

**COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**  
**CHILDREN’S RIGHTS AND ALTERNATIVE CARE**  
**2021 DAY OF GENERAL DISCUSSION**

**PROGRAMME OF WORK**  
**WEB EVENT/ Palais des Nations**

**DAY 1: Thursday 16th September 2021**

**12.30 CET:** *Global welcome and coming together online and in person: video/messages from all regions on children’s rights and alternative care – progress that has been made, impact of the pandemic and a call to action*

*Logistical Information: explanation of how the conference will proceed, online features and working group options*

**13.00- 13.30: Opening remarks**

- Welcome and introductions by Ms. Mikiko Otani, Chairperson for the Committee of the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Opening remarks by Mr. Cornelius Williams, Associate Director & Global Chief of Child Protection, Programme Division, UNICEF to speak on the impact of pandemic on children’s care and implications for care systems and this meeting.
- Opening remarks by Ms. Najat Maalla M’jid, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
- Opening remarks by Amylin from the USA, member of the Children Advisory Team (CAT)

**13.30- 14.30: Opening plenary presentations: Children’s Rights and Alternative Care- What are the messages of the DGD (including lessons from the pandemic for (re)building better systems of care)**

**Chair: Ms. Ann Skelton, Co-cordinator of the CRC Working Group on DGD**

- Presentation of the findings from the consultation process, explaining the process and key themes emerging from the submissions – Ann Skelton (7 min)
- Presentation of the findings of the children and young people’s survey by Grace from Canada and Pabitra from Nepal, members of the CAT (7 min)
- Presentations by regional representatives on consultations for the DGD:

- **Africa:**  
Dr. Edward Addai, UNICEF Representative to the African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Chair of the informal working group on children without parental care in Africa (7 min)
- **Asia-Pacific:**  
Ms. Anju Pun, Child rights advocate, Nepal Country Director at Forget Me Not, Australia (7 min)
- **Europe:**  
Ms. Regina Jensdottir, Head of the Children's Rights Division and Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, Council of Europe (7 min)
- **Latin American and the Caribbean:**  
Ms. Mariana Incarnato, founder of Doncel in Argentina and the Latin American Network of care leavers, and representative of the LAC Regional Hub (7 min)

**14.30 - 14.45: Short break**

**14.45 - 16.15: Discussion on Thematic Issues in Three Parallel Working Groups**

*Format*

- *Short interventions by speakers with direct care experience, including children and young people*
- *Followed by interventions by discussants with focus on solutions, addressing key questions under areas of focus*
- *Discussion moderated by Chair – questions/ comments captured on google jamboard*
- *Conclusions and final remarks*

**Working Group 1: Ensuring all children grow up in safe and nurturing families: Strengthening families and communities to prevent separation (with lessons from the pandemic)**

**Chair: Mr. Bragi Gudbrandsson, Co-coordinator of the CRC Working Group on DGD, assisted by Maisha from Bangladesh, member of the Young People Advisory Team (YAT)**

**Speakers:**

- **Aimé**, 16 years, Rwanda (5 min)
- **Sagar**, young person, India (5 min)
- **Ms. Kaydence Drayak**, Co-Director of Teen Advocacy and Young Advisor for the Children's Commissioner of Scotland (5 min)

### **Discussants:**

- **Mr. Victor Giorgi**, General Director of the Inter-American Institute for the Rights of the Child (7 min)
- **Ms. Lourenza Foghill**, Director, Hope and Homes for Children, South Africa (7 min)
- **Mr. Bisser Spirov**, Lumos, Bulgaria (7 min)
- **Dr. Gill Main**, Associate Professor at the University of Leeds, UK (7min)
- A representative of **Lithuania** (7 min)

### **Focus areas of Working Group 1:**

- What is needed?
- What do we know works to support all families and address the key drivers of separation?
- Positive examples of prevention services to strengthen family-based care, including for children with disabilities, children living in extreme poverty and in marginalised communities.
- Where are we getting stuck and how can we address these challenges?
- What can governments do to achieve this?

### **Working Group 2: Addressing the care needs and rights of children who are separated, unaccompanied or without care**

**Chair: Mr. José Angel Rodríguez Reyes, CRC member, assisted by Keylor from Costa Rica, member of the YAT**

### **Speakers:**

- **Yara**, a young person, Afghanistan (5 min)
- **Peter**, 16 years old, Tanzania (5min)
- **Ms. Roxana Pardo**, a young person, Argentina (5 min)

### **Discussants:**

- **Ms. Susan Alamai**, Senior Probation and Social Welfare Officer at Tororo District, Government of Uganda (7 min)
- **Ms. Angela Marshall**, Senior Child Protection Technical Advisor for the Syria Response Office (7 min)

- **Mr. James Kofi Annan**, Challenging Heights NGO, Ghana (7 min)
- A representative of **Nepal** (7 min)

#### **Focus areas of Working Group 2:**

- What do we know works for children who are unaccompanied or separated from their families, including migrant and refugee children, children left behind, children with disabilities, street connected children, and children who are trafficked?
- Positive examples of family reintegration services and identification of appropriate placement options
- Where are we getting stuck and how can we address these challenges?
- What governments need to do to achieve this?

