



COMMONWEALTH CHILDREN AND YOUTH DISABILITY NETWORK

TWO YEAR OVERVIEW REPORT 2019 TO 2021

CONTENTS:

Introduction	2
Strengthening the Participation, Inclusion and Rights of Children and Young People with Disabilities - CCYDN side event at the 12th session of the COSP to the CRPD	3
About CCYDN	5
CCYDN Executive Committee	6
CCYDN Membership	7
CCYDN Representation	8
CCYDN Achievements Overview	9
The Global Disability Children and Young People's Report	9
Global Disability Children and Young People's Charter	9
I am Able II Antigua and Barbuda Conference	9
Covid-19 Children and Young People with Disabilities Global Statement and Recommendations	10
Hospital Communication Passport	18
IDEAS Capacity Building Programme and Masterclass Series	19
Disabled Children and Young People's Rights and Participation Course	20
Conference of State Parties to the CRPD 14th session - Children & Young People with Disabilities Human Rights and their Roles as Advocates/Changemakers within the Disability and Youth Movements'	20
• CCYDN Children & Youth Disability Human Rights Advocates	20
Additional updates	21

INTRODUCTION:

During CHOGM 2018 and the 'Commonwealth Include Me 2 Project', disabled young people involved in the Commonwealth Space through the various networks and roles such as Queen Leaders, Commonwealth Youth Council, Royal Commonwealth Society Fellows approached Include Me TOO to set up a Commonwealth network for and with us, the disabled youths in the Commonwealth.

We felt strongly that a Commonwealth Disability focused Children and Youth Network was needed to ensure they have an independent voice and access to platforms to raise issues and share learning and solutions on issues that matter to them and to improve disability advocacy, inclusion, rights and representation for and with them.

The **Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN)** was launched during the Commonwealth Week in London March 2019 alongside the Global Disability Summit Children and Young People's Report, at the Houses of Parliament. The event was hosted by Stephen Twigg MP Chair of the International Development Select Committee in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the International Disability Alliance, The Royal Commonwealth Society and Leonard Cheshire.



'The Commonwealth Secretariat, through its Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) will continue to support the Commonwealth Children & Youth Disability Network as a practical response to the Heads of Government mandate to 'address the stigma around disability in all its forms and manifestations, ensuring that no one is left behind'. By working with young people with disabilities who are promoting their right to included and to participate in decision making at all levels, we come closer to fulfilling the vision of a society where our young people lead the change they want to see in a fairer, more prosperous and inclusive society for all. The CYP will work with the all the relevant partners and agencies to give voice and space to children & young people with disabilities to lead their own agenda in the Commonwealth. #NowIsTheTime.'

Layne Robinson, Head of Social Policy Development, Commonwealth Secretariat.

'I'm very happy to see CCYDN recognised by the Commonwealth Youth Programme as an official Commonwealth Youth Network. I look forward to working with the Commonwealth to ensure that no child or young person with a disability is left behind and to ensure that, across the pressing issues facing children and young people with disabilities, from economic empowerment to inclusive education and tackling stigma and discrimination, barriers are lifted and opportunities are provided for all'.

Jonathan Andrews. Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network Co-Chair, 2019-2021



CCYDN with Include Me TOO organised and facilitated an official side event **Strengthening the Participation, Inclusion and Rights of Children and Young People with Disabilities during the 12th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which took place at United Nations New York in June 2019.**

During this conference CCYDN was officially launched internationally and the disabled young people shared the key messages provided by children & young people during the Global Disability Summit 2018 and presented their report with included contributions from disabled children and young people representing *23 countries (of which 20 countries are Commonwealth members).

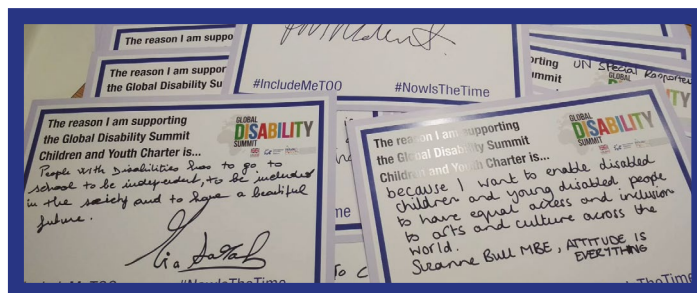


The event advocated the importance of 'Strengthening the Participation, Rights and Inclusion of Disabled Children & Young People' through meaningful participation, their visibility, representation, having their voices heard and the Global Disability Children and Young People's Charter 12 commitments being actioned.

Areas covered during presentations were:

- The Global Disability Summit Children & Young People's Programme Report
- The changes they wish to see and what matters to them the most
- How they want to be included and can contribute
- Inclusive Education
- Economic Empowerment
- Ending Stigma and Discrimination
- Gender Equality - Safeguarding, ending all forms of abuse and harmful practices
- Global Disability Children and Young People's Charter
- Global Disability Youth Summit focusing on Global Sustainable Development Goals

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES DURING GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT



Include Me TOO @In... · 15/06/2019

#COSP12 UN New York at our side event is available to watch on the link below. We shared #GlobalDisabilitySummit children & young people's key messages from 23 countries captured in their report & charter & officially launched @CCYDNetwork #NowIsTheTime



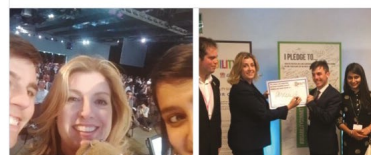
Strengthening the Participation, Inclusion and Rights of Children a...



