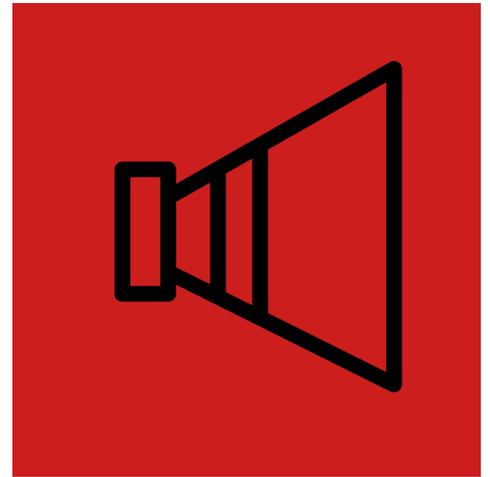
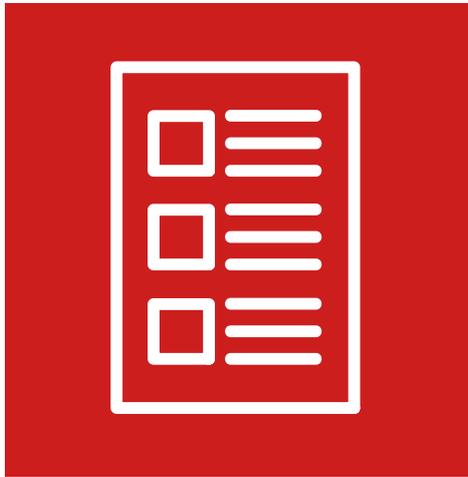
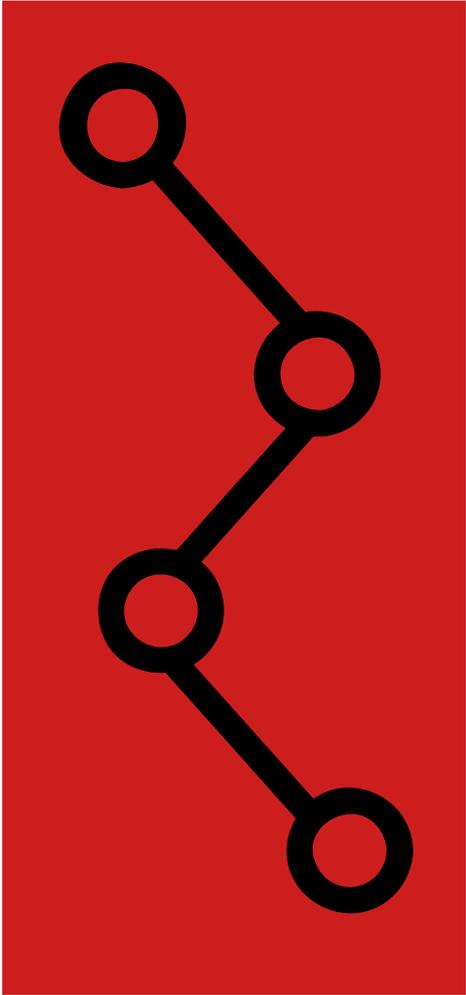


CSC NETWORK GUIDE



**CONSORTIUM FOR
STREET CHILDREN**



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Consortium for Street Children (CSC) is a growing global network of over 130 organisations. We unite to make the voices and views of street children heard on the issues that matter to them. We believe that by acting together, we can advocate for more change than each one of us could by working alone.

CSC started in 1992 as a network for UK organisations. We have now evolved, alongside the development and human rights movement, to recognise that change happens internationally but perhaps more importantly, at the local level. We are now a global network uniting grassroots organisations around the world and international NGOs to change the world for street children. The Consortium for Street Children facilitates the CSC Network to share information and experience between organisations, and to join forces to demand positive changes for street-connected children.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child outlines children's rights that should be protected, promoted and fulfilled by States. However, street children's rights are too often violated.

