



**ICCRP**  
International and Canadian  
Child Rights Partnership

# Intergenerational Advisory Committee Roundtable Discussion Report

20 November 2023



## *How Adults Can Listen & Engage With Young People*



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## What is the ICCRP?

The International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership (ICCRP) is an international research network that focuses on children's rights. Its goal is to further the implementation of children's rights in research, policy, and practice. The ICCRP has relationships between people of different generations who live in and outside of Canada.

## What is the IAC?

The Intergenerational Advisory Committee (IAC) shares knowledge, advice, and recommendations to guide the ICCRP on how we can support intergenerational partnerships and the implementation of children's rights.

One of its key activities is to convene virtual roundtables which foster international global dialogues on different topics to further children's rights understanding and implementation.

The IAC includes 8 adults and 14 young people (who are both Canadian and International) from ICCRP case study research and partner organizations. The IAC is supported by Dr. Tara Collins (ICCRP Project Director), Sachi Shukul (ICCRP Child and Youth Participant Coordinator), Vanessa Zufelt and Steven Gibson (Project Managers), and many talented and wonderful Research Assistants.

## Speakers List

**Introductory Remarks - Juan Angel (Bolivia) and Ana (Chile)**

**Child/Youth panellist - Kwakhanya Kamah (South Africa)**

**Adult panellist - Danielle Strickland (Mexico)**

**Child/Youth panellist - Arden Connor (Scotland)**

**Adult panellist - William Myers (USA)**

**Child/Youth panellist - John Lee Plaatjies (South Africa)**

**Concluding Remarks - Mateus and Victor**

**Moderators - Dr. Tara Collins and Sachi Shukul**

To watch the Roundtable Discussion recording, [CLICK HERE](#)





This was the Intergenerational Advisory Committee's (IAC) first-ever roundtable discussion, intended to bring together children and adults from different parts of the world to explore how to strengthen children-adult allyship. There were more child/youth speakers than adults to emphasize the importance of amplifying child and youth voices. There was also a larger representation of Global South panellists than the Global North panellists. The session was held virtually and was open to child/youth from any part of the world. It took place on World Children's Day to commemorate the special occasion. The goal was for adults to learn from youth advocates how they can better listen and engage with children and young people.

## Introduction by **Juan Angel Del Castillo Vargas & Ana Vergara del Solar**

### **Juan Angel provided an introduction to the ICCRP and IAC:**

"The International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership (ICCRP) is an international organization with different authors and members from different parts of the world who are specifically focused on promoting the implementation of children's and adolescents' rights in various social spheres, including the political and social spheres. Their objective is to gather information about the constitutional rights of children and adolescents in different regions."

"The Intergenerational Advisory Committee (IAC) consists of 14 young people and children from various parts of the world, along with 8 adults. This group is specifically responsible for sharing ideas, and knowledge, and providing advice to researchers involved in ICCRP."

### **Ana shared insights into how the roundtable topic was chosen and why:**

"Most members of the IAC, both adults and young people, voted to prioritize discussions on how adults can effectively listen to and engage with children and young people. This topic is fundamental for the committee as we highly value intergenerational relationships and are keen on ensuring the success of everyone involved...The roundtable serves as an opportunity for ICCRP members and the communities engaged in our work to come together and collectively explore this important topic."

# Roundtable Discussion Questions



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## Questions for child/youth panellists:

- *What kind of results have young people seen from the information or advice they have received from adults?*
- *What has worked for you when trying to get adults to listen? How can children use their voices and what is considered the best way to be heard?*

## Questions for adult panellists:

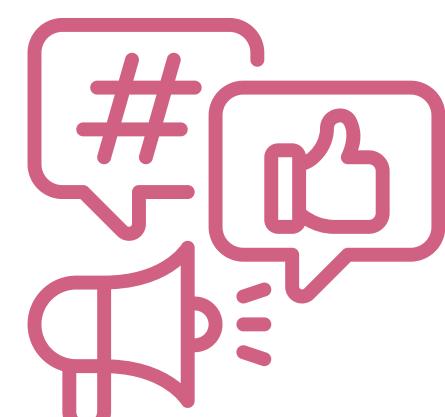
- *What kind of results have adults seen from the information or advice they have given or received from young people?*
- *How can you encourage and motivate other adults to effectively listen to young people so that they can impact decision-making?*

## Breaking Silence Through Technology

Kwakhanya is from South Africa. She spoke about breaking silence through technology. Here are a few key takeaways from what she shared:

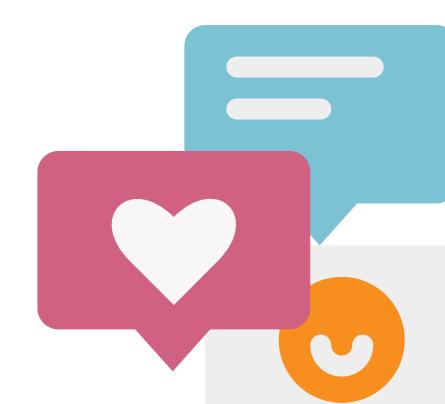
### **Effective Communication through technology**

- “Effective communication is the process of exchanging ideas, thoughts, opinions, knowledge and data.”
- Despite physical distances, technologies allow children to share thoughts and ideas with adults without borders.
- Technologies also allow children to connect with peers and share ideas across the borders.



