



GlobalChild

www.globalchildnetwork.com

Dear supporters, collaborators, and friends of GlobalChild,

As GlobalChild enters its second year, we are excited to share some highlights of this busy phase of the project as we develop GlobalChild: A comprehensive child rights monitoring platform.

Our first year was dedicated to strengthening the team. We are pleased to announce our Reference Group, and, also, to have established the international team of child rights experts who will develop the indicators that will provide the foundation of the GlobalChild tool. The resultant work of this Indicators Development Team (IDT) will be reviewed by the larger GlobalChild team, matching the indicators with the team members' expertise.

We have also initiated some exciting new collaborative relationships that will support us in incorporating children's opinions into the process of developing the indicators, as well as developing a tool that is useful to stakeholders and informed by the international child-serving community.

November 20 marks [Universal Children's Day](#), established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1954 to raise awareness about children's welfare. It also marks the anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (adopted in 1959) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (adopted in 1989). In 2012, the [Early Childhood Rights Indicator](#) (ECRI) platform was also launched on November 20 to coincide with Universal Children's Day.

Universal Children's Day is celebrated every year. The day offers an opportunity to

appreciate and promote children's rights and wellbeing, and to hear the voices of children and youth. To find out more about how Universal Children's Day is being celebrated around the world on Monday, November 20, 2017, please visit UNICEF's [website](#).

Please stay tuned for our next newsletter in Spring 2018, as we progress towards developing the foundation of the GlobalChild platform. You can also keep in touch with us through our [website](#) and follow us on Twitter @GlobalChild_Can.

Sincerely,

**Ziba Vaghri and the GlobalChild team at the Secretariat
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada**



New funding: Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) Reach Award

We are honoured to have the support of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) once again toward GlobalChild's efforts to improve accountability to

children. Recipient of a [MSFHR Scholar Award in 2014](#), Dr. Vaghri is grateful for MSFHR's continued support through the recently announced [Reach Award](#) granted to GlobalChild and its two important partners: the [Island Health Authority \(IHA\)](#) and the [Office of the Representative for Children and Youth of British Columbia \(RCYBC\)](#). This funding will facilitate a child rights symposium to disseminate the findings of the pilot of the [Early Childhood Rights Indicators \(ECRI\)](#) tool (also known as the Indicators of General Comment 7) in British Columbia (BC) that took place from 2015 to 2017. The symposium will take place in Victoria, BC, in Fall 2018, in collaboration with IHA and RCYBC. More details to follow.

CRAN 2018 side event: GlobalChild update meeting

Many GlobalChild team members and collaborators will gather in Ottawa over February 2-3, 2018, for the annual Child Rights Academic Network (CRAN) 2018 conference, hosted by the Landon Pearson Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights.

An *in camera* meeting will take place on February 2, 2018, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. This meeting will provide an opportunity to bring the attending members of the GlobalChild team together to share the latest project developments, future plans and ideas, and will enable discussion as the project moves through its second year.

New partnerships

Centre for Children's Rights, Queen's University, Belfast

Dr. Laura Lundy, Director of the cross-university [Centre for Children's Rights](#) at Queen's University Belfast, Ireland, and her team are global leaders in the field of rights-based participatory research with children. We are currently in conversation with respect to engaging children in a consultation process to inform the development of the GlobalChild



tool. As children are the primary stakeholders of GlobalChild and are often, conspicuously,

left out of conversations about their rights, children's participation was identified as a key priority at the recent Steering Committee meeting. We look forward to continuing dialogue with Dr. Lundy's team as we refine our approach to include children's views within the GlobalChild tool.

End Violence Against Children - The Global Partnership

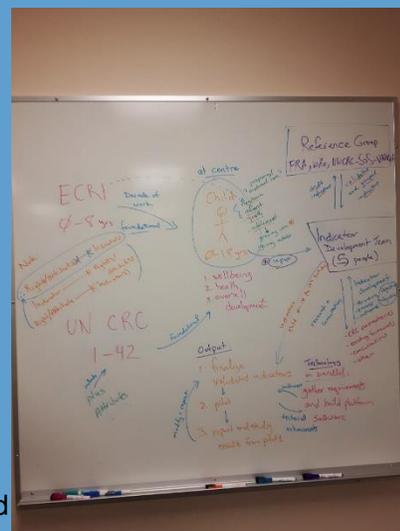
The End Violence Against Children - The Global Partnership (GPEV) is an international network to "build political will, accelerate action, and strengthen collaboration" to make the world a safer place for children. We have drafted a concept note document entitled "GlobalChild: A rights-based approach to promoting child development" that outlines the position and strategy of GlobalChild in preventing violence against children. We have shared the concept note with the Data, Evidence & Solutions department of the GPEV to explore the points of convergence.

Roundtable meeting: Refining the methodology for the GlobalChild indicators framework

On May 24, 2017, experts from various UN agencies, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, and SOS Children's Villages International came together for a Roundtable meeting held at Palais Wilson in Geneva, Switzerland, to review and discuss the proposed methodology for developing indicators for the GlobalChild tool.

