



BEING HEARD: ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE AT SVRI FORUM TOOLKIT



CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
INTRODUCTION: THE BEING HEARD PROJECT	4
Who is the toolkit for?	4
What is the purpose of this toolkit?	4
What are the minimum standards?	4
How were the standards developed?	5
Principles for meaningful and ethical engagement	6
MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT SVRI FORUM	7
1 Young people have equal opportunity to attend and participate in conferences	7
2 Young people's engagement is positive and ethical	9
3 Recognise the diversity of young people	11
4 Ensure the protection and well-being of young people	13
5 Ensure accountability to young people	15
6 Facilitate inter-generational openness and ensure that the conference is youth-friendly	17
7 Staff have effective skills, knowledge and capacity for working with youth	19
COMMUNICATION TOOLS: GIVING VOICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR EXPERIENCES AT SVRI FORUM	21
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	23



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INTRODUCTION: THE BEING HEARD PROJECT

Every two years, the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) hosts the leading global event in the world on sexual and intimate partner violence – the SVRI Forum.² The SVRI has noted an increase in the number of presentations on sexual violence in childhood since the Forum began in 2009. This increase is reflected in the number of initiatives underway globally looking at the connections between violence in childhood and later victimisation and perpetration.³

Whilst SVRI Forums and global programmes are helping to promote joint programming between the violence against children and violence against women fields, child and youth participation in research on sensitive topics remains a challenging issue for many academic researchers. Research presented at the SVRI Forum which includes young people beyond their role as research subjects is also limited, as is the number of young people aged 18-24 years old participating.

Thanks to a generous contribution by Oak Foundation, the SVRI, in partnership with the International Centre, University of Bedfordshire, launched the Being Heard Project.⁴ A key component of this project was for SVRI to bring young people to the Forum and to develop a toolkit to guide the meaningful and ethical engagement of young people at SVRI Forums. The youth participants were aged 18-24-years old.

Who is the toolkit for?

This toolkit is primarily for use by the SVRI but also can be used by other organisations seeking to ensure meaningful and ethical inclusion of the voices of young people at international research forums and consultations on sexual violence or on topics of a similar focus. These may include conference and event organisers, researchers, academics, donors, government and non-governmental organisations.

What is the purpose of this toolkit?

The toolkit serves several functions. It aims to provide SVRI with a set of tools to help them to engage young people in SVRI Forums, including:

- A resource for SVRI and others working in the field wanting to ensure meaningful and ethical engagement of young people at conferences or events.
- A set of principles to guide youth engagement at SVRI Forums.
- A set of minimum standards for engaging young people at SVRI Forums against which SVRI can assess our practice – before, during and after the event.
- A safeguarding tool for minimising harm when engaging young people and others at SVRI Forums.



What are the minimum standards?

The minimum standards describe a set of minimum requirements needed to ensure young people's meaningful and ethical participation at SVRI Forums. Young people are defined as those aged 18-24 years old. This age range was chosen because it represents transition from adolescence into adulthood and events experienced during this phase are considered by developmental experts as "the most significant, key marker events that shape their lives".⁵ Furthermore, this age-range is not well represented in the literature (more detail provided below). The standards do not provide a detailed list of activities but rather a minimum set of expectations for SVRI and SVRI Forum staff and participants when planning for and holding an SVRI Forum.