### **Digital Empowerment**

- “Technologies allow adults to guide and mentor children in a digitally connected world.”
- Through vlogs, blogs, and digital storytelling, children can articulate their concerns creatively and raise awareness about issues that impact them.
- Online platforms facilitate engagement among young people, allowing them to gather insights and address systemic issues.



## **AMPLIFYING**

### **Social Issues**

- Poverty and Inequality:
- Violence and Crime:

### **Healthcare**

- Malnutrition:
- HIV/AIDS:

### **Education**

- Educational Inequality:
- Language Barriers:

## **Children's VOICES**

### **Example 1**

- Youth Lab: Youth Lab is a youth-led research organization that advocates for youth inclusion in policy-making. They use online platforms to engage with youth, gather insights, and address systemic issues contributing to poverty.

### **Example 2**

- Nutritional Education Apps: Youth-led teams could develop mobile apps that provide nutritional information, meal planning guidance, and recipes tailored to local communities. These apps may incorporate gamification elements to engage and educate users about the importance of a balanced diet.

### **Example 3**

- Turbo Books: It is a youth founded application that aims to digitalize education in South Africa. By providing educational information and resources for grade 0 to 12. From Textbooks, past papers and tutoring programs and sessions.

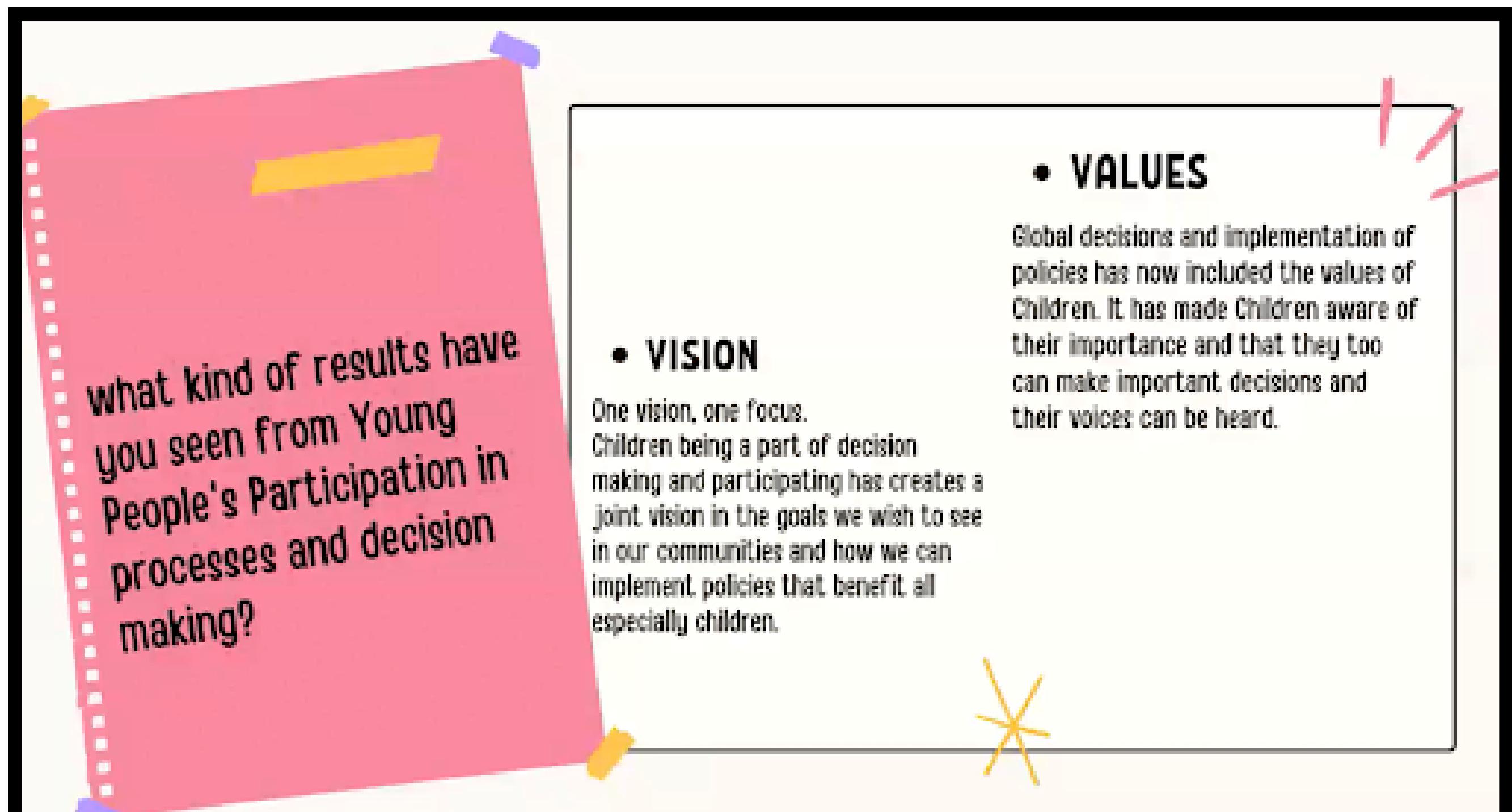
Some examples of how children/youth have used technology to tackle social inequalities include:

[CLICK HERE](#)

- YouthLab is a youth-led research organization advocating for youth nutrition, inclusion, and policy-making.
- Nutritional education apps provide tailored information, meal-planning guidelines, and recipes for local communities.
- TurboBooks, founded by Kwakhanya, aims to digitize education in South Africa by offering educational resources from grades 0 to 12, including textbooks, past papers, and tutoring programs.

[CLICK HERE](#)

**“Technology facilitates the creation of supportive online communities where children feel heard, understood, and foster a sense of belonging and solidarity.”**



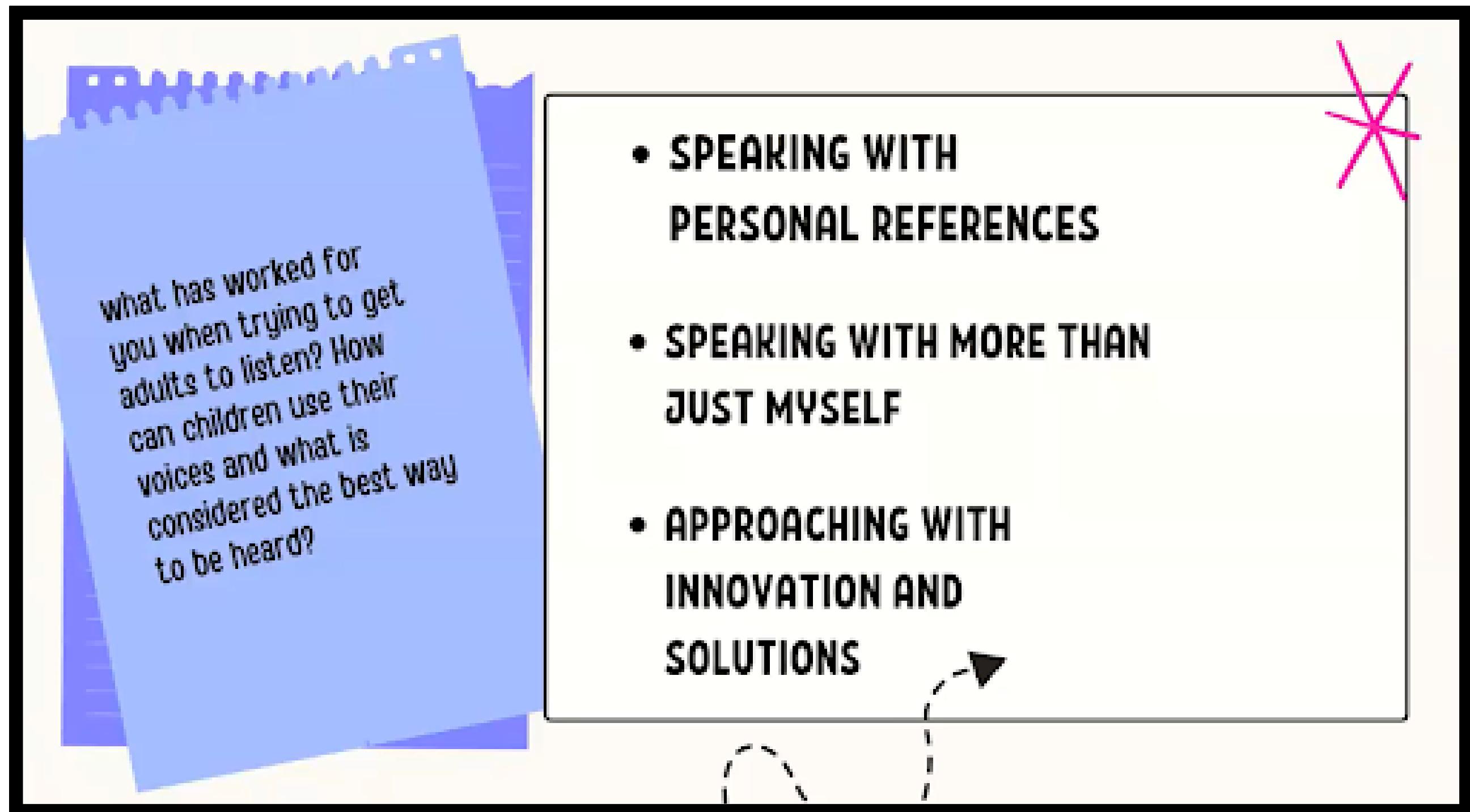
what kind of results have you seen from Young People's Participation in processes and decision making?