The CSC Network is a world-wide movement working tirelessly to make sure street children are not overlooked, and are empowered to be heard nationally and internationally. The network now operates in over 135 countries, and we are keen to make sure that we are globally representative by including organisations of all sizes and locations who share our values and aims.

Children in street situations are not a clearly defined group. They have individual lives and circumstances but share a connection to the street; children that rely on the streets to live or work, alone or with family members, who have strong connections to the street and public spaces. This is why we pushed for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to adopt the term "children in street situations", to include a variety of situations that children can find themselves in.

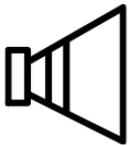
Other terms such as "street-connected children", "street children" and "children living or working on the street" are also used within the sector, but we have found that the term "street children" is more easily understood by the general population and other external audiences, and translates more easily into different languages. At CSC we use these terms interchangeably.

CSC's 5 year strategy

We exist to put an end to the discrimination street-connected children around the world face on a daily basis. We believe we can create a world where every street-connected child lives with dignity, in safety and security, and able to fulfil their potential.

Our purpose is mobilising a global movement to protect and promote street children's rights, and our vision is a world where street children are guaranteed the same rights as every other child.

OUR OBJECTIVES FOR 2019 - 2024



REFOCUS OUR ADVOCACY



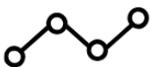
Promote the rights of street children globally and compel governments to meet their obligations to street children



GETTING STREET CHILDREN ON THE AGENDA



Forge alliances that accelerate action for street children to leverage the 'Leave No-One Behind' agenda



DATA AND EVIDENCE



Develop a repository of data and evidence and commission new research on street children to drive & accelerate action



STRENGTHEN AND GROW OUR NETWORK



Secure & grow our Network.
Connect, showcase & celebrate our Network



SHARING THE NETWORK'S EXPERTISE



Gather & consolidate our Network's direct service expertise and disseminate findings to help improve life for street children

The 4 Steps to Equality

Our global advocacy campaign, “The 4 Steps to Equality”, calls on governments to ensure that street children can access all their rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. To achieve this, we want to see the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment No. 21 on Children in Street Situations **implemented in full**.

We have summarised the General Comment into a 4-step plan, so governments around the world can enact their own plans for how they will ensure safety and protection for street-connected children.

EQUALITY FOR STREET CHILDREN STARTS HERE

STEP ONE COMMIT TO EQUALITY

RECOGNISE STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS EVERY OTHER CHILD – AND REFLECT THAT IN LAW AND POLICY.

STEP TWO PROTECT EVERY CHILD

PROTECT STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION AND ENSURE THEY HAVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE WHEN THEY ARE HARMED OR IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW.

STEP THREE PROVIDE ACCESS TO SERVICES

ENABLE STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO THE SAME ESSENTIAL SERVICES AS EVERY OTHER CHILD SO THEY CAN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

STEP FOUR CREATE SPECIALISED SOLUTIONS

DEVELOP AND DELIVER SPECIALISED SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT TUNE INTO THE UNIQUE NEEDS AND CHALLENGES OF LIFE FOR STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN.

[Read more about The 4 Steps to Equality here](#)

Benefits of joining the Network

Advocacy opportunities

We know that many of the organisations in the network are doing outstanding work on a day to day basis directly with street children, but do not have the capacity or resources to carry out high level advocacy work to secure the long-term change that is so badly needed.

Being part of the CSC Network provides the opportunity to be involved in

international advocacy, raising your organisations visibility with key decision makers within the international human rights framework. Our advocacy work is guided by the Advocacy Forum made up of members of the CSC Network and practitioners, to ensure that our work is informed by the network's direct experience.

