

Child Rights Movement

Terms of Reference

Introduction

In view of the severely exploitative and abusive situation of children in Pakistan a group of likeminded NGOs realized that one off projects have not been able to solve the issues of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children. Hence there is a need for a joint and collective efforts on part of the civil society. This movement cannot be created without the active participation of all civil society actors coming together on a single platform. It is also important to note that countries where comparative progress has been made to address children's issues have done it through strong civil society advocacy and monitoring and by working collectively towards a common goal. Hence a Child Rights Movement has been formed in Pakistan with the following terms of reference:

Vision

“All children enjoying their rights”

Mission

“To create an enabling environment for children through collective advocacy on child rights issues”

Overall Objective

To act as a civil society pressure group on issues faced by children

Objectives:

1. To carry out advocacy for the purpose of institutional, policy and legislative reform
2. To monitor the situation of children and report it to the government and the media and to monitor those actions of the Governments which have a negative impact on children
3. To provide programme and policy guidelines to the government and donors and develop updated fact sheets on child rights and child protection.
4. To engage in media discourse and provide information for the general public and policy makers

Operational Modalities

Structure:

As a civil society forum, coordination will be maintained with the relevant government departments; however, no government department as member can join the movement. However, bureaucrats as ordinary citizens with interest and commitment towards children's rights and protection can also join as individuals. Similarly, doctors, lawyers, professionals from media and academia etc. can also join the forum. It will be ensured that a working relationship with the other relevant coalitions is maintained. TORs of the movement will be must to share while inviting any new member to join the movement. As the movement gathers momentum, provincial chapters of the movement will be established. Members will then jointly decide upon the modalities of the provincial chapter through consultative meetings.

Organizations will commit members representing the organization for at least one year who (unless unavoidable) will regularly participate in the meetings and carry out any responsibility agreed with the CRM. When the member is changed due to internal policy or for moving out of that organization, it will be the member organizations responsibility to brief the new member on CRM and share all previous minutes etc.

Provincial chapters will work in coordination with National chapter and National chapter will provide technical guidance and support to provincial chapters. There will be no hierarchy between Provincial and National chapters and provinces will work according to their issues. National chapter will share their monthly meeting reports with Provincial chapters and provincial will share be requested to share their minutes with the National chapter through coordinator. These minutes will then be disseminated to the members of National chapter. Provincial chapters will share their yearly reports with National Chapter.

- Memberships:

Members will be sought from I/NGOs, CBOs, academia, media and legal experts and private sector. Specialists on key issues will be invited as and when required.

UN and government agencies may also be invited to participate .

The coalition will also maintain a broader list of individuals who through their work will provide technical expertise. Some of these other individuals may form part of the key committees.

A separate mailing list may be kept of individuals who may either: a) be interested in information disseminated or b) who are willing to participate in any relevant activities.

Eligibility Criteria for membership

Organizations

- Must be working on child rights
- Must be a registered organization
- Must not be involved in any religious or political associations
- Should adhere to the child protection minimum standards policy

Individuals

- Expert in child rights
- Must not be involved in any religious or political associations
- Should have no criminal record
- Should adhere to the child protection minimum standards policy

Any newly inducted member may give a short introduction of their organization for the knowledge of members.

General Council: comprising all members which will be the main decision making body.

Coordinating / Executive Committee:

Executive Committee Members will be the elected to represent CRM at forums . Power of decisions will always remain with the general body members.

Executive committee members shall be 3 in number Where as only 1 INGO may also be member of the executive committee.

Eligibility Criteria for executive committee membership:

The organization must be a member of CRM and should have attended at least 8 meetings during the year.

Any member may apply. The final nominees will be taken out through a draw.

Thematic working groups or task forces:

Will work on carrying out decisions of the general body and will be time bound according to the duration of the task.

Lead Coordinating Agency:

One organization, as elected by the General Council, will be the lead agency responsible for coordinating the flow of information and this too will be rotational on yearly basis.

Focal Agency:

This will be the organization that will take the responsibility of carrying any agreed upon specific activity.

Secretariat:

For the first six months (can be extended to a year) the coalition will meet at member organizations' offices on rotational basis and the host organization will be responsible for secretarial support including invitation, minutes, copies of materials and chairing of the meeting.

After six months the coalition will have a formal secretariat housed in one of the member organization. Following are the rules for secretariat:

1. Secretariat would be selected through voting.
2. Secretariat would be rotated on annual basis.
3. Any organization hosting CRM secretariat for two consecutive terms would not be eligible for third consecutive term.
4. The secretariat will only consist of one person, in order to coordinate and provide administrative and informational support to the coalition.
5. The Secretariat will be managed by a grantee partner through whom coalition's funds will flow. Ideally, the host organization will enter into a contractual agreement with the grantee partner to establish this arrangement.
6. The general Council will, from time to time, review the effectiveness of its Secretariat and other support.

Key Activities

- Decide on areas of child rights to be addressed by the coalition.
- Participate in important policy making dialogue.
- Carry out selected research on critical child rights violations in Pakistan.
- Develop fact sheets on child rights and child protection by collating info and data.
- Take part in media discourse on child rights issues.
- Develop a strategy and action plan for the coalition
- Develop monitoring indicators on key child protection issues
- Form a strategy to ensure children's meaningful participation; if decided to have children on the coalition

Analysis of all children and all their rights or key areas, such as health, education and juvenile justice

Communications:

A letter head will be developed with the CRM logo.

Geographical parameters:

The national secretariat will be based in Islamabad and provincial level chapters will be established in the capitals of the four provinces.

Finance:

The coalition will form a subgroup to chalk out an action plan with expected budgets; all members will contribute through an agreed annual membership; however, for specific advocacy and research activities and events funding will have to be sought.

The host organization acting as the secretariat for CRM will manage the accounts through a separate account dedicated to CRM. This arrangement will be authorized by its Board or parent organization and a formal resolution will be passed for this purpose to provide credibility and legitimacy.

Frequency of Meetings

The General Council will meet every last Wednesday of every month. This may vary if there are issues/campaigns that may require more frequent meetings

Code of Conduct

There will be a code of conduct to guide the work of all members of the CRM. This will be finalized after a meeting with all/majority CRM members fully endorsed in a formal meeting. Once agreed and approved the code of conduct will be binding on all CRM members through self-compliance of each organization. Any deviations will be immediately reported to the GC and corrected for compliance.