Penny Mordaunt... · 24/07/2018

Amazing job from the youth ambassadors on producing the #DisabilitySummit youth charter and presenting it. Thanks for the stage selfie with the Wombassador too!!

Include Me TOO @IncludeMeTOO #GlobalDisabilitySummit @DFID_UK @PennyMordaunt @DFID_Inclusive Our youth ambassadors from Australia and India just finished their speakers slot in the closing ceremony at the summit. Always time for a selfie on stage just after they share next steps with the audience #inclusion



ABOUT CCYDN

CCYDN is an affiliated Commonwealth Youth Network as part of the Commonwealth Youth Programme alongside several other youth networks. CCYDN is the first ever Commonwealth disability children and youth network driven by youth with disabilities and supported by Include Me TOO in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat.

CCYDN aim is to increase and create access to platforms for disabled children and young people as changemakers, advocates and right holders. To be recognised as key contributors in the disability, youth, children's rights movements to influence positive change on issues that matter to them at local, national and international levels. Furthermore, increase disability rights awareness, inclusion and the human rights frameworks amongst disabled children and young people, their families and communities and duty bearers their obligations.

CCYDN advocates for the recognition of the vital role of children and young people contributions if the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Convention on the Rights of the Child and inclusive impactful delivery of the Global Sustainable Development Goals are ever to be fully realised and achieved.

In the first two years CCYDN membership and reach is as follows:

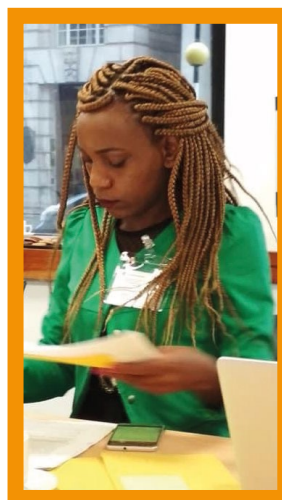
17 COUNTRIES represented via CCYDN Organisation Members;
this comprises of **41 ORGANISATIONS.**

With the combined memberships of
organisations and individuals representing **24 COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.**

Through the IDEAS Programme and the Hospital Communication Passport Workshops and online events CCYDN reach and engagement of disabled youth extended to a further **18 COUNTRIES.**

Total reach of CCYDN:

42 COUNTRIES GLOBALLY, OF WHICH 32 ARE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.



CCYDN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021 – 2023:

This year CCYDN recruited new members to join our Executive Committee. We received many applications for the CCYDN Executive Committee roles for 2021 – 2023 and after a difficult task of shortlisting and having panel interviews 15 disabled youths representing Commonwealth countries were appointed.

During the first meeting of the newly appointed committee, we had great candidates come forward to replace outgoing Co-Chair Jonathan Andrews as the new CCYDN Youth Co-Chair. Divya Goyal was ultimately successful and welcomed as the newly elected CCYDN Youth Co-Chair.

We will be uploading CCYDN information on webpage and will share the link this December 2021 and profiles of the committee members.

We are pleased to introduce our CCYDN Executive Committee Members and Associates with you.

CCYDN Executive Committee Members

COUNTRY	NAME	ORGANISATION
Uganda	Susan Sabano	Show Abilities Uganda
Nambia	Rozaline Josephq	Namibian Organization of Youth with Disability
Zambia	Masheke Limwanya	Zambia national association of people with Disabilities
Tanzania	Joseph Migila	Shivyawata
United Kingdom	Dan Grice	
Malta	Angela Bettoni	Opening Doors Association
Saint Lucia	Selena Jn Baptiste	National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities
Samoa	Maselina Lufa	Deaf Association of Samoa
Australia	Heidi La Paglia	Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA)
India	Divya Goyal	Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre
Sri Lanka	Janiith Ittapana	Enable Lanka
Maldives	Mubeen Mohammad	Maldives Association Persons with Disabilities
India	Shrutilata Singh	Sense India (NGO)
Mauritius	Natacha Hippolyte	Youth with Disability Empowerment Forum
Pakistan	Ammar Jamel	STEP Pakistan

Peer Support

Australia	Margherita Dall'Occo
Maldives	Muawiyath Mohamed Didi

Executive Committee Associates Members:

Krystle Reid	Mercy Mbasha
Devika Malik	Kasunjith Saranarachchi
Sarah Mwikali	

CCYDN are developing a peer support structure and we are piloting this with the newly elected committee. We also have introduced the role for Associate Executive Committee members aged 30 to 35 years who will continue supporting the work and development of CCYDN.

CCYDN MEMBERS

CCDYN is a network with disabled young people network members from across the Commonwealth, which includes individuals, disabled youth led DPO's / OPD's and NGO's working with disabled children and young people who are making a difference locally, nationally and internationally regarding disability inclusion and rights. CCYDN are a representative network collectively aiming to work in parallel alongside other international networks and forums.