² www.svri.org/svri-forum

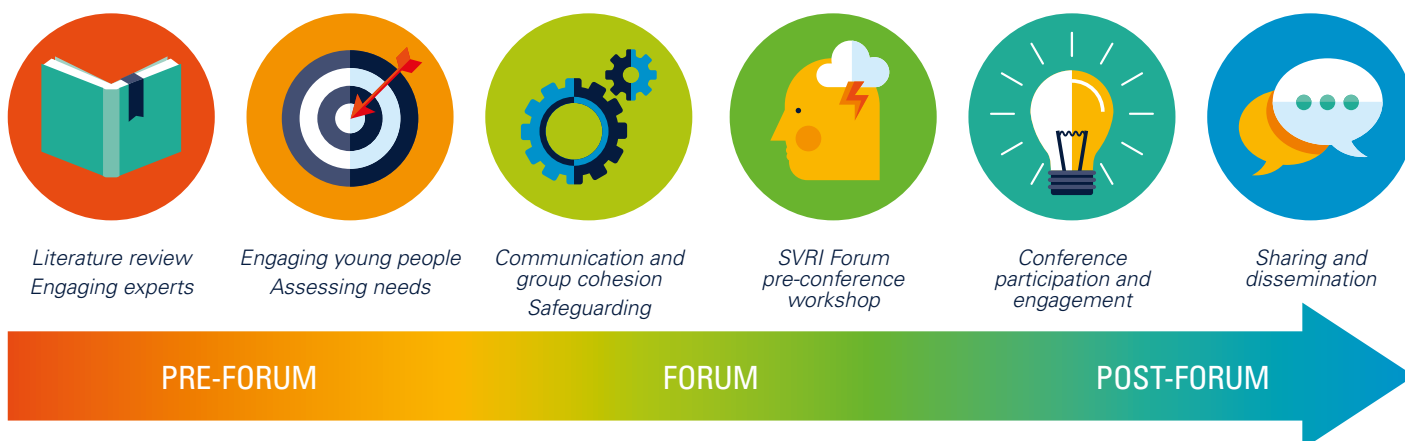
³ www.svri.org/blog/opportunities-prevention-addressing-intersections-vaw-vac; www.svri.org/blog/pathways-between-childhood-trauma-intimate-partner-violence-and-harsh-parenting-findings-un

⁴ www.svri.org/what-we-do/capacity-development/projects/being-heard

⁵ See: *Debating Emerging Adulthood: Stage or Process?* By Jeffrey Jensen Arnett Ph.D., Marion Kloep Ph.D., Leo B. Hendry Ph.D., Jennifer L. Tanner Ph.D. Oxford University Press, 2011.

How were the standards developed?

Multiple participatory approaches were used at different stages of the project. The steps taken to develop this toolkit are outlined below. The process is also discussed in more detail under each of the standards.



■ PRE-FORUM:

- **Literature review and engaging key-stakeholders:** A rapid review of the literature was undertaken and resources compiled. Most of the literature and guidance documents found focused on engaging children at international conferences or in research processes.⁶ This project seeks to address this gap in the literature by focusing on older youth aged 18-24 years old. Experts were also engaged through the creation of a project advisory group and were approached for materials and resources. The literature and expert guidance informed the development of the first draft and subsequent drafts of the minimum standards.
- **Engaging young people:** Ten young people from five countries, along with a facilitator from each country, were selected to participate both in SVRI Forum 2017 and to inform the development of the minimum standards.⁷ An open call for proposals⁸ was sent out via SVRI and partner networks, followed by targeted invitations to regional networks and partners. A selection team involving young people shortlisted candidates using clear selection criteria. Skype interviews with each shortlisted team were held to choose the successful candidates. The 10 youth researchers and their facilitators⁹ selected to participate in SVRI Forum 2017 were invited to comment on a draft set of minimum standards. A draft was also shared more broadly with other young researcher communities to see what they thought of the concepts and the materials.
- **Communication and group cohesion:** Team meetings and individual meetings with country teams via Skype were held to discuss the Forum, the expectations from all stakeholders, plans for the pre-conference workshop

and development of the minimum standards. Feedback was also sought from the young people via an online survey on their experience with research and participatory methods and what should be included in the standards. An active WhatsApp group was created, and the young people were linked up with other global networks on youth engagement and research on sexual violence. These activities were complemented by an email listserv and the project webpage. Teams were encouraged to blog on their experiences building up to the event.

- **Safeguarding:** A risk assessment and safety plan were prepared and safeguarding procedures and a welcome pack were shared with all participants. A videographer was also hired to document the experience. Counsellors were identified to provide mental health support, for example for vicarious trauma, as needed.

