***\*\*Please note, this downloadable, printable version of the questionnaire has been created to help children and young people prepare their responses offline.***

***Once you have prepared your answers, they should not be sent via email but should be entered into the questionnaire at this link:*** [***https://changemakersforchildren.community/UNCRC-DGD-survey***](https://changemakersforchildren.community/UNCRC-DGD-survey)

***Any hard copies should then be destroyed, in line with the Facilitator’s Guide (***[***https://changemakersforchildren.community/basic-page/global-consultation-facilitators-guide***](https://changemakersforchildren.community/basic-page/global-consultation-facilitators-guide)***).***

***If you have any difficulties completing the online form, particularly if these are linked to accessibility, please contact*** [***Emmanuel.sherwin@hopeandhomes.org***](mailto:Emmanuel.sherwin@hopeandhomes.org) ***or*** [***lopa.bhattacharjee@familyforeverychild.org***](mailto:lopa.bhattacharjee@familyforeverychild.org)***.\*\****

**Day of General Discussion on Children’s Rights and Alternative Care**

**Questionnaire**

**VERSION FOR 11-25 YEAR OLDS**

***Introduction***

*Welcome! Before we get started, we want to tell you a little bit about the questionnaire, and to make sure you are happy to take part. Questionnaires must be completed by 30 May 2021.*

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| *For adults supporting children and young people to complete the questionnaire, please see the accompanying Facilitator’s Overview for more information.* |

*This questionnaire is to gather children and young people’s views and ideas on their rights, and their experiences of alternative care. It was created by researchers from International Institute of Child Rights and Development (IICRD) - a children’s rights organisation - along with children and young people. The findings will be written into a report, and shared with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child for their* ***Day of General Discussion****, taking place in September 2021.*

*You do not have to take part. No one will be angry or upset with you if you don’t want to take part. If you do take part and there is a question you do not want to answer, please simply do not answer. The questionnaire will take between 20 and 40 minutes to fill out.*

*Information gathered in the questionnaire will be collected anonymously meaning no names or personal information will be included. Changemakers for Children, which hosts this survey and is operated by Family for Every Child [data controllers], uses Open Social software. Data will be stored on Amazon Web Services in the European Union. Data is encrypted in rest and with SSL [Secure Socket Layer]. Data is backed up on a different location, and encrypted. Open Social has (potential) access to data if issues occur, alongside representatives from Family for Every Child who manage the Changemakers platform. Data you provide will be shared with the International Institute for Child Rights and Development for the purposes of writing the report that will be shared with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.*

*If you have any questions about the questionnaire, please contact: Emmanuel.sherwin@hopeandhomes.org or lopa.bhattacharjee@familyforeverychild.org*

*If you are worried or need support in any way, you can find a child helpline in your country here: https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/child-helplines/child-helpline-network/*

**Consent Statement[[1]](#footnote-1)**

*Consent is when participants are given information about the research, and opportunities to ask questions. They are told that they can withdraw at any point in time.*

*Please check the box if you agree with the following statement:*

* *I agree with taking part in this questionnaire and I understand what it is about and how it will be used. I know I do not have to take part in the questionnaire and I can stop at any time.*
* *I have asked my parent, legal guardian, or carer if they consent for me to take part in this questionnaire and they have agreed [Required for 5-18-year olds]*

**Definitions**

*Rights are things that every child, young person or adult should be able to have, enjoy, or do. Children (that's anyone under 18) have additional rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to recognise the extra protection and empowerment they need to experience their rights equally.*

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| **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**: Children’s human rights are enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has been around for 30 years, and is the most signed international treaty in the world. The Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child’s life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights. Every child has rights, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status. Read about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child [here](https://weshare.unicef.org/CS.aspx?VP3=SearchResult&STID=2AMZIFJJXAUY). |

*The CRC has been around for 30 years, and is the most signed international treaty in the world. We will use the information you share with us in a report for the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child’s Day of General Discussion (~~DGD)~~ on Children in Alternative Care.*

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| **United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child’s Day of General Discussion ~~(DGD)~~ on Children in Alternative Care:**  The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child is a group of 18 experts that check if governments around the world are making sure children and young people experience their human rights. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child holds Days of General Discussion to gain a deeper understanding of what the CRC means for children and their rights, focusing on specific articles or topics. In September 2021, the Committee DGD will hold the next DGD about ‘children in alternative care’.  **Alternative care** is when children and young people do not live with their parents and are in the care of relatives or other adults who are not their family members.  Children, young people and experts from all over the world are invited to share their experience of alternative care or the child protection system with the Committee. This way we can improve governments’ support for every child and young person to have the loving care and protection that they need.  You are welcome to share your ideas on what works well (or does not) to help children and young people have positive experiences of alternative care or live well with their parents so they do not need alternative care. |

**Part 1: About You**

*Please answer the following multiple choice questions to let us know a bit about you. Remember, your name and contact details will not be collected, so whatever you share is anonymous.*

1. How old are you? *Please choose one answer.* 
   1. 5-10
   2. 11-14
   3. 15-17
   4. 18-25
2. What is your gender? *Please choose one answer.* 
   1. Boy
   2. Girl
   3. Prefer not to say
   4. Prefer to use my own term (please write your answer)
3. Which country do you live in?
4. Which of the following care situations have you ever experienced? (Please choose all that apply to you)
   1. Living with a relative that is not your parent (for example, grandparents, aunts, siblings, someone from your community)
   2. Foster care (temporary or permanent care in a home setting that is not the child’s family or relative)
   3. Residential care (temporary or permanent living situation in a group or institutional setting)
   4. Living in an independent home with regular supervision by an adult
   5. Receiving support to live with your parents
   6. Prefer to use my own words (please write your answer)