Membership is 13 to 29 years and Associate Membership 30 to 35

Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network Organisation Members (June 2021)

1. School of Inclusion	Pakistan
2. Pakistan Blind Sports Federation	Pakistan
3. Ready Aiders Foundation	Kenya
4. Ulemavu Research Institute	Kenya
5. Gifted Community Centre	Kenya
6. United blind persons of Fiji	Fiji
7. Hope Villa Foundation	Tanzania
8. Coast Cerebral Palsy Foundation	Kenya
9. Tanzania Development Trust	Tanzania
10. Itsekeng Batswana Disability Association	Botswana
11. Shivyawata	Tanzania
12. Maldives Association of Persons with Disabilities	Maldives
13. Enable Lanka	Sri Lanka
14. Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled	India
15. Action for Change (ACHA)	Botswana
16. Ficofawe Women Foundation (FICOFAWE)	Tanzania
17. The Right Way	Tanzania
18. Empowering lives together foundation	Tanzania
19. CECHE Foundation	Rwanda
20. Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped	Kenya
21. Mission Aid Organisation	Tanzania
22. Prattasha Samazik Unnayan Sangstha (PSUS)	Bangladesh
23. Sense International Kenya	Kenya
24. Step up 4 Autism	Kenya
25. Pacific Disability Forum	Pacific Region
26. Youth in Action for Disability Inclusion Zambia (YADIZ)	Zambia
27. Indus Development Organisation	Pakistan
28. International Youth Alliance for Peace	Sri Lanka
29. eBASE Africa	Cameroon
30. Global Rainbow Foundation	Mauritius
31. Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY)	Kenya
32. Tulonga Foundation	Namibia
33. Sense International India	India
34. Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA)	Australia
35. Show Abilities Uganda	Uganda
36. Deaf Association of Samoa	Samoa
37. Zambia National Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities	Zambia
38. Wheeling Happiness	India
39. Youth with Disabilities Empowerment Platform	Mauritius
40. Youth with Disabilities Organisation	Tanzania
41. Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre	India

CCYDN REPRESENTATION:

CCYDN are keen to support and maximise opportunities to spaces for disability advocacy and to mobilise as many disabled young people to represent CCYDN in Commonwealth and International spaces.

In the first two years CCYDN members have represented and presented on behalf of CCYDN on many platforms including ECOSOC, Queens Commonwealth Trust, South Asia People's Forum on SDG's, CDPF, Disability Inclusive Education Form, United Nations, Davos, G7 summit and several official Commonwealth functions.

CCYDN have been invited as official partner for United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI) and have supported and contributed to the 'Girls with Disabilities have an equal right to education' campaign with CCYDN representatives presenting on the video campaign here is the link.

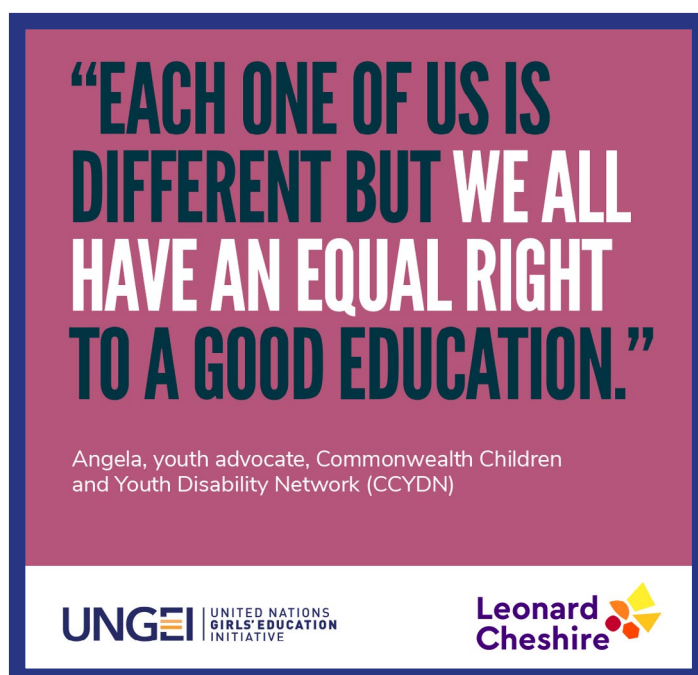
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=5WR_qp0mZCc&feature=youtu.be



GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES ARE STILL DENIED THEIR RIGHT TO EDUCATION.

UNGEI | UNITED NATIONS GIRLS' EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Leonard Cheshire

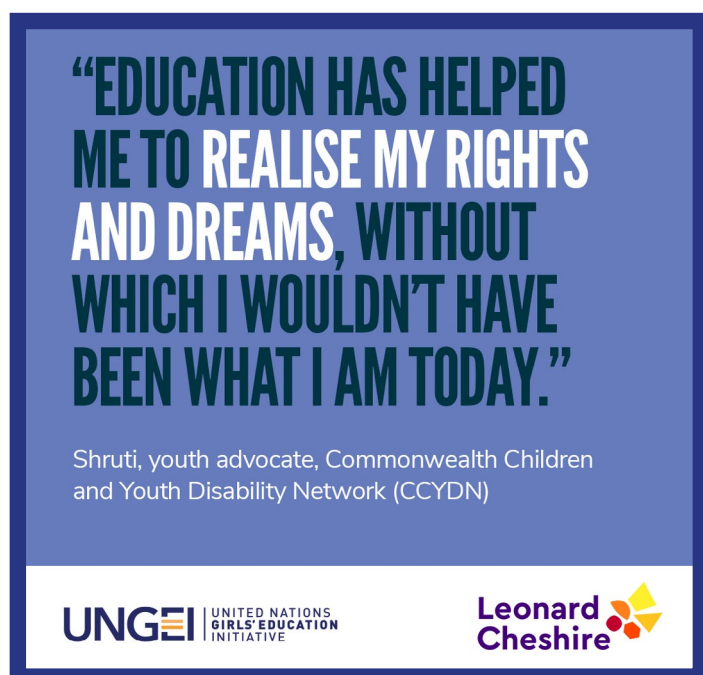


"EACH ONE OF US IS DIFFERENT BUT WE ALL HAVE AN EQUAL RIGHT TO A GOOD EDUCATION."

