

EMPOWERED AND CONNECTED:

Young Leaders for Ending Violence against Children



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What is «YOUNG LEADERS FOR ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN» project about?

Young Leaders for Ending Violence against Children is a project designed to give young people the space and opportunity to gain skills, knowledge and tools to engage in campaigns across the globe aimed at ending violence against children. This project will work initially with 40 young leaders, ages 12 to 17, from countries and regions where World Vision has operations. This dynamic network ensures young leaders learn together and build collaborations in order to influence, collectively and individually, their communities, countries and regions on issues relevant to them. The young leaders are the driving force in ending violence against children and will aim to have their voices heard in high-level debates and policy discussions in order to contribute to changing traditional mind-sets and attitudes that perpetuate violence.

WHAT ARE THE GOAL & MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT?

The goal of the Young Leaders project is to empower and build the capacity of young people; equipping them to stand against violence aimed at children and promote social changes in their communities, countries and regions. This project aims to contribute to the external impact objective of the new World Vision global campaign that seeks to ignite movements for, with, and by children to catalyse global changes in attitudes, raise awareness and drive empowered and effective action to end violence against children.

THE MAIN ^(*) OBJECTIVES ARE:

Sring together young leaders from World Vision's national offices to engage in campaign initiatives to end violence against children.

Build the capacity of young leaders to act on behalf of their peers in order to promote social change strategies in their communities, countries and regions.

Provide young leaders with the knowledge and tools to engage in global forums/ platforms to facilitate debate focused on emerging issues around violence against children.

Build bridges between young leaders, stakeholders, policy experts and decision-makers working toward ending violence against children.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Young Leaders for Ending Violence against Children is open to participants from World Vision national offices that are engaging in the global campaign to end violence against children. Young participants should represent diversity and a variety of identities such as gender, ethnicity, social class, faith, different abilities, and live in both rural and urban areas. The selection criteria key general considerations are:

GENDER:

Girls and boys

AGES:

12 to 17

REPRESENTATION:

Be part of a children/young person's group and be selected by their peers to represent their own constituencies.

COMMITMENT:

Keen to engage in participating and following up on issues related to the campaign to end violence against children.

EXPERIENCE:

Previous experience in local or national related child-led advocacy initiatives.

KNOWLEDGE:

Personal interest or familiarity of children's rights, participation, empowerment, activism, equality, violence against children, etc.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT?

Young Leaders for Ending Violence against Children project is built on three main pillars:

SKILLS

Providing capacity building to young leaders.

The content of the project is designed to provide young leaders with leadership, public speaking and writing skills; children's rights, civic engagement, advocacy techniques, campaigning tools, and the knowledge needed for social change around ending violence against children.

SPACE

Ensuring enabling environments for young leaders to contribute to social transformation.

Virtual and physical spaces are provided to young leaders to generate actions toward ending violence against children. This is done through childled community-based events, info sessions, and round table discussions with stakeholders, child-led social media actions, exchange visits, etc. This also includes spaces where young leaders pass the information and skills they have learned to the members of their local constituencies using peer-to-peer methodologies.

INFLUENCE

Promoting opportunities to make a change.

Young leaders contribute to making positive changes in their communities and countries, and mobilize their peers to engage in campaigning activities to change policy, practices and attitudes on violence against children. This project promotes the use of an intergenerational approach to influence decision-makers at the local, national and global levels in order to impact decision-making processes and sustain young leader's social change efforts.



HOW DOES THE PROJECT CONTRIBUTE TO THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN TO ENDVIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND THE SPECIFIC CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION OBJECTIVES?

As World Vision seeks to empower children and youth as key drivers of the global campaign to end violence against children, the Young Leaders for Ending Violence against Children provides a powerful way to engage them to decision-making process, debates and awareness raising initiatives at local, national and global levels.

Young Leaders for Ending Violence against Children contributes to making the campaign more inclusive to young people's need and desires, and thus more efficient, relevant and sustainable. Experiences from the field have proven that young people can play a key role in campaigning for ending violence against children and they have promoted long-term solutions with focus in an intergenerational dialogue.

HOW DOES THE PROJECT WORK?

The Young Leaders for Ending Violence against Children project uses virtual and physical platforms for engaging young leaders and builds a collaborative and learning network across countries and regions. A Child Participation Adviser acts as the main facilitator for cooperation among the young participants and is responsible to provide comprehensive capacity building to support the participants.

The facilitator delivers learning sessions via a virtual platform to build the capacity of young people to become leaders in fighting violence against children. The young participants also engage virtually with their networks at all-time using technology and on-line/off-line methods for wider participation, representation and inclusion. This programme also includes virtual debates and dialogue with decision-makers and stakeholders using the key principles of the intergenerational dialogue approach.

Young leaders will also have the opportunity to meet in person through specific capacity building activities and promising practices sharing. This also includes the participation of some of the young leaders in selected global or regional events in order that the children and young people's voices are represented at high-level forums. Young Leaders are expected to attend the launch of the new World Vision global campaign in Addis Ababa, New York, Geneva and Brussels.

EXPECTED LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT

The expected long-term effects of the project will be more specifically around gender-based violence as young leaders contribute to making positive changes in their communities and countries and mobilise their peers to engage in campaigning to change current negative policy, practices and attitudes. The sustainability of this initiative will be ensured by engaging and empowering young people as agents of change. This process includes spaces where young leaders will pass the information and skills they have learned to the members of their local constituencies using peer-to-peer methodologies. This will ensure the knowledge and skills gained will remain with their communities for the long-term.

For further information on children and young people's participation, please contact: **Patricio Cuevas-Parra**, Senior Policy Adviser for Child Participation and Rights. <u>Patricio Cuevas-Parra@wvi.org</u> **Mario Stephano**, Child Participation Adviser, <u>Mario-Stephano@wvi.org</u>







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