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| **Alternative care** is when children and young people do not live with their parents and are in the care of relatives or other adults who are not their family members. |

1. Do you consider yourself to have a disability? If so, can you please let us know more about it?
   1. Blind person or person with low vision
   2. Deaf person or hard of hearing person
   3. Person with deafblindness
   4. Person with intellectual disabilities
   5. Person with psychosocial (mental health) disabilities
   6. Person with physical disabilities
   7. I do not feel like saying
   8. Other (please write your answer)

**Part 2: Children and Young People’s Experiences of Alternative Care in your Community**

*Please answer the questions below based on your own experiences and/or your knowledge of the experiences of children and young people in care in your community. Your community might be your city, village, or town.*

*Some of the questions include some supporting information, in grey boxes.*

**Question 6**

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| **Article 6 of the CRC**. Every child has the right to be alive. Governments must make sure children survive and develop in the best possible way. |

1. **All children have the right to grow up and develop in the best way possible. How can children be cared for well by adults?**

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**Question 7**

1. **The global COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on children and young people and families around the world. How do you think that COVID-19 has impacted families, and how has it affected children and young people in alternative care?**

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**Question 8**

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| **Alternative care** is when children and young people do not live with their parents and are in the care of relatives or other adults who are not their family members. |

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| **Article 7 of the CRC:** Children must be registered when they are born and given a name which is officially recognized by the government. Children must have a nationality (belong to a country). Whenever possible, children should know their parents and be looked after by them. |

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| **Article 9 of the CRC**. Children should not be separated from their parents unless they are not being properly looked after – for example, if a parent hurts or does not take care of a child. Children whose parents don’t live together should stay in contact with both parents unless this might harm the child. |

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| **Article 20 of the CRC:** Every child who cannot be looked after by their own family has the right to be looked after properly by people who respect the child’s religion, culture, language and other aspects of their life. |

1. **What kind of support needs to be provided to keep families together, so all children can grow up in their families and do not need to go into alternative care?**

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**Question 9**

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| **Article 2 of the CRC**. All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason. |

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| Some children may face greater challenges to stay with their families, for example, children with disabilities, migrant children, children experiencing war or natural disaster, children who identify as LGBTQ2S+, as ethnic minorities or as Indigenous. |

1. **Do you have knowledge or experience of any of these or other situations that can make it harder for children and their families to stay together? If you do, In your experience, what services and support should be given to them so that they can stay together?**

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**Question 10**

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| **Alternative care** is when children and young people do not live with their parents and are in the care of relatives or other adults who are not their family members. |

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| **Article 2 of the CRC**. All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason. |

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| Some children may face greater challenges to enjoy their rights while in alternative care, for example, children with disabilities, migrant children, children experiencing war or natural disaster, children who identify as LGBTQ2S+, as ethnic minorities or as Indigenous. |

1. **Do you have knowledge or experience of situations like this? If you do,what services and support should be given to children and young people so that they can enjoy equal rights while in alternative care?**

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**Question 11**

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| **Alternative care** is when children and young people do not live with their parents and are in the care of relatives or other adults who are not their family members. |

1. **What does good alternative care look like? What can adults do to make sure children are cared for well in alternative care?**

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**Question 12**

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| **Alternative care** is when children and young people do not live with their parents and are in the care of relatives or other adults who are not their family members. |

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| **Article 19 of the CRC:** Governments must protect children from violence, abuse and being neglected by anyone who looks after them. |

1. **Children and young people should feel safe when they are in alternative care. What can adults do to make sure children and young people are safe from harm in alternative care?**

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**Question 13**

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| **Alternative care** is when children and young people do not live with their parents and are in the care of relatives or other adults who are not their family members. |

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| **Article 12 of the CRC**: Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously. |

1. **Children and young people in alternative care should be supported by adults who listen to them, take them seriously in decisions about their alternative care placement and on all matters about their day-to-day life. If you could give adults who are supporting children and young people in alternative care any advice, what would you like to tell them?**

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**Question 14**

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| **Alternative care** is when children and young people do not live with their parents and are in the care of relatives or other adults who are not their family members. |

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| **Article 8 of the CRC:** Children have the right to their own identity – an official record of who they are which includes their name, nationality and family relations. No one should take this away from them, but if this happens, governments must help children to quickly get their identity back. |

1. **How can adults help children and young people to know or find out about where they came from, their culture, language, or other parts of their identity, especially if they live in alternative care?**

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**Question 15**

1. **Children and young people often need to change their alternative care placement. What kind of support do children and young people need when they are changing care placements?**

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**Question 16**

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| **Leaving alternative care:** Children and young people leave alternative care at different ages, and for different reasons. Some go back to their families, others go on to supervised independent living arrangements, and others no longer can count on support from the government when they reach a certain age. |

1. **Eventually children and young people grow up and leave alternative care. What kind of support do children and young people need when they are leaving alternative care? Please type your answer here.**

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Thank you for participating in this questionnaire. If you have more that you would like to share with the DGD on Children in Alternative Care, please check out the following information from the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child:

*Children and adults are encouraged to send written submissions to the Committee at crc@ohchr.org. The submissions will be posted on the 2021 DGD webpage.*

*Children can also send other forms of submissions, such as video and audio recordings. Written contributions can be submitted in English, French and Spanish, the three working languages of the Committee, in electronic format exclusively. The word limit is* ***2500 words****. Kindly note that the* ***deadline for all submissions*** *is* ***14th June 2021****.*

1. ***Please note:*** *This research has been approved by the Open University Human Research Ethics Committee.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)