• **VISION**  
One vision, one focus. Children being a part of decision making and participating creates a joint vision in the goals we wish to see in our communities and how we can implement policies that benefit all especially children.

• **VALUES**  
Global decisions and implementation of policies has now included the values of Children. It has made Children aware of their importance and that they too can make important decisions and their voices can be heard.

## One Vision One Focus

Children being part of decision-making process creates a shared vision for the goals we want to achieve in our communities, and how we can implement policies that benefit everyone, especially children themselves. It has enabled children to become aware of their rights and understand the importance of their voices.



- 1) Adults tend to pay attention when **personal experiences are used to explain issues**. Personal experiences help contextualize the issues and allow adults to understand your point of view.
- 2) **Collaborating with fellow peers and children** to speak up on shared issues is essential. Different experiences on the same issues allow various perspectives to be taken into consideration.
- 3) When communicating or advocating for a cause, it's important to **approach with a solution**. Advocating for a specific solution enables policymakers to make decisions and implement effective solutions. This approach ensures that solutions are innovated and advocated for by children.

***What has worked for you when trying to get adults to listen?  
How can children use their voices and what is considered the best way to be heard?***

Kwakhanya spoke to the group about the value of sharing personal experiences when communicating with adults. This approach helps adults listen more attentively and encourages collaboration among children and young people with similar experiences, enriching the conversation with diverse perspectives. Kwakhanya also emphasized that proposing solutions and innovative ideas during discussions on challenges can enhance active listening skills among adults.

Kwakhanya's presentation focused on their project, "Breaking the Silence," which leverages technology to amplify and empower the voices of children and young people. Platforms like WebEx facilitate effective communication not only between children and adults but across varied groups, bridging physical and language barriers. These digital tools enable real-time exchanges of ideas, fostering collaboration and mentorship opportunities.

***What kind of results have you seen from young people's participation in processes and decision-making?***

Kwakhanya shared outcomes from their recent efforts, highlighting the importance of setting joint vision goals within the community. They emphasized how engaging in active discussions about policy implementation and its benefits fosters a collaborative approach. This process has led to a heightened awareness among children and young people in South Africa about global decisions and policies that affect their values. This increased awareness has inspired young people to use their voices and take meaningful action to effect change.



#### HOW CAN ADULTS LISTEN AND ENGAGE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE?

¿CÓMO PUEDEN LXS ADULTXS ESCUCHAR A LXS JÓVENES Y COMPROMETERSE CON ELLXS?



Danielle Strickland, Mexico (danielle@iteso.mx)



ICCRP

- 1. Provide undivided attention and eye-contact.** It is important to pay attention to the person you are interacting with. This is basic social etiquette. This demonstrates the willingness to hear the young people and makes the young feel heard.
- 2. Ask thoughtful questions.** Young people's ideas are a lot more complex than we originally perceive them to be. With more questions, we tend to understand each other better and establish more connections.



**3. Create rapport with young people.** Cultivate relationships through trust and confidence. It is important to try to understand young people's music, fashion, interests etc. Showing interest in young people's passion and interests allows adults to understand their lived experiences at a deeper level.



**4. Avoid paternalistic attitudes and power dynamics** that are common in adult-centered cultures. Danielle advises against asserting dominance over younger individuals. It is important to treat young people with respect, listening to their voices and acknowledging their autonomy.



**5. Recognize and Praise young people's contributions with sincerity.** Positive reinforcement is important to keep the young people motivated and allow them to feel supported.



**6. Be innovative and creative.** Adults should think outside of the box and come up with strategies to combine strengths, knowledge and ideas with young individuals to overcome age barriers." Danielle spoke about an example where adults were learning from youth about violence informed by their lived-experiences. When it came to sharing their stories Danielle said, "We thought outside the box to share their stories and ideas. So instead of writing, they told their stories out loud, they drew pictures, they came up with raps, they took photographs."

## ***What kind of results have you seen from young people's participation in processes and decision-making?***

Danielle highlighted the notion that children and young people can act as teachers in their own right. Reflecting on her experience working with twelve adolescents with limited reading and writing abilities, she noted that, despite their perceived academic shortcomings, their lived experiences provided valuable insights. These young people were able to communicate effectively with adults, sharing important perspectives on community challenges.

Their contributions were expressed through verbal storytelling and drawings, rather than traditional writing, making a significant impact on both the community and the supporting adults. Danielle emphasized that these alternative methods of communication proved highly effective in conveying their messages.

For more details about this work, Danielle provided a link to their contributions: **Rompemuros No. 7.** 



### Advocacy for an Equitable World

- Children and young people, when empowered to listen to each other and feel heard, can make significant strides toward creating a more equitable and just world. Arden highlighted examples illustrating children's advocacy for accessibility:
  - For instance, Scotland is currently in the process of incorporating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into law, aiming to protect children and ensure their well-being.
  - Another example is the free bus travel for both children and young people across United Kingdom, promoting accessibility and mobility.
  - This facilitates attending school, socializing with friends, engaging in extracurricular activities, all contributing to fostering not just an educated society but also an emotionally healthy one.