Angela, youth advocate, Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN)

UNGEI | UNITED NATIONS GIRLS' EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Leonard Cheshire



"EDUCATION HAS HELPED ME TO REALISE MY RIGHTS AND DREAMS, WITHOUT WHICH I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN WHAT I AM TODAY."

Shruti, youth advocate, Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN)

UNGEI | UNITED NATIONS GIRLS' EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Leonard Cheshire

In recent months we have members Margherita Dall'Occo and Rozaline Joseph join the Judging Panel for the Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work 2022.

CCYDN are also supporting and contributing to the UNGEI Intergenerational Research Advisory Group. CCYDN members Shrutilata Singh and Susan Sabana are representing the network in this programme.

CCYDN ACHIEVEMENTS OVERVIEW:

1: Youth with disabilities delegation at the Global Disability Summit and subsequent report Global Disability Summit Children and Young People's Report

2: During the Global Disability Summit London 2018 children and young people with disabilities from across the globe representing 23 countries shared their views on what matters to them in regards to the Global Disability Summit six themes. They shared key messages they wanted included in their own charter and produced the Global Disability Children and Young People's Charter

3: I am Able II Antigua and Barbuda Conference

During International Persons with Disabilities Day on the 3rd December 2019 Include Me TOO , the Commonwealth Children & Youth Disability Network (CCYDN), and Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) worked together to deliver the youth workshop and participation as part of the I Am Able II conference in Antigua and Barbuda.

The conference supported the Future is Accessible theme and the delegation represented Saint Lucia, Saint Vincents and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Jamaica, Dominica, Grenada and Barbados.

Parmi Dheensa, Executive Director of Include Me TOO & Co Chair of CCYDN and Sarah Musau CCYDN committee member, met with the Minister and the Permanent Secretary of Social Policy Development, Human Resources Development, Youth and Gender Affairs, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to plan the delivery of a follow on Children & Youth programme to increase disability awareness, Inclusion & Rights and a call to youth led action.

During the conference the young people from across Eastern Caribbean region and DPO's expressed a lot of interest in joining CCYDN and signing up to the Global Children & Young People's Charter.

Include Me TOO delivered Safeguarding, ending all forms of abuse and harmful practices workshop. Discussing the vital importance to increase awareness of the signs of abuse, putting processes and protocols in place to safeguard disabled children and adults, increasing protection through the implementation of policies supporting legislation to strengthen application.





The COVID-19 Children and Young People's Global Statement and Recommendations

This was the first detailed response regarding the impact of the pandemic on children and youth with disabilities as well as the statement and recommendations being produced by them. Young people with disabilities representatives of DPO's and NGO's from Fiji, Malta, France, India, Maldives, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia Mauritius, Australia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Canada and United Kingdom came together for roundtable discussions during May to July 2020. Producing the COVID-19 Children and Young People with Disabilities Global Statement and Recommendations which received further endorsements from key stakeholders in the disability and human rights movement supporting the recommendations to protect children and young people with disabilities human rights and inclusion and commitment not to be left behind in COVID-19 responses and recovery.

We are deeply concerned about the potential impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic on the protections of human rights and inclusion of children and young people with disabilities. With an estimation of between 180 and 220 million youth with disabilities worldwide, and an estimation that there are 93 million children with disabilities, of which nearly 80% live in developing countries already one of the most disadvantaged groups. Before the pandemic they experienced barriers and challenges due to limited accessibility, resources and the negative stigma and discrimination associated with disabilities and impairments.

Children and young people with disabilities and their families need to be part of efforts for disability inclusive responses and recovery to this pandemic.

Although we recognise the impact of this pandemic, measures to tackle this must respect and protect the human rights of all people. Children and young people with disabilities should not have their rights compromised, as they already have challenges to accessing the right and appropriate support and resources to give them an equal chance to thrive and reach their potential. Progress made towards disability rights and inclusion – such as access to equal and accessible care and treatment to support dignity and safety, inclusive education, lifelong learning, employment, independent living, a right to family life and social protections - should not be undone. To ensure this, the rights of children and young people with disabilities must be respected and protected.

Due to COVID-19, children and young people with disabilities are at risk of being further left without the vital support, resources and advocacy they received prior to the pandemic. We want to increase greater inclusion as there may be opportunities that arise from disability inclusive responses and recovery as well as opportunities to increase children and young people's protections on their human rights.

This COVID-19 children and young people with disabilities statement recommendations align with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Global Children and Young People's Disability Charter.