■ FORUM:

- **Pre-Conference Workshop:** a full-day workshop was held for the youth participants. The workshop programme was developed by the young people and their facilitators and included information on the conference, how to get the most out of an international event, sharing of participatory research methods and discussion on the minimum standards.
- **Conference participation and engagement:** the young people attended conference sessions, engaged with researchers via a conference exhibition stand (critiquing booth), participated in a graffiti art workshop where they translated the minimum standards into graffiti art, and shared their experiences of the Forum via performances at the closing plenary.

■ POST-FORUM:

- **Sharing and dissemination:** the young people continue to interact via the WhatsApp group and email, and share their experiences via blogs, newsletters and presentations. Their feedback on the minimum standards and experiences of the conference was also sought through a post-conference debriefing session and via WhatsApp and email.

⁶ See for example Inter-Agency Working Group on Children's Participation, 2007; International Save the Children Alliance, 2005.

⁷ The facilitators were representatives of local NGO's from the participants' countries and they also acted as interpreters for the youth during the conference. More detail on the youth facilitators is provided in the main body of the toolkit.

⁸ www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2017-03-15/Being%20Heard%20Call%20for%20Applications%20FINAL.pdf

⁹ www.svri.org/Being-heard/call-for-applications-young-researcher%E2%80%99s-participation-svri-forum-2017

Principles for meaningful and ethical engagement

Youth engagement and participation aim to give young people opportunities to share their ideas and opinions on research that has the potential to affect their lives and the lives of other young people.

The following principles inform all youth engagement activities and projects at SVRI Forum:

- **Be rights based:** Young people have the right to participate in activities that directly affect them. SVRI Forum organisers should endeavour where possible to create opportunities for researchers and young people to share and discuss ways in which research can be strengthened by engaging young people in research activities.
- **Be trauma-informed:** Given the issues that SVRI addresses, it is critical to acknowledge the trauma that some of the young people have experienced. Youth engagement should be trauma-informed and respond to specific needs of the youth participants.
- **Meaningfully and ethically engage young people:** Youth engagement must be done with integrity, respect the dignity and autonomy of young people, and recognise and address barriers young people may experience when participating in an SVRI Forum (e.g. language, culture, sexuality, gender, religion, disability). SVRI undertakes due diligence and safeguarding procedures to ensure young people engage in the Forum safely and that it does not put them or others at undue risk of harm.
- **Freedom of expression and access to information:** Create opportunities for young people to freely express themselves without fear of being judged or disrupted and provide information in easily accessible, youth friendly formats.
- **Value young people's time and contributions:** Young people possess knowledge and wisdom, creativity and perspectives which can add value to the Forum and the work of the SVRI. Young people's time and contribution to various aspects of the event must be respected and valued.
- **Work in empowering and transformative ways:** Where possible, youth participation at SVRI Forums must endeavour to build capacity, teach life skills and provide young people with a network or platform for further learning and opportunities to contribute to the field.
- **Adopt a responsive and iterative process:** Ensure that there are opportunities to continually learn from youth experiences and feedback mechanisms to regularly improve youth engagement.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT SVRI FORUM

- 1 Young people have equal opportunity to attend and participate in conferences
- 2 Young people's engagement is positive and ethical
- 3 The diversity of young people is recognised
- 4 Young people's well-being is protected
- 5 There is accountability to young people
- 6 The Forum promotes inter-generational openness and is youth-friendly
- 7 Staff have effective skills, knowledge and capacity for working with youth

GUIDING DOCUMENTS

The principles for the meaningful and ethical engagement of young people and the minimum standards should be read in conjunction with the following documents. Refer to the Additional Resources of this toolkit for more information.

- Oak Foundation. (2012). *Oak Foundation: Child Abuse Programme Guiding Principles*.
- UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. (2009). *General comment No. 12: The right of the child to be heard, 20 July 2009, CRC/C/GC/12*. Published online: UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT SVRI FORUM

1 Young people have equal opportunity to attend and participate in conferences

What do we mean by equal access and opportunity?

Conference organisers ensure that young people are given equal opportunity to attend and participate in international conferences.

We need to even the playing field so that young people have a fair chance to participate.

Why is it important?