### Power of Numbers in Amplifying Children's Voices

- The more children speak, the bigger the change will be.
- Numbers play a critical role in amplifying children's voices.
- Arden spoke about how children from all over the UK gathered to voice their concerns. They engaged with the UN and urged the UK government to listen to their lived experiences regarding children's rights. The pressure led the government to create a to-do list to support children from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

### Inclusive Advocacy Strategies

- Arden also emphasized the importance of having representation from diverse backgrounds in effective advocacy.
- To make sure adults listen, it's helpful to set a clear agenda with intentions, create a supportive environment instead of formal settings, and aim for interactive approaches like arts and crafts to effectively engage younger children.
- No one should be excluded from conversations despite their age. No matter how young a child is, right support and time can make a difference.

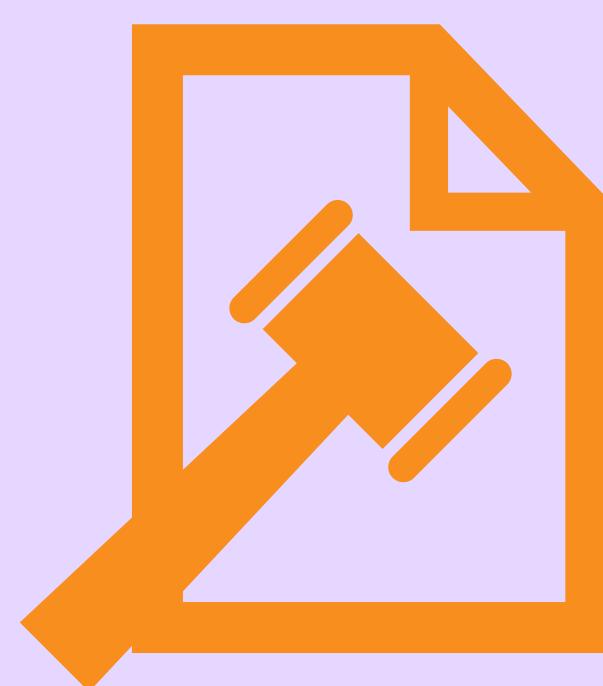
**“Younger children are often left out of the picture... they have a voice too, and they are very capable, despite popular belief, of voicing their opinion. You just need the right support and time.”**

***What has worked for you when trying to get adults to listen? How can children use their voices and what is considered the best way to be heard?***

Arden discussed the positive impact of enabling children and young people from diverse backgrounds to share their perspectives, which contributes to creating safer, better, and healthier environments for them. Arden highlighted several strategies to enhance these interactions, including having preliminary meetings to clarify goals and intentions. Engaging with supportive and familiar adults beforehand boosts the confidence of children and young people.

Arden also addressed the challenges of high-pressure or intimidating interactions. To ease these situations, Arden recommended having a structured plan for discussions and providing various materials—such as arts and crafts, drawings, and practical scenarios—to cater to different age groups and learning styles.

Additionally, Arden noted Scotland's pioneering efforts in integrating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into its national law, underscoring the country's commitment to advancing children's rights.



***What kind of results have you seen from young people's participation in processes and decision-making?***

Arden highlighted the significant impact of the Children's Parliament's international speaking opportunities on local issues. One notable change has been the introduction of free bus transportation across Scotland, which has greatly benefited children and young people by facilitating their access to school and extracurricular activities that promote mental and social well-being.

Arden emphasized that the growing involvement of children and young people has led to a newfound belief in their ability to effect change, challenging previous assumptions about their influence and capabilities.

## Adult Panellist

William (Bill) uses climate change as an example where intergenerational partnership is crucial. Children are impacted by climate change more than anyone. An example of advocating for climate change is *Fridays for the Future*, back in 2019, which was a big movement responsible for bringing out millions of people around the world to protest against climate change, where the vast majority were children and youth.

### Youth-Adult allyship in legal space

Bill's tip on how to make youth voices heard and more effective is for children to partner up with trained practitioners to access legal spaces to fight for their passion. Bill speaks about strategizing children's advocacy efforts and partnering up with trained adults to ensure their voices are heard. Many decision and policymakers are not listening to children, especially knowing where they stand. Children and youth are taking adults to court.