RECOMMENDATION 1: INCLUSIVE ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION AND LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

- a)** Individual abilities and additional needs and learning styles of children and young people with disabilities should be supported to access resources and assistance available for their education and learning development. This includes accommodating and ensuring the participation of children and young people with developmental or intellectual disabilities, complex learning needs, deafblind and deaf children and young people.
- b)** Teachers and education providers should be adequately equipped with accessible online resources and trained on supporting children and young people with disabilities remotely ensuring continuity of education and supporting their individual learning development. There should also be support and guidance to ensure that online and distance learning platforms are safe and accessible to children and young people with disabilities.
- c)** The online learning also has challenges, as it is not accessible to all children and young people with disabilities, as educational lessons and materials online often lack accessibility. Digital and technical equipment needs to have accessibility features, be affordable and made available to children and young people with disabilities supporting their individual learning, development, communication and independence.
- d)** Children and young people with disabilities living in villages, rural indigenous communities, households with no or very limited internet, or access to digital devices with affordable data are at greater risk of being left behind, Due to inaccessible remote education, learning and development support and inaccessible materials.
- e)** Alternative solutions that provide quality education and effective inclusive learning and that are not tech reliant need to be sought and provided for children and young people with disabilities for whom online learning is not accessible.
- f)** Children and young people with deafblindness rely on tactile communication mostly and they are missing out on their education since it has moved to online platforms. Accessible materials and resources to support their education, learning and development must be provided as alternative solutions to online learning.
- g)** Parents and caregivers should be supported to have access to resources and develop skills in supporting children and young people with disabilities learning remotely. Trained teachers and education providers should provide guidance and support to the parents and caregivers of children and young people with disabilities (whom they have taught); with regards to learning and development support at home.

(Global Disability Children & Young People's Charter: Commitment 1, Commitment 6, CRPD Article 6, CRPD Article 9, CRPD Article 21, CRPD Article 24, CRC Article 23, CRC Article 28, CRC Article 29)

RECOMMENDATION 2: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Children and young people with disabilities are at a higher risk of having increased difficulties from COVID-19 due to having possible underlying health conditions.

- a)** There needs to be assurance of non-discriminatory access to COVID-19 care and treatment for children and young people with disabilities.
- b)** Health and social care support should continue to be available for children and young people with disabilities. There should be access to medication, equipment, adaptations, advice, accessible care and treatment.
- c)** Children and young people with disabilities and their parents and caregivers to have access and support to complete COVID 19 Hospital Communication Passport. Providing vital information for hospital and medical centres regarding how to support children and young people with disabilities access needs, their communication, sensory, physical and personal care needs and their safety and dignity.
- d)** Accessible information, materials and updates needs to be made available in regards to what health and social care provisions children and young people with disabilities can access during COVID-19.
- e)** Accessible transport, health and social care facilities and access to treatment for COVID-19 needs to be provided to children and young people with disabilities.
- f)** Protective equipment to all those providing direct health and care support to children and young people with disabilities including personal assistants and family members and caregivers to keep children and young people with disabilities safe and well. Ensuring support how to use PPE correctly and how to follow hygiene advice and protocols. understand
- g)** Ensure children and young people with disabilities have access to nutritious food and proper sanitation.

(Global Disability Children & Young People's Charter: Commitment 5, Commitment 9 CRPD Article 9, CRPD Article 25, CRPD Article 26, CRC Article 23)

RECOMMENDATION 3: ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

Accessible information and communications in various formats are essential for children and young people with disabilities and their families and caregivers to be kept informed about prevention, support available and keeping safe.

- a)** Resources need to be available to support accessible information including access to sign language interpreters, braille, and access support to deafblind. Ensuring reach to the diverse needs and requirements of children and young people with disabilities.
- b)** Dissemination of information on COVID-19 needs to be in local community languages, easy to read, video with text captioning, accessible web content and child friendly.
- c)** Accessible information should be made available in all areas including health, social care, disability services, education, employment, social security and the business community.

(Global Disability Children & Young People's Charter: Commitment 5, CRPD Article 9, CRPD Article 21, CRC Article 17)

RECOMMENDATION 4: SOCIAL DISTANCING, SUPPORT AND WELLBEING

- a)** Support and practical guidance must be provided to ensure as much as possible social distancing is adhered to for children and young people with disabilities, taking into account various impairments, sensory needs and intellectual disabilities.
- b)** Social distancing is really hard for children and young people with deafblindness since they rely on tactile inputs so they must be supported to learn strict hygiene, Family and caregivers must supported to understand the various ways they can ensure children and young people with deafblindness are kept safe and supported for all their various needs and requirements.
- c)** Deafblind interpreters, families and caregivers supporting children and young people with deafblindness and those with complex needs who need close physical support must receive adequate physical protection equipment.
- d)** Additional protective measures must be taken for children and young people with deafblindness during this pandemic. Support services, personal assistance, physical and communication accessibility must be ensured including deafblind interpreters to support them with essential instructions and information.
- e)** Children and young people with disabilities and their family and caregivers must be provided with accessible information regarding how to mitigate the risk of COVID-19.
- f)** Effective targeted support, key essentials, financial support and material provision must be provided to children and young people with disabilities and their families.
- g)** Ensure continuity of support, education, health, social care, independent living, personal assistants, equipment and adaptations, assistive technology and communication aids for children and young people with disabilities in the planning and distribution of resources and recovery.
- h)** Practical, financial, mental health and wellbeing support needs to be provided to parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities. Parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities have additional challenges and demands as they are providing continuous care, experiencing disruption of essential services, providing education and learning development support for their children and young person with disabilities.

(Global Disability Children & Young People's Charter: Commitment 9, Commitment 10 CRPD Article 11, CRPD Article 23, CRPD Article 28, CRC Article 6, CRC Article 26, CRC Article 27)

RECOMMENDATION 5: PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

- a)** Children and young people with disabilities need to be consulted, included and listened to in COVID-19 responses and recovery programmes.
- b)** There needs to be meaningful participation with children and young people with disabilities sharing their various experiences, what matters to them and having their human rights protected,
- c)** Organisations of persons with disabilities and civil society organisations working directly with children and young people with disabilities and their families, to be supported to participate in local and national COVID-19 coordination mechanisms, responses and recovery programmes.
- d)** Children and young people with disabilities to be supported to understand what is happening and have their say in the decisions that are being made in response to COVID-19.

