

Terms of Reference - Child Rights Working Group (CRWG)

Introduction

Viet Nam is the first country in Asia to ratify the Convention on the Rights. The Government has also shown great concern by establishing CPCC/CPFC and promulgating the Law on Protection, Care and Education. During the last 15 years, support for implementation of the convention has developed rapidly and many achievements have been made in this area. In Viet Nam, international assistance has made a significant contribution to the development of support for implementation of the rights of the child. Nevertheless, there is an increasing recognition of the need for improved communication and coordination between all actors involved. It is therefore proposed to establish a regular forum to exchange information on this topic. The aim is to improve coordination between those working to support the Viet Nam Government in fulfilling its commitment to upholding the rights of the child

Goal

The overall purpose of the CRWG is to increase communication and coordination and to share learning between all actors working to support the Vietnamese government to effectively manage and respond to issues related to rights of the child.

Specific objectives

- To share practical experiences, successes and lessons learned for the mutual benefit of all organizations involved.
- To facilitate networking among child focused organizations and associations, and serve as a focal point for consultation, policy dialogue and other common.
- To raise the awareness of child focused organizations and associations on their own responsibility with regard to the concept of "keeping children safe"/"child friendly organization".
- To organize joint activities related to the rights of the child.
- To collaborate in view of the development of relevant government policies and legal frameworks as well as in support of the implementation of government programmes, with the aim to support the implementation of the CRC.

Main activities

- Regular meetings on specific topics; presentations, and critical discussions;
- Joint projects/studies/activities/positioning on issues related to the rights of the child, like child physical and emotional punishment.
- Formal and informal information sharing through email

Principle

- Attendance at the meeting is open to representatives and relevant staff of all actors working in the area of the rights of the child. This could be foreign NGOs, international and bilateral donor agencies, as well as representatives of Vietnamese government institutions and local associations.
- In order to effectively improve ongoing and continuous communication, it is requested that organizations attempt to send the same representative to subsequent meetings.
- The meetings will be conducted on a bi-monthly basis, in an open, transparent and participative manner. A meeting will be held on the 3rd Friday of odd numbered months.

Working arrangements

The chair will be elected by the CRWG on an annual basis. The chair is responsible for drafting the agenda; hosting and facilitating meetings; and taking and distributing meeting minutes. The chair is also in charge of various long-term administrative duties, including updating the mailing list; serving as a repository for information, materials, and documents; and other similar responsibilities. Members of the CRWG will suggest and select particular topics for discussion prior to the meetings, so that organizations may prepare to share information with optimal depth and effectiveness.