Young people are traditionally excluded from academic conferences for a number of reasons. They may face financial constraints, lack academic experience and training, and they may not be part of the same professional networks, such as academic institutions, non-government organisations and government departments, as other conference participants. We need to even the playing field so that young people have a fair chance to participate. Conference organisers need to seek guidance from young people on what they need to have the same access and opportunities and provide them with the tools, resources and information to actively engage in the event.

How to achieve this standard

- Offer financial support in the form of bursaries or scholarships for young people.
- Include youth leaders in conference planning committees.
- Develop a fair and transparent selection process to select young people for the bursaries.
- Establish youth advisory groups to review applications and guide the development of resources and materials.
- Provide young people with accessible information about the conference and avenues to ask questions about what to expect from the conference and the expectations around their participation. This includes translating information into relevant languages, so that the event does not limit the participation of non-English speakers.
- Provide logistical and administrative support to young people to arrange international travel, visas and accommodation.
- Ensure that training and capacity building for young people begin with the selection process and continue throughout the event, and after the conference.



A youth advisory group was created to ensure young people played an active role in the selection process.

- Mentor young people to use the conference as a networking and learning opportunity.
- Link the youth attendees with a skilled facilitator or mentor to help them navigate the conference.

SVRI's approach

The SVRI developed an open request for proposals¹⁰ to select young people for the conference bursaries. This was circulated widely through online channels, such as the SVRI newsletter and social media platforms, as well as through regional networks. We also targeted specific organisations and networks in low- and middle-income countries, particularly in East and Southern Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America. The request for proposals specified that a youth facilitator from a local NGO must accompany two young researchers. A youth advisory group was created to ensure young people played an active role in the selection process. The committee was made up of young people from NGOs and researchers in the field of violence against children (for more information see Minimum Standard 3). Through the selection process, 10 young people

¹⁰ www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2017-03-15/Being%20Heard%20Call%20for%20Applications%20FINAL.pdf

and 5 youth facilitators from Brazil, Colombia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe were chosen to attend SVRI Forum 2017. This group created an advisory group for the SVRI on developing the minimum standards and other youth engagement related matters at the Forum.

It was important to allow enough time, and administrative and logistical support to the young people and their facilitators for organising travel documentation, visas, travel insurance and other related matters. The young people and their facilitators were awarded bursaries to cover these costs as well as economy-class flights, accommodation, conference registration fees, shuttle service, per diems, meals, a mobile phone (one per group) and mobile data. A Welcome Pack¹¹ was created to provide youth participants with background information about the conference, Rio de Janeiro and safety and security. Capacity building activities prior to the conference included creating group cohesion by connecting the youth participants with each other using Skype calls, emails and a WhatsApp group. A number of briefing and communications training webinars were also held with the group.

Holding a pre-conference workshop was fundamental to build the capacity of young people to prepare participants to participate meaningfully in the conference, build relationships amongst the participants and share best practices and lessons learned in undertaking participatory research. The SVRI and the young people developed the agenda¹² for this workshop together. During the workshop, youth participants shared their experiences of participatory research with children and young people, discussed how they would engage with researchers at the Forum, and learned new ideas and methodologies from each other. The participants from Zimbabwe led the group through a trust building exercise. The youth facilitators and conference staff also encouraged the young people to review the conference programme to identify specific sessions and networking opportunities that interested them. Ongoing support was provided to participants throughout the conference. A debriefing workshop was held after the Forum to enable the youth participants to reflect on their experience. Refer to Minimum Standard 5 for more details about the debriefing workshop.

CRITICAL TO KNOW

Holding a pre-conference workshop to orient young people, share information and promote group cohesion is critical to ensuring youth participation is meaningful and effective. It is also equally as important to hold a post-conference workshop to give young people the time and space to reflect on their experiences and provide feedback on the conference.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Have you ensured an open, transparent and voluntary selection process?
- Have you given enough time and space for young people to participate?
- Do young people have the information they need to participate?
- Have you provided capacity building opportunities?



¹¹ www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2018-02-12/SVRI%20Forum%202017%20Welcome%20Pack.pdf

¹² www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2018-02-12/Being%20Heard%20Pre-conference%20Agenda.pdf

2 Young people's engagement is positive and ethical

What do we mean by positive and ethical engagement?