#### **Working Group 3: Access to Justice and accountability for children and young people in alternative care, their families, and adults who grew up in care**

**Chair: Mr. Benoit van Keirsbilck, CRC Member, assisted by Munashe from Canada, member of the CAT**

#### **Speakers:**

- **Ms. Sinet Chan**, Children's trust, Cambodia (5 min)
- **Mr. Marcel Lemnaru**, self-advocate, Moldova (5 min)
- **Ms. Megan Moffat**, Vice-chair of national advocacy charity Who Cares? Scotland (5 min)

#### **Discussants:**

- **Mr. Bruce Adamson**, Chair of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) (7 min)
- **Mr. Jorge Cardona**, former CRC member (7 min)
- **Mr. Hector Kaiwai**, Director of Wai Research, Te Whānau o Waipareira (7 min)
- **Ms. Cindy Blackstock**, Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (7 min)
- Representative of **Israel** (7 min)

### **Focus areas of Working Group 3:**

- What are the lessons learnt from national inquiries and redress schemes addressing historic violations of rights faced by children in alternative care that must be addressed as part of care reform efforts and how?
- How do we address structural discrimination and racism that leads to overrepresentation of children with disabilities, LGBTQI+ children, children in extreme poverty, indigenous children and children of colour in alternative care?
- What do we know works to ensure States' responsibility and accountability in addressing children's rights violations in the context of alternative care, both in its use and provision, and what are positive examples?
- Where are we getting stuck and how can we address these challenges?
- What must governments do to achieve this?

### **16.15- 16.45: Break**

### **16.45 - 17.15: Plenary – Presentation by rapporteurs of the working groups conclusions**

- **Chair: Ms. Ann Skelton, Co-coordinator of the CRC Working Group on DGD**
- **CRC member, tbc**
- **CRC member, tbc**
- **CRC member, tbc**

### **17.15- 17.30: Closing Remarks for Day One**

- **Chair: Mr. Bragi Gudbrandsson, Co-coordinator of the CRC Working Group on DGD**
- **Jasmin from Argentina, member of the YAT**

## DAY 2: Friday 17th September 2021

**8.30 CET:** *Global welcome and coming together online and in person: videos/messages from all regions on children's rights and alternative care – progress that has been made, impact of the pandemic and a call to action*

*Logistical Information: explanation of how the conference will proceed, online features and working group options (5-10min)*

**9.00- 9.30: Welcome and recap for those who didn't attend Day One (Ms. Sophie Kiladze, CRC Member assisted by Balaram from Nepal, a member of the YAT, and Mussa from Tanzania, a member of the CAT**

**9.30- 11.00: Discussions on Thematic Issues in Two Parallel Working Groups**

### *Format*

- *Short interventions by speakers with direct care experience, including children and young people*
- *Followed by interventions by discussants with focus on solutions, addressing key questions under areas of focus*
- *Discussion moderated by Chair – questions/ comments captured on google jamboard*
- *Conclusions and final remarks*

**Working Group 4: Delivering appropriate quality alternative care services**

**Chair: Dr. Rinchen Chopel, CRC member, assisted by Zaara, Mali, member of the YAT**

**Speakers:**

- **Nicoleta**, 18 years old, Moldova (5 min)
- **Rados Keravica**, Board member of ENIL, Serbia (5 min)
- **Mario**, a young person, Bolivia (5 min)

**Discussants:**

- **Ms. Lizzie Thomson** and **Ms. Saffron Rohan**, Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS), University of Strathclyde, Scotland (5 min)
- **Jakeb**, self-advocate, UK (5 min)

- **Ms. Kate Bundle**, Chief Executive of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, New Zealand (5 min)
- **Mr. Jorge Arriola** and **Ms. María José Meneses** foster care parents, Guatemala (5 min)
- Representative of **Egypt** (5 min)
- **Barbra Arber**, CRS Regional Family Care Advisor for Eastern and Southern Africa (5 min)

#### **Focus areas of Working Group 4:**

- How do we deliver quality alternative care services for children?
- What does quality care mean to children and young people?
- Lessons learnt on supporting kinship care and establishing foster care systems and support to transitioning out of care
- Positive examples of improving quality services
- Where are we getting stuck and how can we address these challenges?
- What should governments do to achieve this?

#### **Working Group 5: Transforming the system towards family and community-based care**

**Chair: Ms. Velina Todorova, CRC Member, assisted by member of the CAT/YAT (tbc)**

#### **Speakers:**

- **Rahab**, a young person, Kenya (5 min)
- **Tupua Urlich**, a young person, New Zealand (5 min)
- **Matheus França**, a young person, Brazil (5 min)

#### **Discussants:**

- **Ms. Rosemary Kayess**, Chair, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (7 min)
- Representative of **Sweden** (7 min)
- **Ms. Mary Burton**, Advocate for Manitoba advocating and supporting Cree families, Canada (7 min)
- **Ms. Linda Reynolds**, Minister for Government Services and Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Australia (7 min)

- **Jo Rogers**, Head of Strategic Development for Partnership for Every Child (P4EC) in Russia and Associate Consultant for Oxford Policy Management (7 min)

#### **Focus areas of Working Group 5:**

- How do we better redirect and transform the child welfare system towards family and community solutions?
- Lessons learnt on redirecting human and financial resources
- What needs to be done to strengthen the regulatory system (Data, monitoring, gatekeeping etc.)?
- Addressing the barriers/incentives (private funding, volunteering, orphan business, beliefs and attitudes)
- Positive examples of system and services transitions
- Where are we getting stuck and how can we address these challenges?
- What should governments do to achieve this?

**11.00-11.30: Break (UNICEF Video)**

**11.30- 11.50: Plenary –Presentation by rapporteurs of the working groups conclusions**

- **Chair: Mr. Bragi Gudbrandsson, Co-Coordinator, CRC Working Group on DGD**
- **CRC member, tbc**
- **CRC member, tbc**

**11.50- 12.45: Plenary - Future Looking:** Drawing lessons from each of the working groups to identify key changes needed to achieve our vision for children’s care.  
(Documented by visual/graphic facilitator)

**12.45- 13.00: Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

- **Ms. Ann Skelton, Co-Coordinator, CRC Working Group on DGD**
- **Representative of Lumos**
- **CAT and YAT Representative**