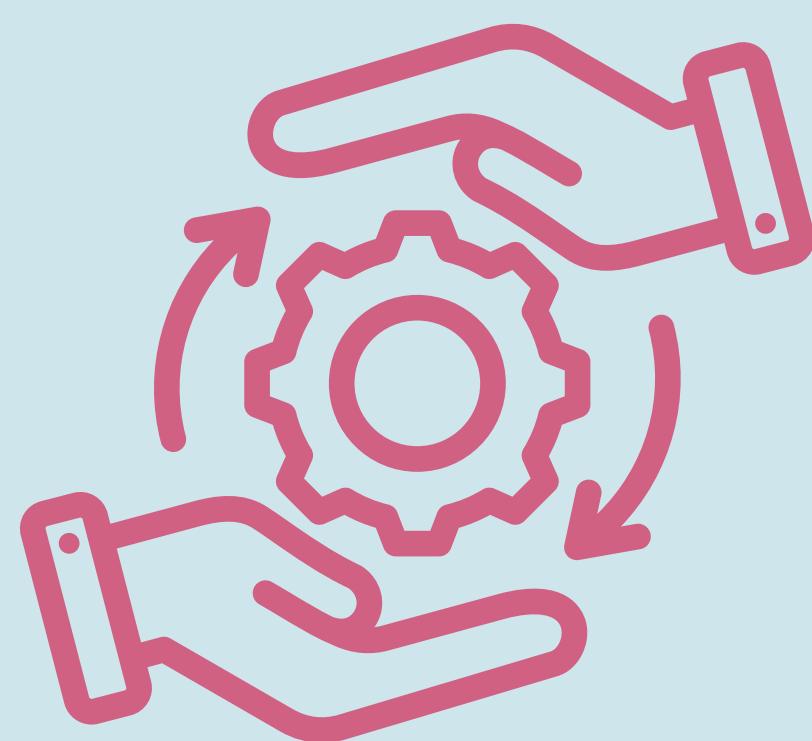
**“We have a new kind of partnership emerging between young people who have the courage to speak up...and the adults who have the skills and certification to give them access to that.”**

Bill used an example to explain how it's done in practice. In the USA, 16 kids took a state to court and asked the court to live by their constitutional provision. Children have environmental rights and they exercised their rights by asking for justice. They won the case. Children will have to speak up for themselves while adults in a specifically organized way support them to do that and give them access to resources and spaces.

## ***How can you encourage and motivate other adults to effectively listen to young people so that they can impact decision-making?***

Bill discussed the limitations of merely inviting children and young people to international conferences and press meetings, noting that such invitations are often used for publicity rather than meaningful engagement. Despite this, Bill emphasized that young people can still make their voices heard in these settings.

For adults who find it challenging to fully engage with the perspectives of children and young people, Bill recommended that they at least educate themselves about the positions and viewpoints of the younger generation on various issues. Understanding these perspectives helps adults form more informed opinions and avoid disregarding the contributions of young people.



## ***What kind of results have you seen from young people's participation in processes and decision-making?***

Bill shared an intriguing observation that children and young people are increasingly resorting to legal action against adults and organizations to ensure their perspectives are heard. While this approach can be effective in some cases, it is not always the most ideal solution.

He highlighted a recent example from the United States, where 16 young people succeeded in their legal battle to advance environmental rights for their generation. Another notable case involved six Portuguese youths taking 33 European countries to the human rights court, where their case was heard despite significant opposition.

Bill also noted the rise of new partnerships between adults and young people, where collaborative efforts are being made to support and realize the goals and visions of the younger generation.



## INTRODUCTIONS

- CHILD NEED TO BE HEARD
- ADULTS UNDERMINE US
- THERE IS IMPROVEMENT

- Children have to speak up for themselves and be heard!
- Children are often invited to events to speak about their experiences, and adults are usually impressed by how intelligent and perceptive children are. Even though it took a long time for children to have this opportunity, this is not enough. There needs to be more.
- Adults undermine us. They don't want to listen to us. Children are invited to speak in adult-dominated spaces. You are not expected to be seen or heard in those spaces.
- There is an increased participation of children and youth in confronting perpetrators of abuse through legal systems. For instance, John Lee speaks about examples where children were able to get child molesters out of office by raising their voices and speaking about how unsafe they felt. More children and youth are getting involved in civic engagement as well as determined to speak in parliament to get politician's attention.

**“I always say, in places where you feel like you’re not welcomed is where you’re needed the most.”**



- Acquiring the **courage to speak out** about issues is the most important **step towards achieving change**. We see children like, John Lee, and others speaking in parliament around matters concerning us which we haven't seen before. We have children working with Canada from all across the world that alone is showing the growth of participation between children and adults.
- John Lee strongly encourages children and youth to speak out about all the matters that affect the children and youth.
- The more children speaking out, the bigger the change could be.
- Social media: showing lived-experiences can educate people and raise awareness about issues we are passionate about.

**“Use your voice to speak out about the lack of support given to children by the government. Speak out about the violence against children. Never be afraid to bring your voice to the forefront. And I know that's easier said than done because for some people that's actually life threatening to speak out. But the risk needs to be taken to conquer our challenges.”**

## ***What has worked for you when trying to get adults to listen? How can children use their voices and what is considered the best way to be heard?***

John Lee shared valuable insights on how children and young people can be heard in adult-dominated spaces. He noted that because it is uncommon for children to be present in these environments, adults often become more curious about their perspectives, creating opportunities for their voices to be heard. John Lee emphasized, “often in places where you don’t feel welcome, you are needed the most.”

He also highlighted the importance of addressing issues directly from the perspective of young people. According to John Lee, even a single young person can make a significant impact, and collective action amplifies their influence. He encouraged children and young people to speak out against government injustices and ongoing violence without fear.

Additionally, John Lee suggested using routine social media platforms to advocate for change and raise awareness. For those who prefer not to engage online, he recommended participating in protests and marching in solidarity for various causes.