Conference organisers and participants engage young people in positive and ethical ways by creating safe spaces and developing an enabling environment for youth participation and positive youth development at the conference.

Why is it important?

Taking a positive and ethical approach to engaging young people is key to ensuring that their participation at the conference is meaningful and safe.¹³ Conference organisers need to help older and/or more experienced academics to understand the value of engaging young people in their research and developing interventions in participatory ways. It is important to address the power imbalances between young people and older and more experienced conference participants in positive ways.

How to achieve this standard

- Ensure that young people have a shared understanding of the conference and the purpose and parameters of their participation. Clearly outline roles and responsibilities of project staff and youth participants.
- Ensure that youth participation at the conference is voluntary.
- Provide participatory opportunities for young people to engage in the conference.
- Create spaces and opportunities where older and more experienced conference participants can engage with youth participants in positive and ethical ways.
- Provide pre-conference workshops and panels on engaging young people in research on violence and other sensitive topics.
- Purposely integrate the youth participants into the programme and sessions to reduce the adult-youth divide.

SVRI's approach

The SVRI created safe spaces and an enabling environment for young people at Forum 2017. The roles and responsibilities of project staff in relation to the youth participants were outlined in the call for proposals and clarified during staff briefings (refer to Minimum Standards 3 and 7 for more information on selection processes and staff skills and capacity). The roles and expectations of youth participants were also outlined in the call for proposals, and clarification was given during the briefings prior to the conference and at the pre-conference workshop. During these sessions project staff also ensured the youth participants understood that their participation in the conference was voluntary.

Several participatory activities were held to enable young people to express themselves creatively, forge bonds, and participate in the conference. This included a graffiti workshop,

a story-telling workshop, a critiquing booth and youth performances during the closing plenary. The young people responded positively to these activities, as one of the participants commented, "It has always been my dream to be heard – the graffiti session helped me be heard. I am going to do this when I get back home. The graffiti session nailed it."

Giving voice to young people so they can be heard also means encouraging other participants to listen to them and treat them respectfully, and creating an environment of mutual respect. The Being Heard project was announced during the opening plenary at SVRI Forum 2017 and other conference participants were encouraged to engage with the youth participants. The SVRI created a critiquing booth, where young researchers could provide input about their knowledge and experience and give advice to other participants to ensure meaningful youth participation in research. The young people's contributions to the conference were also showcased during the closing plenary, where they gave performances on what they want and need as young researchers and conference participants. They chose creative mediums such as songs, poems, role-plays and sketches to express messages of being listened to and being heard, empowerment, participation, respect and diversity, and consciousness raising.

"It has always been my dream to be heard – the graffiti session helped me be heard. I am going to do this when I get back home. The graffiti session nailed it."

The SVRI Forum remains an abstract-driven conference. Young people's participation in the formal programme is dependent on having submitted an abstract that has been accepted for presentation at the conference. In addition to Being Heard, the SVRI encourages youth involvement at the Forum through bursaries for new and emerging researchers from low- and middle-income countries, a mentoring programme where young researchers are partnered with senior researchers who provide them with feedback on their conference presentation, and offering prizes for the best presentations and science pitches for young researchers (aged 18-35 years old).¹⁴ Skills-building workshops on a variety of research-related topics are also held prior to the conference. Children and youth are key themes of SVRI Forums, which serves to ensure both the workshops and conference panels include topics on and related to research on sexual violence against children and young people.

¹³ Refer to Minimum Standard 4 for more information on ensuring the protection and wellbeing of youth participants.

¹⁴ www.svri.org/content/svri-forum-awards-2017

GOOD TO KNOW

It's important to recognise and celebrate young people's contribution to the conference. This may include giving young people a place on the formal conference programme, encouraging them to give performances or presentations, or creating a youth-focused booth or area in the conference venue. SVRI found participatory activities that enable young people to express themselves creatively, such as a graffiti workshop and youth performances, are effective tools for young people to share their views and opinions.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Have you helped others to understand why it is important and valuable for young people to have an equal voice at conferences?
- Have you made it clear what you hope to achieve by engaging young people?
- Have you provided opportunities for young people to share their experiences at the conference in participatory ways?



