



The Right to Participation in Bolivia

In Bolivia, participation is a fundamental right within the regulations in the state's Political Constitution and the Children and Adolescents Code (Law 548).

It mentions that we have the right to express opinions, decide, request and organize to make our voices heard differently on issues that include and interest us.

Achievements of Participation in Bolivia

Our country has made many advances concerning the participation of children and adolescents in the past years; the most significant achievements are:

★ **Bolivia has 194 municipal Children and Adolescents Committees, 9 departmental and a Plurinational Committee formed democratically and transparently.** The Committees are the highest instance of representation of children and adolescents, who have the role of making the voice of children and adolescents in Bolivia known through political advocacy.



★ Regarding educational legislation, Children and Adolescents can be part of their Student Government, composed of students under a democratic election process. **The student government has the role of representing the educational community and making proposals that improve the well-being of the students.**

★ **There are also many groups of children and young people who exercise their participation through active citizenship** in groups that work in favour of rights such as health, the environment, education, sexual and reproductive rights, and life without violence, among others.

Challenges of Participation in Bolivia

Despite the advances, there are still challenges to the participation of children and adolescents in Bolivia; some of these are:

The adult centrism that still exists in some authorities prevents the opening of a space for listening and participation for children and adolescents.

The lack of budgets assigned to programs and projects for children and adolescents means that our proposals remain as ideas and cannot be fully executed.

There are municipalities where **Committees still need to be formed**. Currently, the participation of children and adolescents is not a priority.

Recommendations

Despite the challenges, we believe that Bolivia has advanced many issues regarding the participation of children and adolescents, which is why we have some recommendations:

Children and adolescents must know about participation as a right and a tool for fulfilling their rights. Informing children and adolescents is the first task for change.

Intergenerational work is vital to achieving the objectives, so it is essential that children and adolescents are informed about their rights and that adults open their heads and hearts to listen and work together with children.



Participation must always be voluntary, informed and safe for all children and adolescents, so it is the responsibility of adults who accompany them to guarantee these processes.