(Global Disability Children & Young People's Charter: Commitment 2, CRPD Article 21, CRPD Article 29, CRC Article 12, CRC Article 13, CRC Article 23)

RECOMMENDATION 6: YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES

Young women and girls with disabilities have increased risk to being disproportionately affected by COVID-19, experiencing lack of access to essential services and support, restricted movements and at risk of not returning to or accessing education and employment. Particularly young women and girls from rural villages and rural indigenous communities.

- a)** Young women and girls with disabilities are at increased risk of gender-based violence. Ensure services and support to prevent and respond to gender-based violence are inclusive and accessible for young women and girls with disabilities with accessible points of contact and helplines. Ensure information and reporting processes are accessible including meeting communication needs for those with intellectual disabilities, limited mobility, deaf young women and girls.
- b)** Key essential items must be provided to young women and girls with disabilities to support their menstrual health, hygiene and sexual and reproductive health.
- c)** Mechanisms should be ensured to support, monitor and collate data of access and return to education of young women and girls with disabilities as they are at higher risk of being denied an education.
- d)** Monitor and ensure data compiled includes the impact of COVID-19 on young women and girls with disabilities including information about the barriers and challenges they have experienced.
- e)** Ensure gender-based violence data gathers essential information of abuse and violence experienced by young women and girls with disabilities and any support that has been provided.
- f)** Safeguarding training must be provided for family members and caregivers in how to safeguard and reduce risk of any form of abuse on young women and girls with disabilities.

(Global Disability Children & Young People's Charter: Commitment 3, Commitment 4 CRPD Article 3, CRPD Article 6, CRC Article 19, CRC Article 34, CRC Article 36, CRC Article 37, CRC Article 39)

RECOMMENDATION 7: SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTING FROM ALL FORMS OF ABUSE AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

- a)** Must protect and safeguard children and young people with disabilities living in institutional care, group homes, residential schools and other settings ensuring in COVID-19 measures and restrictions that they are not ill-treated, given non-consensual medication, forced with restraint, and unlawful seclusion or locked away.
- b)** During this pandemic there is an increase of young women and girls being forced into marriages and more cases of female genital mutilation. Young women and girls with disabilities are at increased risk and vulnerable to all forms of abuse and harmful practices. Support, prevention, safeguarding must be accessible and inclusive for young women and girls with disabilities. Data regarding forced marriages, female genital mutilation and other forms of abuse must include young women and girls with disabilities, to develop and improve disability inclusive, accessible support services, information and assistance.
- c)** Children and young people with disabilities must be protected to their right of family life during the measures of Covid-19. Where the parent or main carer has been infected with COVID-19 and is not able to provide the care and support for their child(ren) or young person with disabilities; support should be provided to stay with family, continue being part of their community and not be institutionalised.

d) Safeguarding and child protection protocols and services need to continue to be in place, associated laws must not be relaxed or diluted during this pandemic. Particularly as children and young people with disabilities have increased risk of experiencing violence and abuse in homes, institutions, group homes, especially when there is no contact from others the violence and abuse will not be detected. Safeguarding and child protection protocols and services are vital now more than ever before.

(Global Disability Children & Young People's Charter: Commitment 4, CRPD Article 15, CRPD Article 16, CRPD Article 17, CRC Article 9, CRC Article 19, CRC Article 20, CRC Article 25, CRC Article 34, CRC Article 36, CRC Article 37, CRC Article 39)

RECOMMENDATION 8: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

a) During the pandemic people have been working from home, companies and organisations have experienced that remote working and flexible working can be productive. Accessible remote working, remote recruitment and retention of young people with disabilities needs to be supported. Young people with disabilities must be protected from discrimination at work due to COVID-19 risk as persons with disabilities may have an underlying health condition; and misinformation during COVID-19 has increased stigma associated with disability.

b) To enable young people with disabilities to continue working while reducing social contact to reduce infection risks, they need to be assured that they can work from home remotely with their access needs and requirements supported. Accessible tech and equipment, sign interpreters, personal assistants, text captioning and flexible working arrangements must be made available.

c) Paid leave needs to be ensured for young people with disabilities whose work cannot be performed remotely with 100% of their income.

d) Financial support measures need to be provided for young people with disabilities who are daily workers and who cannot work with social contact and whilst there is a high risk of infection.

(Global Disability Children & Young People's Charter: Commitment 6, Commitment 7, CRPD Article 9, CRPD Article 27, CRC Article 23)

RECOMMENDATION 9: STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

Social oppressions and violence might have direct impact but while talking about stigma, stereotypes and prejudices they have indirect and very long-term impact which must be addressed via collective effort, removing societal barriers, changing negative attitudes and misconceptions and taboo associated with disability, this is important.

a) Increase disability awareness and rights to combat the stigma and discrimination against children and young people with disabilities and their families.

b) Communications regarding children, young people and adults with disabilities responses to COVID 19 need to reduce stigma and discrimination. Communications need to ensure message that children and young people with disabilities lives do matter and their human rights are protected.