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In planning for young people's participation at the Forum, the SVRI sent them a survey to assess their needs. It included the following questions:

- What are your expectations about participating in this conference?
- Do you have any concerns about participating in this conference in terms of:
 - Safety and security?
 - Any other challenges you may face?
 - Any other issues or concerns?
- How do you think participating in the conference will benefit you?
- What types of topics are you interested in learning more about? For example:
 - The approaches and experiences of other youth researchers
 - Different research methodologies
 - Things to consider when conducting research on sexual and other forms of violence
 - How to use social media to speak about your experiences
- Please indicate whether you would like to play a role in planning or facilitating any of the pre-conference workshop sessions.

The information gathered through this survey was used to clarify expectations and develop safety and security plans and the pre-conference workshop agenda.

3 Recognise the diversity of young people

What do we mean by recognising the diversity of young people?

Conference organisers recognise and respect the diversity of young people when planning the conference and selecting youth participants, and create an environment of respect and inter-cultural communication and awareness during the conference. This means that organisers encourage the involvement of young people from low- and middle-income countries, of different genders and sexual orientations, and young people with disabilities, diverse religious, linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Why is it important?

It is important to recognise that we all come from different backgrounds and have different life experiences. For some young people, this may be the first time they have come to an international conference. Creating an environment of respect and awareness of inter-cultural differences will enable them to engage in the conference and with other participants in meaningful ways.

For some young people, this may be the first time they have come to an international conference.

How to achieve this standard

- Provide capacity-building and training opportunities on inter-cultural communication for youth participants.
- Provide opportunities for researchers and participants from low- and middle-income countries to attend the conference through bursaries and mentoring programmes.
- Ensure that the selection process for youth participants is clear and transparent.
- Ensure that there is adequate translation of conference materials and presentations for participants from linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Ensure that young people are supported by a skilled youth facilitator who shares their language and is a representative from a local NGO in their country.
- Anticipate and address any stereotypes about young people and their different backgrounds throughout the conference.
- Ensure that the conference venue is accessible for people with disabilities, and provide support for young people with hearing and sight impairments.

SVRI's approach

The SVRI works to make the SVRI Forum a space of diversity and ensure participants with different genders and sexual orientations, and with disabilities, diverse religious, linguistic and cultural backgrounds, can attend and meaningfully participate. Based on SVRI's experience in hosting Forums, we understand the importance of conference organisers creating a safe and welcoming environment that recognises and respects the full range of diverse identities and experiences of participants. This is discussed in further detail below.

SVRI awards bursaries, funds research led by colleagues from low- and middle-income countries and, where suitable, encourages north-south research partnerships to ensure its southern-based partners attend and present at the conference. SVRI directly supported over 50 people from low- and middle-income countries to attend SVRI Forum 2017, and multiple bursaries were funded by SVRI Forum partners and co-hosts. The Being Heard project funded 15 bursaries for people from low- and middle-income countries, particularly in sub-Saharan and East Africa and Latin America.

Diversity was recognised and respected by using a transparent and rigorous selection process and by providing training and capacity building opportunities for the young people. The selection criteria¹⁵ focused on the eligibility and capacity of the local NGO, the NGO representative (youth facilitator) and the young researchers in terms of their experience with participatory research work and willingness to participate in the conference and share their experience. These bursaries enabled young people from different cultural, linguistic and social backgrounds, with diverse perspectives and experiences, to take part in the conference.

The capacity-building opportunities offered to Being Heard participants included a cultural briefing on Brazil, led by local organisation Promundo¹⁶ prior to the conference. The youth participants were briefed on Brazilian culture and security. The pre-conference workshop also featured a session on inter-cultural communication to help the young people prepare for the conference and engage with participants from diverse backgrounds. The session used the analogy of an iceberg to represent both the visible (clothing, language, food) and less visible (beliefs, values, religion) aspects of culture. The group also reflected on verbal and non-verbal styles of communication to help them understand where and why misunderstandings

The pre-conference workshop also featured a session on inter-cultural communication to help the young people prepare for the conference...