## ***What kind of results have you seen from young people's participation in processes and decision-making?***

John Lee shared that children and young people are increasingly being included in decisions that affect them. They now have more platforms and opportunities to express their opinions on relevant matters, though this is still not the norm. Despite this progress, there is still much work to be done to fully integrate them into what are traditionally adult-dominated spaces.

John Lee highlighted several positive developments, including the rise in children and young people speaking out about their safety and expressing concerns about powerful adults in their lives. They are actively submitting their experiences and challenges to education boards and children's departments for consideration.

Additionally, John Lee pointed out that young people are traveling to address issues such as gender-based violence and voting laws. Their advocacy efforts have led to notable changes, such as lowering the voting age to 16 in Cape Town.

The increased participation of children and young people in policy discussions is fostering new partnerships, such as those seen with the IAC and ICCRP, and contributing to a growing influence in shaping policies.

# Discussion: Q and A



***How can young people converse with decision makers and important adults in their lives within diverse countries?***

“If you’re working with other countries, come together, bring your common social issues that you’re facing, especially with the youth or with the adults together, speak about it, come up with different ideas, elaborate, share some ideas with other people.”

- John Lee

“More numbers and more diversity strengthen the cause. Multiple nations coming together to raise our voice on certain issues makes decision makers uncomfortable and puts a little more pressure on them to really listen and take into consideration what is being shared.”

- Danielle

“Turn statistics into stories to really show how young people are impacted and their lived-experiences.”

- Arden

***How can we include younger children's views and ideas in discussions with adults and in decision-making that may affect them?***

“When it comes to making decisions on behalf of children, you need to learn from the children, to know what they need, what they want and what they are expecting, as well as their expectations of adults.”

- John Lee

“Adults need to speak to children in a supportive environment that’s familiar to a child where they feel safe and comfortable.”

- Arden

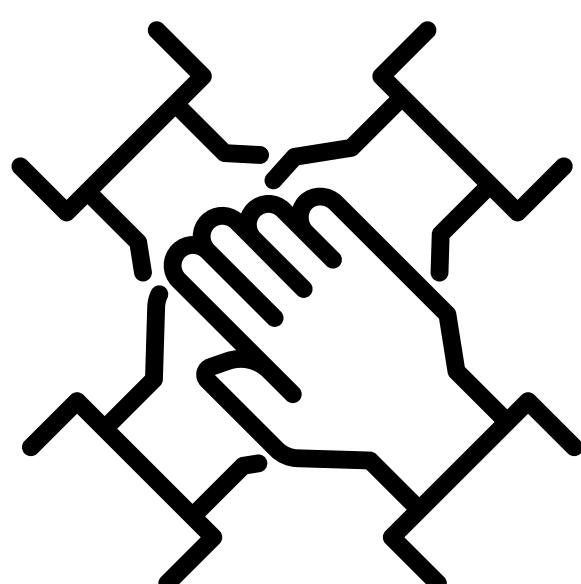
***Do you feel heard and respected in your opinions? Do you feel represented in public policies and government spaces? And where else would you like to be heard and represented more?***

“We need to be thinking about making our structure more accessible to the young so we understand them as citizens and not just as somebody that we nurture.”

**- Bill**

“I feel heard and respected in spaces like the ICCRP because I can see my suggestions being considered. Governments can include children in their decision making processes. Recently the Brazilian government created the budget for the year and the children were asked to share their thoughts on the budget. Children spoke in parliament and urged the government to spend money towards their necessities. Involving children in the budget development of a state helps children to speak up for what they need.”

**- John Lee**



“I feel children are more of an afterthought with the paperwork.” It is not accessible to all children to speak in parliament. Oftentimes, the complaint takes a long time to get through, so by then the law in question is already passed.”

**- Arden**

“Children are respected and valued in South Africa especially given that the majority of the demographics is made of children. Children can only speak about issues that impact them directly within education and health care, instead of the larger scale. It will be better if children can speak about these issues overall in including children’s rights.”

**- Kwakhanya**

**“I feel children are more of an afterthought with the paperwork.”**

**- Arden**

## ***What are some practical participation frameworks or guidelines that exist for organizations that work with young people and their parents?***

"There is an overall lack of information and programming provided to this population that is easily accessible. The information online that is available reviews what children's rights are rather than how to implement them. Although this is common, Arden shared that in Scotland specifically, there are parenting courses that support the implementation of children's rights through a UNCRC perspective."

**- Arden**

Bill also shared the lack of guidelines many adult populations have for interacting with children and young people and supporting them. This calls for the need for more practical guidelines for adult groups working with children and young people.

Danielle added that in many cases, making your presence and thoughts known within the audience is still a step forward to creating change.

## ***What platforms have been made available to young people to voice their opinions or say what they think?***

Arden shared that social media is a powerful tool for learning and sharing information. The majority of children and young people are on at least one social media platform. These platforms also support gaining insight into others' experiences and thoughts.