EXAMPLES OF WAYS IN WHICH WE HAVE SUPPORTED ORGANISATIONS IN OUR NETWORK WITH ADVOCACY WORK INCLUDE:

- Our Advocacy and Action guide, designed to support organisations who want to design and implement advocacy programmes to secure rights for street children in their countries. [You can read the guide in English, French and Spanish here.](#)
- Global consultations with street children which shaped the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment No.21 on Children in Street Situations. [Read the details of the consultations in English, French, Spanish and Swahili here.](#)
- Submission to the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, to highlight street-connected children's specific experiences due to police round ups and institutionalisation. [Read the submission here.](#)
- The Legal Atlas for Street Children, a database of information about laws affecting street children around the world. By making this information available, organisations supporting street children can easily identify which laws are harmful to street children and which new laws are needed so that they can gain access to the same services and opportunities as every other child. [View the Legal Atlas here.](#)
- Our advocacy team regularly monitors new opportunities for engagement with all United Nations human rights mechanisms, to provide a platform for CSC Network organisations to engage in international advocacy. CSC coordinates submissions drawing on the evidence and expertise of the network to highlight issues that street children face, and we can support network organisations to draft submissions on the situation of human rights in their country for the Universal Periodic Review, or 'shadow reports' to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. [Read our submissions here.](#)



Networking opportunities

Every year the CSC Network comes together to discuss challenges, opportunities and developments in the sector during our 2-day annual conference and network meeting, which are free of charge to CSC Network organisations. You will have the opportunity to engage with organisations, practitioners and academics working in the field and share learnings and insights into working with and for street children. At our 2019 conference, a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child shared insights about engaging with the Committee and sharing examples of violations of street children's rights.

We can also put you in touch with other CSC Network organisations in your country or region so that you can collaborate on projects and strengthen your work through partnerships and learning from other NGOs. We have already arranged a number of meetings with CSC Network organisations in-country, including in Nepal, Uganda, Bangladesh and Tanzania,

These meetings are an excellent opportunity to share learning across the network, and to strengthen relationships with other organisations in the region working with and for street-connected children.

Annual conference and in-person network meeting and the opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities, take part in workshops and meet other CSC Network organisations

Country-based working groups to develop targeted national advocacy campaigns

Thematic forums on advocacy, research and campaign planning





Opportunities to learn and collaborate

As part of the CSC Network, you will be invited to join in-person and online training and discussions with NGOs around the world, as well as using our newly launched **e-learning platform** designed to strengthen and support your organisation's advocacy work.

During the annual network meeting we will run sessions and workshops on topics that have been suggested by the network, with previous sessions including safeguarding, documenting human rights abuses, strengthening campaign messaging and child-led participation.

International Day for Street Children campaign

Every April 12th, the CSC Network celebrates International Day for Street Children (IDSC), an international day recognising the strength and resilience of millions of street children around the world. We work with the network to decide on a theme, and create a campaign that will bring about positive change in street children's lives. CSC then produces a range of assets including posters, social media banners

- Our child friendly guide to the UN General Comment on Children in Street Situations is **available in 14 languages**
- Our [resource library](#) is the **largest collection** of street-connected children related research, reports and articles



and animations for the organisations in the network to use locally in their own celebration or event. By campaigning locally, but in coordination with other organisations around the world, we create a global campaign and amplify our message: that street children have the same rights as every other child.



Raising your organisation's visibility

Raise awareness of your work in supporting street-connected children by increasing the visibility of your organisation. We encourage the CSC Network to share best practice, information about projects and opportunities to collaborate through our monthly newsletter, our social media channels, the annual network meeting and virtual meetings.

CSC'S SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



Other benefits include

- Opportunities to apply to partner with CSC on projects
- Participate in regional and theme-specific working groups
- Attend events on advocacy, research and awareness-raising
- Share your resources, materials and research with a wider audience
- Gain access to and upload resources to our Global Resource Library – the only global library within the street-connected child sector
- Receive a monthly newsletter (currently available in English, Spanish and French) to learn about partnership and grant opportunities, the latest news from CSC, and sector developments



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.

Please see the [Principles and terms of being part of the CSC Network here](#) for further information on the terms of joining, our safeguarding commitments and our commitment to CSC Network organisations.

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 if you have any questions.

Once your organisation decides to apply to join, 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 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.

