


# **PRINCIPLES AND TERMS OF JOINING THE CSC NETWORK**



**CONSORTIUM FOR  
STREET CHILDREN**



We pride ourselves on being open and accessible to organisations who share our vision and mission of a world where street children are guaranteed the same rights as every other child. Below we have set out our expectations of CSC Network organisations, and who may be eligible to join.

## **Principles of CSC Network membership**

- Empower street-connected children, upholding their human rights
- Uphold the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN General Comment No.21 on Children in Street Situations, including non-discriminatory access to services
- Commitment in policy and practice to safeguarding and protecting children from harm including but not limited to sexual exploitation and abuse, physical and emotional abuse and neglect.
- Run child-centered organisations and programmes that prioritise the safety and well-being of all children
- Support CSC and other CSC Network organisations to develop best practice by sharing learning and resources

## **Terms of joining**

In order to join the CSC Network, organisations must be able to meet the following criteria:

- Be a registered NGO, civil society organisation or network
- Comply with national legislation (unless it is in conflict with international human rights law)
- Have an independent Board of Trustees
- Have filed annual accounts with the relevant national authorities
- Keep CSC informed about any relevant changes in the organisation which affect conditions of membership
- Ensure all documents accessed within the password protected sections of CSC's Online Resource Centre are not shared externally
- Obtain authorisation in writing in advance if you would like to use CSC's logo
- Act in a manner that would not bring CSC or other Network organisations into disrepute.

We want to make sure that our advocacy, campaigns and research have a positive impact on street children's lives. We have outlined below what we need from the CSC Network to make this possible, as well as ways in which we can encourage positive working relationships and collaboration, and spread our message for a wider impact.

- Contributing **evidence based on your work** to submissions being coordinated by CSC to various human rights treaty bodies and reporting mechanisms
- Sharing stories, photos, videos and case studies where there is informed consent from the child or children involved, where they **demonstrate the impact** of your work
- Sharing information about any **research projects** you have carried out or that you think may be of interest to the Network, so that we can start building a better picture of the numbers of street children globally
- Sharing information about the **situation for street children in the country or countries you work in**, and alerting us to any rights violations or significant political changes
- Engagement in **International Day for Street Children** – this can be as little or as much as you have the capacity for, from sharing our materials on social media to arranging your own event on the day
- Participation in the **annual survey** so that the direction of the CSC Network is guided by the organisations that make it up, and so that we have up to date information about your work and key contacts
- Linking to our website and using our logo on your website to **increase the CSC Network's visibility**
- Engagement in our annual **Conference and network meeting**, either in person or remotely
- Voting at our **Annual General Meeting**, in person or through a proxy vote

**When applying to join the CSC Network, organisations must commit to CSC's safeguarding and child protection guidelines outlined below.**

- Protecting children from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation, both face-to-face and online
- Placing the well-being of children at the centre of our work, underpinning the ethos, policies, practices and programmes of our organisation
- Having a child protection policy, practices and programmes that cover both the prevention of, and response to child abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation. These are in line with the values enshrined in international and national standards and principles, namely: the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and its optional protocols; and legislation in the countries in which we operate
- Addressing specific, local context protection risks pertaining to the children we support through our child protection policy, practices and programmes
- Providing sufficient training to enable staff and volunteers to obtain and maintain a clear understanding of their child protection responsibilities
- Reporting all concerns and disclosures about child abuse to our organisation's Child Protection lead person who is responsible for working with their Line Manager to follow appropriate action that prioritises the safety and well-being of the child in accordance with the organisation's child protection policy, national and international legislation
- Supporting those who report suspected/actual child abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation
- Recognising the importance of children's participation in the design and implementation of our child protection policy, practices and programmes, helping our organisation to identify and meet children's needs
- Fostering a collaborative approach to child protection, working with our partner organisations and others to support the development of theirs and our child protection policies, practices and programmes
- On-going monitoring of the effectiveness of our child protection policy, practices and programmes



**When applying to join the CSC Network, organisations must also commit to CSC's safeguarding and protection Code of Conduct outlined below.**

- Prioritise the well-being of all children at all times
- Be a positive role model. Act with integrity, even when no one is looking
- Keep clear boundaries between your professional and personal life, including on social media
- Communicate with children in ways that listen to and empower them. This includes online images and language, which should always empower and protect children
- Permission for using images should always be obtained from children and no images that show full/partial nudity or children sleeping or in other compromising positions should be taken or used
- Ensure your own roles and responsibilities, and those of everyone you are responsible for, are clearly outlined and everyone has the information, training and support to carry them out
- Where possible, do not be alone with a child
- Do not abuse, neglect or harm in any way any child, or act in a way that may be interpreted as such, including corporal punishment

## **CSC's commitment to the network**

- To provide organisations the opportunity to express their views through our annual survey
- To provide a point of contact within CSC who can respond to queries and signpost relevant resources and materials
- Dissemination of materials, news and updates that are shared with CSC with the wider network where relevant
- To continue to improve on our language accessibility
- To take the views of the CSC Network seriously on events, our offer, our work and specific campaigns such as International Day for Street Children
- To be as accessible as possible



# Joining the CSC Network

Registered NGOs, civil society organisations and networks can join, as long as they meet our requirements and agree to uphold the principles of CSC network membership.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

If your organisation is interested in joining the CSC network, we would love to hear from you. You can contact us on [network@streetchildren.org](mailto:network@streetchildren.org) if you have any questions.

Once your organisation decides to apply to become a member, you can do so by filling out the [online application form here](#). If you would prefer to fill out a word document form then get in touch with us, we also have the forms available in Spanish, French and English.

The form asks for operational information about the organisation, key contacts and details of programmes so that we can get a better understanding of what you do.

We also ask for the details of two referees, from individuals or organisations that have worked with you. This needs to be someone who is independent from the organisation applying, and not an employee, Trustee, relative or other direct contact.

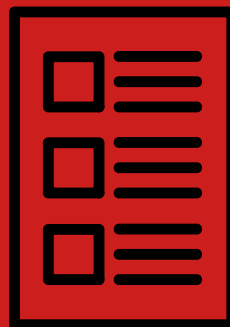
## FEES

We want the network to be open and accessible to all organisations who are carrying out essential work with and for street children globally, from local grassroots organisations to international NGOs. To make this possible we have arranged our fee structure to reflect the diversity of the network, so that where possible larger organisations subsidise the network for smaller NGOs. CSC also makes substantial contributions to running the network for all.

- Organisations with annual income of **less than £500,000** a year: joining the Network is **free**
- Organisations with annual income **above £500,000** are asked to pay **£250 a year**. Please speak to us if this fee prevents you from joining - we do not want the cost to become a barrier to any organisations wishing to join the network



# Governance and our AGM



CSC is governed by UK charity law, and the way in which we are governed is defined in our statutes.

We hold an Annual General Meeting once a year, where all network organisations in good standing may vote to accept our annual accounts and any new Board members. Our Board members are independent Trustees who ensure that CSC as an organisation maintains its strategy, remains in good financial standing and that CSC operates in accordance with our principles.

For organisations who are unable to join us in person, proxy voting forms will be sent out at least 2 weeks before the meeting to allow every organisation in the network to vote.





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