Based on multiple sources, including existing frameworks and tools, this methodology will guide the development of indicators for each article and their attributes as articulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Roundtable participants discussed and agreed upon a process that will unfold in two-stages: 1) identification of the attributes of each right/article; and 2) building indicators, following the generic pattern recommended by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of structural, process, and outcome indicators. A consultation with children, an internal review, and an external review will accompany



both stages.

This Roundtable meeting also identified the necessity for a Reference Group that could review and comment on the working team's drafts as they develop the indicators of GlobalChild. Inclusion of children's views, consistent communication within and across the project's working groups, and annual meetings with the newly established Reference Group were highlighted as key considerations for developing the indicators in the first two years. With this established methodology now in place, the team also recognized that flexibility is essential. The methodology will be refined as the project moves forward.

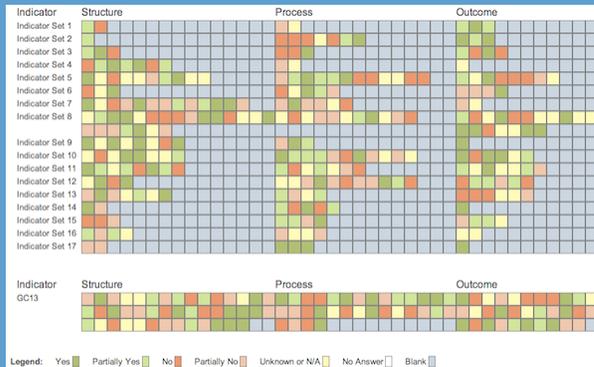
Inaugural Steering Committee meeting

The inaugural meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) took place on July 6, 2017, in Geneva, Switzerland, hosted by the Defence for Children International. The SC reviewed and approved the methodology for developing the indicators. Reflecting the discussion of the Roundtable meeting, it was unanimously decided that a key and non-negotiable component of this methodology would include consulting with children as key stakeholders of the GlobalChild project.



The SC will meet annually in-person to guide the development of the project, to advise, to provide strategic oversight, and to serve as primary advocates for all aspects of the project. It was also decided that the SC will hold virtual meetings between the annual in-person meetings. The next in-person meeting is tentatively planned to take place on **June 24, 2018**, in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, as a side event to the 7th Edition of the Université of Moncton [International Summer Course on the Rights of the Child](#) to be held June 25-29, 2018.

Indicators Development Team (IDT) established



The building of the indicators framework that will make up the GlobalChild tool is underway. We are pleased to announce that we have invited Gerison Lansdown, an internationally renowned child rights expert from the United Kingdom to join us as Scientific Coordinator. We are also thrilled to announce that Dr. Roberta Ruggiero, Professor of Child Rights at the International Child Rights Institute in Sion, Switzerland, will join the [Indicators Development Team \(IDT\)](#).

The IDT is composed of five individuals. In addition to the two above-mentioned individuals are three members of the GlobalChild team: Adem Arkadas, Ziba Vaghri, and Christian Whalen. They have solid expertise in developing indicators for monitoring children's rights through their work on the Indicators of General Comment 7 (GC7) and the Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIIA) tools, respectively. The first stage of work for the indicators framework-identifying the attributes of the substantive articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child Articles-began in September 2017. Please visit our [website](#) for more information on the IDT.

GlobalChild Reference Group members announced

To ensure the perspectives of child rights leaders are represented and reflected throughout the development of the GlobalChild tool and to enhance the quality and usability of the tool by child-serving agencies, a high-level advisory team has been established to review and provide input into the work of the Indicators Development Team (IDT). The GlobalChild Reference Group is a high-level team comprised of representatives of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, SOS Children's Villages International, Child Rights Connect, World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). These are all institutions with expertise in various areas of children's rights that will advise the working team over the course of the project. Additionally, Dr. Lothar Krappmann, a GlobalChild team member and a core

member of the GC7 Indicators team, will join the Reference Group in his personal capacity. To find out more about our Reference Group members, please visit our [website](#).

GlobalChild Trainees

The GlobalChild Program is starting its trainee program, and accepts applications from Canadian and international graduate students from diverse fields of study to take on a thesis or practicum related to various aspects of this vast international project. We are pleased to have Robin Humble with us as



the first trainee of the program. Robin is completing an 8-month practicum project in partial fulfillment of her Master of Public Health (MPH) at the University of Victoria. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more about these opportunities.

Upcoming events and presentations

- *December 6, 2017: Dr. Vaghri presents "GlobalChild: A rights-based approach to child health and development in Canada and beyond" as a [Research Seminar](#) at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.*
- *January 11, 2018: "GlobalChild: A rights-based approach to enhancing child health and development in Canada and beyond," by Dr. Ziba Vaghri, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.*
- *February 2, 2018: side event in camera GlobalChild meeting, CRAN Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.*
- *February 9, 2018: invited Keynote presentation at the International Conference of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child, by Dr. Ziba Vaghri, in Brussels, Belgium.*

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The GlobalChild team is a multi-agency alliance, led by the Secretariat from the University of Victoria, Canada, and generously funded by provincial and federal funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research.

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