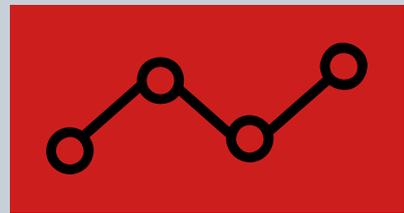
We also ask for the details of two referees, from individuals or organisations that have worked with you. This needs to be someone who is independent from the organisation applying, and not an employee, Trustee, relative or other direct contact.

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. See below for the current fee structure:

- 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

What's it like to be a CSC Network member?



BAHAY TULUYAN, PHILIPPINES

Bahay Tuluyan are a Philippines based organisation providing a variety of programs and services aimed at preventing and responding to abuse and exploitation of children.

CSC has been working with and funding Bahay Tuluyan in the Philippines since 2016, as a partner in our RND funded Keeping Street Connected Children Safe programme. The government in the Philippines was originally reluctant to address the issues facing street children, but as part of this project Bahay Tuluyan have been engaging with the government to support the drafting and adoption of a National Plan of Action for Children in Street Situations. Through this engagement they were able to persuade the government to use CSC's **4 Steps to Equality campaign** as a guide when creating the plan – a huge achievement that acknowledges street children's rights and paves the way for programmes and interventions that will improve their lives.

Our **Child Friendly Guide to the UN General Comment 21** formed the basis of sessions with children where they were encouraged to learn about and engage with what their rights are. 47 street connected children and young people came together for 3 days to express their challenges, ideas and recommendations for improving the situation for street children through art, music and drama.



CSC has provided ongoing support with this work, through resources such as our **Advocacy and Action Guide**, Child Friendly Guide to the UN General Comment 21 translated into Tagalog and materials for International Day for Street Children. Bahay Tuluyan have also participated in our Training the Trainers workshop, a session that provided the skills and knowledge that can be passed onto others to run their own advocacy workshops in-country and further spread our reach.



"Joining the CSC Network has been so beneficial, particularly accessing resources that explain the UN legal advice. Having CSC's child friendly guide to explain rights to street children is incredibly helpful - the children love it"

MOBILE SCHOOL, BELGIUM

Mobile School focuses on empowering street youth by boosting their self-esteem through non-formal education.

CSC has been collaborating with Mobile School over a number of years. By sharing their innovative educational resources with the CSC Network, Mobile School has had the opportunity to partner with grass roots organisations, as well as provide a wider network of NGOs and civil society organisations that can benefit from their resources.

Over the last two years, Mobile School have presented their work at CSC's annual conference and network meeting, providing excellent exposure and the opportunity for organisations within and outside of the network to learn more about their educational platform.

EDUCATION FOR PURPOSE INITIATIVE, NIGERIA

Education for Purpose Initiative joined the CSC Network in 2019 as a newly formed organisation in Nigeria. They are a volunteer-led organisation providing street-based education to children so that they can be reintegrated into the formal education system. After joining the Network their founder Noelle attended a CSC training designed to give people the skills to carry out training sessions in their own country and language, to other organisations who want to develop or strengthen their advocacy work.

Since taking part in the training, Noelle has conducted her own training with her organisation in Nigeria, and used it as an opportunity to engage other organisations working with street children. The next steps are for CSC to support Noelle in identifying and reaching out to other organisations in Nigeria to form a working group, facilitated and supported by CSC.

LOCAL EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (LEEDO), BANGLADESH

LEEDO is a local Bangladeshi organisation, providing street-based education, transitional and permanent shelter and support.

In October 2019, CSC presented to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on the barriers to learning for street children and innovations in education that have been developed by CSC Network Members.

As part of this presentation we showed a video of street children speaking about their experiences and the support that they have had from organisations including LEEDO. This was a fantastic opportunity to get street children onto the Human Rights Council's agenda for the first time ever, and to showcase the excellent work being done by small local organisations like LEEDO.

Watch the video that was presented to the Human Rights Council by clicking on the image below.



Where our Network operates; a global footprint





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