Children Human Rights Defenders: implications for incorporation of the CRC
CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

- Right to information
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of association and assembly
- Freedom of conscience
- Right to privacy
- Right to have views sought and taken seriously
THE VIEWS OF THE WORLD’S CHILDREN:
CRC DAY OF GENERAL DISCUSSION 2018
THE PARTICIPANTS

WHO TOOK PART IN THE CONSULTATIONS?

The numbers* and ages of children who participated in the consultations by region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UN Region</th>
<th>Number of Countries</th>
<th>Number of Children</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Number of Girls</th>
<th>Number of Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>8–17</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>12–17</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>9–18</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1515</td>
<td>5–17</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe &amp; Others</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>7–18</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>2695</td>
<td>5–18</td>
<td>1010</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is most important to them?
What are the challenges they face?
A ROLE FOR LAW(S)

Domestic law that enables rather than prohibits.

Protection from abuse
When and how should law place limits on the exercise of children’s civil and political rights in their own interests and safety?
This Section draws on Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that:

*No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation.*

This formulation is largely replicated in the following - Article 17(1) of the ICCPR:

*No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honour and reputation.*

**Article 16 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:**

*No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation.*

**Article 14 of the International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families:**
ROCK Conference
Ilaria Paolazzi, Programme Manager
3 December 2019
Declaration on Human Rights Defenders

• Definition of HRDs
• Rights and Protection accorded to HRDs
• States’ duties
• HRDs’ responsibilities

Read the Declaration here
Where do we stand 21 years later?

- Widespread lack of knowledge
- Only 1 child-friendly version in English
- Limited implementation at national level
- Limited use by the UN human rights mechanisms (Treaty Bodies’ statement)
DGD 2018 recommendations

**DGD outcome report:**

- Awareness raising & education on the Declaration
- Comprehensive laws on HRDs, incl. CHRDS
- Ensure that protection measures are not used to reduce the scope of action of CHRDS
Draft laws HRDs Guinea and Mongolia

- Tension between making general texts neutral to specific groups and inclusion of children
- Definition not explicitly mentioning “all ages”
- Use of word “work”
- Too much focus on protection and little on empowerment/support to HRDs
- New specific protection mechanisms not child-friendly
Commentary

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Article 14 of the International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families:
The main goal of the Toolkit is to improve the implementation on the ground of the UNCRC through increased understanding of its implications for the implementation of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

- Implementation Guide
- Reference materials
- Educational tools
Interest for the UK

✓ Lack of specific law on HRDs (only government’s statement of support to HRDs)

✓ CRC incorporation is an opportunity to domesticate the Declaration

✓ Why? to strengthen the legal framework of children’s civil and political rights

✓ But not only....
Thank you for the attention