External resource: interesting publications are coming up on methodologies for listening to children and young people in early childhood through the SIPP (coordinated by the Univ of Edinburgh, CIESPI, PUC-TRio and various partners). They can be found at [www.ciespi.org.br](http://www.ciespi.org.br)

Bill, who has experience in the climate change activism setting, suggested that young people should be persistent and insist on being heard and included. He suggested taking Brazilian law into account which would give young people the advantage of being heard and included.

***How can children and young people work actively to participate in an upcoming international environment meeting taking place in the Amazon region, without being silenced or ignored?***

Are there frameworks for children/youth to actively share their learnings of intergenerational interactions with children in their areas?

John Lee also shared that having workshops that support children and young people who come from low socio-economic communities is an excellent way to prepare them to have these conversations and continue to be part of the knowledge chain.

Bill shared that as adults, there has not been enough change made to raise children and young people as adults and active citizens. However, now children and young people have very different roles in the world, and abilities to make a change that many adults are not used to it. Children and young people are now citizens of the world, and adults need to support this process. Many countries have done this by lowering the voting age, but systems still need to do a better job of treating children and young people as citizens rather than individuals that need to be nurtured.

- Mateus Eduardo Lira do Nascimento
- Child/Youth Panellist

## Mateus:

Mateus's insights underscore the importance of meaningful dialogue and mutual understanding between children, young people, and adults. He emphasizes that asking questions about the interests and experiences of children and young people is crucial for supporting their understanding and valuing their perspectives. This approach fosters a deeper connection and helps bridge generational gaps. Mateus acknowledges that despite our differences, each person has significant experiences that resonate with others. This common ground can be a powerful tool in building empathy and fostering relationships. Recognizing and validating the struggles children and young people face in their fight for their rights is crucial. Their concerns should be taken seriously and addressed with the respect and urgency they deserve. Moreover, Mateus highlights the importance of teaching children and young people how to effectively communicate and navigate spaces often dominated by adults. This skill not only helps them articulate their thoughts and needs but also facilitates smoother interactions and more constructive conversations.

Creating a comfortable environment where both children and young people and adults can engage with each other is key. Such an environment enhances mutual understanding and collaboration, allowing for more effective and meaningful exchanges. By making an effort to accommodate and respect the perspectives of all parties involved, we can build more inclusive and supportive communities.





Victor Karunan  
Adult Panellist

## Victor:

Victor's observations underscore the evolving dynamics between children, young people, and adults in a rapidly changing world. He points out that technology holds considerable promise in bridging gaps and facilitating conversations among individuals from diverse backgrounds. By leveraging digital tools, we can create more inclusive and accessible communication channels. Victor stresses that children and young people should always be valued and taken seriously. Their perspectives and voices are crucial and should not be diminished or ignored. Adults need to be aware that traditional methods of communication and engagement may no longer be effective or appropriate for younger generations. Adapting to these changes is essential for meaningful interactions. Moreover, adults must be sensitive to how children and young people perceive their responses. Inappropriate or dismissive reactions can impact how valued and respected they feel. This underscores the need for adults to engage thoughtfully and empathetically.

Victor also highlights the importance of considering the rights of future generations. He refers to the Maastricht Principles on the Human Rights of Future Generations, which outline the need for proactive measures to ensure that future generations' rights are upheld. As we move forward, integrating new rights and making necessary adjustments is crucial. Ultimately, Victor emphasizes that adults should strive to engage with children and young people in ways that are both understandable and respectful. By doing so, we can ensure that younger individuals feel recognized and valued, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.



# Key Takeaways

## **How can adults better listen to children and young people:**

- Always show interest in what young people have to say.
- We can learn a lot from young people despite their age.
- Making the conversation more comfortable by avoiding making it like a business conversation. Make it more informal and fun!
- Make sure to keep the environment always comfortable, so that teenagers and adults can have a better conversation and a better understanding.
- It's always important to talk objectively and know how to communicate what you want.
- Break the silence through technology.  
What we need to look at is both the potential of technology to promote child participation and also to generate dialogue.

## Key Takeaways

- Adults undermine children (John Lee)
- Forms of protest are innovative and transformative in current times. All our conventions, UN human rights law, starting from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, civil political, economic, socio-cultural, and collective rights of indigenous peoples only talks about the rights of human beings in the world today, not for the rights of future generations.
- It is easier for children to move up to the adults' level as opposed to adults moving down to children's level "because our values, mindsets, predictions and practices are too much set in the old traditions and we cannot break from that." - Victor.
- "Intergenerational dialogue is a learning process on children's rights, where we have to meet as equal partners." - Victor (inspired by Danielle's presentation)
- "For decision makers, children are only data on paper. But for children, it is our real everyday life." - Victor (inspired by Danielle's presentation)



# Special Thanks

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# Helpful Links:

**Visit the ICCRP Website Here:**

[www.torontomu.ca/iccrp](https://www.torontomu.ca/iccrp)

**Check Out the Original Recording of the IAC Roundtable Discussion Here:**

[ICCRP IAC Roundtable Discussion November 2023](#)

[How Adults Can Listen & Engage With Young People](#)

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