

GLOBAL WEEK
of Faith in Action
for Children



Seen But Not Heard:

A Multi-religious Intergenerational Dialogue on Child Participation

Tuesday November 17, 2020

JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE on
FAITH & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

 **ARIGATOU**
INTERNATIONAL
All for Children



Queen Margaret University
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENT

World Vision 

Joint Learning Initiative Ending violence against Children (EVAC) Hub



Scoping study highlighted child participation as one of the key mechanisms for ending violence

- The first webinar, **Multi-Religious Perspectives on Child Participation**, brought together academics and practitioners from Baha'i, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim traditions to share their own faith teachings and traditions on meaningful child participation - Sept 30th 2020
- The second webinar: **Practical Examples of Child Participation** brought together a panel of practitioners from Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Nigeria and Kenya to share examples of effective child participation in their local faith community contexts. The webinar also hosted a number of interactive breakout sessions, inviting all participants to share their own experiences of child participation, and reflect on the challenges and obstacles involved in this work.
- Today's webinar: **Multi- religious Intergenerational Dialogue on Child Participation** in the context of COVID: Children from Baha'i Community, Chile, children from Muslim Community, Pakistan, children from various Faith Communities, South Africa

Webinar 1: Multi-Religious Perspectives on Child Participation



- Placing children at the centre of what we do in our faith practices and communities
- Child empowerment and recognising children's agency & contributions has the potential to change adult mindsets
- Sensitising faith leaders and communities – strong link between child participation and protection
- Participation as a means of protection: 1) involving children in decisions to challenges hierarchies and patriarchy 2) empowering children to speak and to listen when they speak 3) children as agents of change

Webinar 2:

Practical examples of child participation



- Involving children in community and family decisions (e.g. Sri Lanka & Pakistan)
- Equip children to break silence on their own abuse (e.g. Nigeria)
- Equipping children as agents of change (e.g. Sri Lanka)
- Building child-friendly spaces in religious programmes
- Involving children in spiritual practices (e.g. Nepal)
- Promote child voices and intergenerational spaces (e.g. Pakistan)

Challenges to intergenerational dialogue:



- Are we open to changing our mindsets and to placing children at the centre of our faith communities?
- Do we want change in our established hierarchies and order in our faith communities?
- Do we know how have mutually respectful dialogues with children?
- Is it safe for children to come forward and speak about their problems?
- How has COVID changed children's access to social and spiritual resources?
- Is intergenerational dialogue a first step to empowering children, ending violence and protecting them? And is it enough?

Online Exhibition



We invite you to visit the Virtual Exhibition – Faith in Action for Children, with contributions from more than 200 children and adults from around the world, and to share your recommendations to address the negative impacts of COVID-19 in the lives of children.

<https://arigatouinternational.faithinactionexhibition.org>

A screenshot of a digital form titled "Share your recommendations and takeaways". The form is presented as a document with a spiral binding on the left. It contains several input fields: "Your Name", "Your Country", and "Your Age" (with a dropdown arrow). Below these is a larger text area labeled "Write your recommendations here:". At the bottom right of the form is a yellow "SUBMIT" button with a right-pointing arrow.