(Global Disability Children & Young People's Charter: Commitment 8, CRPD Article 4, CRPD Article 8, CRPD Article 10, CRC Article 2)

RECOMMENDATION 10: INDEPENDENT LIVING

Independent living does not mean living alone as there are caregivers and many services people have input from to allow them to be as independent as possible, because of coronavirus lots of these services have stopped. Young people with disabilities are losing life skills due to not being able to complete day to day tasks themselves with support of caregivers as having to shield and social distance to reduce risk of infection.

a) Independent living gives young people with disabilities control over their own lives. This includes the opportunity to make real choices and decisions regarding where to live, with whom to live and how to live. Accessible services, transport, information, technical aids, access to personal assistance and/or community-based services must be ensured to support independent living of young people with disabilities.

b) Young people with disabilities and caregivers should be provided with Personal Protection Equipment by local authorities for care in the community and provided with support to redevelop their life skills so they can live as independently as possible.

c) Young people with disabilities should be ensured of continuity of the support, personal assistance, equipment and technical aids to support their independent living during the COVID19 pandemic and thereafter.

(Global Disability Children & Young People's Charter: Commitment 9, CRPD Article 4, CRPD Article 19, CRPD Article 26, CRC Article 4, CRC Article 23)

RECOMMENDATION 11: LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

a) All legislation and policies responses to COVID 19 must be guided by human rights standards and protect the rights of children and young people with disabilities, rights as advocated in UNCRPD, UNCRC and the Global Disability Children and Young People's Charter.

b) Ensure that COVID-19 related medical and quarantine policies and processes are accessible and disability-inclusive.

c) Ensure support and engagement with children and young people with disabilities and their families in the COVID 19 decision- making processes and discussions in regards to legalisation and policies; alongside Civil Society Organisations working with and supporting children and young people with disabilities and Disabled Peoples Organisations.

(Global Disability Children & Young People's Charter: Commitment 11, CRPD Article 12, CRC Article 42)

RECOMMENDATION 12: DATA

Lack of adequate data on children and young people with disabilities at all levels has adversely impacted the delivery of services and deployment of an effective COVID-19 responses to their, continuity of essential support, services, care, treatment and their safety.

- a) Availability of disaggregated data results and knowledge must be expanded in order to effectively determine the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people with disabilities
- b) To ensure national budgets reflect the needs of society, data regarding children and young people with disabilities must be paramount to achieve improved outcomes.
- c) Disaggregated data is essential for preparedness for any disaster risk and humanitarian crisis and recovery, it must be ensured that children and young people with disabilities their families and caregivers are not left behind in these responses.

(Global Disability Children & Young People’s Charter: Commitment 10, Commitment 12, CRPD Article 11, CRPD Article 31)

Include Me TOO promotes the social model and human rights approaches to disability and we usually use terminology such as ‘disabled children and young people’. Working with young people from various international and national organisations, we used international language. This means within this statement and recommendations we have used the terminology ‘children and young people with disabilities’.

THIS COVID 19 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS IS SUPPORTED AND ENDORSED BY:



Save the Children



5: COVID 19 Hospital Communication Passport,

CCYDN worked with Include Me TOO with this resource as a response to the pandemic supporting disabled persons access, communication whilst supporting their rights. safety and dignity during health and medical care and treatment. CCYDN worked with youths, DPO's, NGO's translating the resource and the following languages have been translated Swahili, Hindi, Dhivehi, Tamil, Sinhala, Urdu, Portuguese and Spanish.

Regional online workshops regarding the resource were delivered to Asia, Africa, Pacific and Caribbean. The sessions covered the importance of this resource for disabled persons during the pandemic; how to use the resource, a session on PDF online Interactive form and a session on APP use.

There were discussions regarding how to roll out in respective countries, how this resource can be part of the COVID19 hospitals and medical centers processes in their care and treatment protocols. How to increase access to these resource to all disabled persons.

Regional train the trainer workshops followed and establishing local partners and focal points in Maldives, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Tanzania, Zambia, Cameroon, Kenya, Australia and Fiji.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the inequalities experienced by disabled people have been amplified and increased concerns of lack of and non-existent accessible care and treatment and weather their needs and requirements will be supported.

The COVID-19 Hospital Communication Passport:

- Provides the most important things that hospital and medical staff must know about persons with disabilities as soon as they arrive.
- Shares vital information to support persons with disabilities regarding their access and support needs, their communication, sensory, physical and personal care needs
- Supports persons with disabilities safety and dignity

This resource should be available as a Hospital Communication Passport and has since been recognised and supported as a vital resource beyond being used just for the pandemic.

An App for this resource has been developed and is ready to pilot in the coming months.

We have also been having discussion with leads in Antigua Hospital as Include Me TOO with CCYDN are exploring integrated systems for this resource. A meeting with WHO Director overseeing disability took place in July 2021 and Include Me TOO with CCYDN will be looking at piloting this resource in 3 to 4 countries and are in discussions with interested parties and updates will be shared in the coming months.





IDEAS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME AND MASTERCLASS SERIES.

6: IDEAS Capacity Building Programme and Masterclass Series.

This series was delivered during November 2020 to March 2021. Its aim was supporting young people with disabilities to increase and build their skills and confidence as Disability Rights Representatives, Changemakers and Advocates. 33 countries were represented; there were 50 places for the programme (which was oversubscribed) and CCYDN accommodated 125 young people with disabilities. Each of the workshops and masterclasses included discussions, worksheets and follow up actions.

