ Children interested to learn more about children's human rights and to be involved in activities in local, national and international environments.

On the basis of the strict requirements above, we welcome applications from all children across all countries of the world and speaking any language! We also encourage you to take forward a selection process with your peers at national level if it's possible, to decide who might be your representative on the Team.

The selection process for the 12 child advisors will be based on making sure the Team is as inclusive as possible. For example, representation across each world region, children of different ages, a gender balance, diversity in capacities, children with additional support or communication needs and children from diverse social and minority backgrounds.

Not all applications will be successful and there is no guarantee we will be able to select you as a child advisor. However, we will respond to all applications making the selection process transparent, and make sure that, if you are interested, we keep you updated on the activities of the Team and let you know of any other similar upcoming opportunities! 😊

How to apply?

You can apply by completing [this survey](#), alongside your supporting organisation, by the **deadline of Sunday 28th February 2021**. It will ask some basic information and, on your profile, and interests!

The 9 requirements for child participation that we will follow:

1. Being able to **access information** all about the Team and its activities and about your rights.
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 **respected** by adults.
4. The activities will be **interesting and familiar** to your life, and there will be space for you to put forward any issues that are important to you.
5. There will be preparations so that all children will feel happy to participate in the activities, within **comfortable and friendly spaces**.

6. The activities should be **open equally to all children** to take part from all communities and backgrounds, including children with disabilities.
7. **Adults will be prepared** for the different activities so that all children are comfortable and 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. You will get **feedback** on how your views have been acted on by adults, and the chance to give your opinion on the results of this project and the activities you took part in.