

CHILD RIGHTS CONNECT 40th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE, 26 May 2023

TITLE of CIVICUS INTERVENTION: ENABLING the EXERCISE OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS - CHILDREN AND CIVIC SPACE

RECOMMENDATIONS

Child rights organizations:

- Collect and monitor data on the ground and/or support local grassroots organizations to monitor rights of CHRDs through a civic space lens – this includes support to local organisations operating in conflict and crisis settings to monitor how civic space is restricted specifically for children and what restrictions could eventually lead to the commitment of grave violations against children, as per the framework set in UNSCR 1261 (1999).
- Support capacity building for children on the ground in monitoring deterioration in civic space conditions as well as improvement in these conditions
- Produce child-friendly risk assessment guides for CHRDs on freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly
- Provide support to build capacities of adults in relation to children’s exercise of civil and political rights to engage meaningfully with child-led initiatives
- Develop also in cooperation with like-minded states child friendly information on UN human rights mechanisms as well as regional human rights mechanisms

National governments:

- Foster an enabling environment for CHRDs by removing restrictive laws and practices
- Put in place and implementing laws that guarantee the rights to the freedoms of association, peaceful assembly, expression and access to information – both online and offline - for children, and remove legal and administrative obstacles against children establishing their own organisations, including in relation to CSO registration
- Provide funding and resources for the development and implementation of child-led initiatives, organisations and groups
- Support realization of the children’s rights to the freedom of association, assembly and expression and access to information by highlighting these rights in partnership agreements with other states

UN bodies:

- Develop in cooperation child rights organisations a [UN Guidance Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space](#) tailored to the needs of child-led civil society
- Guidelines issued by OHCHR and other bodies in regard to the use of less lethal weapons for law enforcement purposes must include clear guidance to States related to children
- [Guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs](#) should include specific references to children