IDEAS Capacity Building Workshops covered:

- Using Disability Rights Tools to Promote and Protect the Rights of Children and Young People with Disabilities
- Young People with Disabilities Role in Advocacy Disability Rights and Inclusion
- Accessing Social Media Platforms Confidently to have Your Say, Connect, Advocate and Campaign

IDEAS Masterclasses Series covered several key themes and we were joined by a range of key disability actors, advocates and changemakers.

IDEAS Masterclass One

The Role of Digital Platforms and Tech for Better Inclusion and Accessibility

IDEAS Masterclass Two

The Rules of Law and Governance

IDEAS Masterclass Three

Gender Equality. Young Women and Girls with Disabilities

IDEAS Masterclass Four

Economic Empowerment and Employment for Young People with Disabilities

IDEAS Masterclass Five

Ending Disability Stigma, Taboos and Discrimination

IDEAS Masterclass Six

Inclusive Accessible Education and Learning

7: CCYDN and IM2 Course Book Module 8:

Disabled Children and Young People's (Youth) Rights and Participation.

CCYDN and IM2 developed this module and accompanying coursebook and video presentation, and facilitated an online seminar as part of CDPF On-line Disability Equality Capacity Building Course.

8: Conference of State Parties to the CRPD 14th session official side event.

During June 2021, CCYDN and Include Me TOO organised a side event for COSP14 hosted by Commonwealth Secretariat and in partnership with Leonard Cheshire and UNGEI.

'Children & Young People with Disabilities Human Rights and their Roles as Advocates/Changemakers within the Disability and Youth Movements'.

The Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN) showcased the vital role and contributions of children and young people as Human Rights advocates and key actors in both the Disability Rights Movement and Youth Movement.

At the online event disabled youths shared their experiences of advocacy, campaigning and the issues which continue to impact their lives. Highlighting the actions and commitment needed to ensure the Human Rights of Disabled Children and Young People are protected and they are not ignored, unheard, unseen or unsupported.

Presentations from Youth with Disabilities and Guest Speakers included the following topics:

- The impact of COVID19 on the human rights of children and young people with disabilities
- IDEAS Capacity Building Programme and Masterclass Series for Youth with Disabilities and next steps
- Youth with disabilities advocacy and experiences in the disability and youth movements
- Girls with Disabilities Campaigning for A Right to Education
- Disability Data Portal and disparities in opportunities for youth with disabilities compared to their non-disabled peers
- Youth – Led Covid 19 research in five countries
- Building a 'Better Future for Children and Youth with Disabilities'- Key messages and action for Global Disability Summit 2022 & other International platforms of influence

Direct: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1p/k1pf60xy40>

9: CCYDN Children & Youth Disability Human Rights Advocates:

During the last year CCYDN successfully delivered the IDEAS Capacity Building Workshops and IDEAS Masterclass supporting young people with disabilities to increase and build their skills and confidence as Disability Rights Representatives, Changemakers and Advocates. Many of CCYDN members and those who attended and completed the IDEAS programme have shared they want to support CCYDN and make an impact and CCYDN are recruiting for **CCYDN Children & Youth Disability Human Rights Advocate**. Young people who are Interested in getting involved in this role can contact the team by emailing ccydn@includemetoo.org.uk.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Call to action: Protect the right to family life & prevent institutionalization for all children

CCYDN responded to this call to action (see attached) joining other signatories to this call to action acknowledge the leadership of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in their efforts to harmonize international human rights standards concerning children deprived of parental care.

This call to action seeks to contribute to a range of efforts worldwide to promote consistent interpretation and enforcement of international human rights law in respect of children with disabilities, including the activities of the committees mentioned and other stakeholders and in particular the preparations for a Day of General Discussion on Children's Rights and Alternative Care this month under the auspices of the Committee on the Rights the Child.

Launch of the 2021 Global Youth Development Index (YDI) Report

The 2020 Global Youth Development Index was launched last month and revealed that the conditions of young people have improved around the world by 3.1 per cent between 2010 and 2018, but the progress remains slow.

The Commonwealth Secretariat during the launch released its triennial rankings of youth development in 181 countries, with 156 of them recording at least slight improvements in their scores.

The 2021 YDI measured Youth Development progress across 6 domains, including: Health and Wellbeing, Education, Employment and Opportunity, Political and Civic Participation, and for the 1st time - Peace and Security, and Equality and Inclusion. ***Here is a link to the recorded launch and amongst the speakers were Maselina Lufa (CCYDN Executive Committee Member) and Jonathan Andrews (CCYDN Immediate Past Co-Chair) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFla3Xg31_Y***

- Download the 2020 Global Youth Development Index Report (PDF)
- Visit the digital version of the 2020 Global Youth Development Index
- Overall YDI score chart (PDF)

This report provides a snapshot of the valuable contribution CCYDN who have led and been involved in a range of initiatives over the past two years supporting the progress and advocacy of the disability rights, inclusion and participation for disabled children and young people throughout the Commonwealth and wider world.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Commonwealth Secretariat and partners throughout the term of our new Executive Committee and network members, continuing furthering the human rights and representation for disabled children and youth, their families, and communities at every level.

Thank you to all our supporters, funders, sponsors and partners for your continuous support and contributions for CCYDN. Strengthening disability advocacy, rights, inclusion, participation together.

You can follow us:   @CCYDNetwork @IncludeMeTOO

You can also contact us by emailing ccydn@includemetoo.org.uk