¹⁵ www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2018-02-12/Review%20Criteria%20Youth%20Researcher%20Applications.pdf

¹⁶ www.promundoglobal.org

may occur. The challenges of navigating cultural difference at international conferences were highlighted, along with the importance for youth participants of taking breaks when they needed and reaching out to colleagues for support. One youth participant commented, “In my country it is very rare to have friends who are different. It was a great experience for me to be free to be friends with someone who is different from me.”

Interpreting services are central to supporting participants from linguistically diverse backgrounds. During Forum 2017, the SVRI provided interpreting services in all plenary and selected parallel sessions, using simultaneous interpreting and headsets for Spanish and Portuguese speakers. Written conference materials such as the programme, presentation flyers and the Forum website were also translated into these languages.¹⁷ Youth facilitators supported the young people with face-to-face interpreting. They also translated pre-conference materials and emails about the conference for the youth participants. A lesson learned from the conference was that interpreting could be tiring at times for the youth facilitators. Where possible, interpreting should involve more than one person for each group.

“In my country it is very rare to have friends who are different. It was a great experience for me to be free to be friends with someone who is different from me.”

The creation of a safe and welcoming space is equally important to those young people with disabilities, diverse genders, sexualities and religions. This can be done by ensuring the venue is accessible to different types of abilities; through the allocation of accessible, gender-neutral, *and* gendered bathrooms; a space for praying; and the inclusion of a participatory set of guidelines for behaviour and the respect of diversity for all participants to agree to follow. In addition, facilitators acted as focal points and youth participants could raise questions with them outside the group.

CRITICAL TO KNOW

Providing translation and interpreting services at international conferences is essential to ensure inclusion and recognise the diversity of all delegates. There are different types of interpreting that can be used in conference settings such as simultaneous interpreting using headsets and whisper interpreting in small groups. Conference organisers should ensure that there is adequate budget and time for translation and interpreting services.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Did you support young people to understand and reflect on cultural differences they may face?
- Did you provide young people with enough information to prepare them to adjust to different cultures, sexual orientations and new experiences?
- Have you planned to accommodate linguistic and cultural differences such as translation?



¹⁷ See the SVRI Forum website in Spanish: www.svri.org/forums/forum2017/Spanish/index.htm and Portuguese: www.svri.org/forums/forum2017/Portuguese/index.htm

4 Ensure the protection and well-being of young people

What do we mean by ensure protection and well-being of young people?

Conference organisers and partners should ensure the protection and well-being of young people by following procedures that will minimise risks and enhance their safety.

Why is it important?

It is critical to ensure that young people feel safe and secure when participating at international conferences like the SVRI Forum. Spaces need to be supportive, welcoming and empowering to young people. Preparations should therefore be made in anticipation of any possible adverse events and to prevent such events, and a response protocol should be in place.

How to achieve this standard

- Ensure that safeguarding procedures are in place to identify and address risks.
- Provide necessary information about the conference to ensure that young people are well informed about its nature.
- Conference organisers need to recognise that violence against women and children are sensitive topics and presentations can trigger emotional responses, therefore it is essential to have counselling services available throughout the conference.
- Obtain consent for filming, taking photographs and using information provided by young people throughout the conference. Recognise that consent is not a one-off event, therefore, you need to continually obtain it from young people during different sessions or contexts at the conference.
- Ensure that young people are fully insured for international travel and provide sufficient logistical information about their travel.
- Outline roles and responsibilities of facilitators to ensure safety and well-being of young people.
- Promote and encourage young people to practise self-care and recognise the need to take breaks to enjoy the conference and environment.
- Engage an appropriately skilled and experienced person to be responsible for the safety and security of young people for the duration of the event.
- Share emergency contact information.

SVRI's approach

The SVRI ensured the protection and well-being of the young people during the SVRI Forum 2017 through actively involving them in planning for their participation at the conference. Prior to the conference, the SVRI obtained informed consent from young people to be part of the Being Heard project and obtained permission to take photographs, film and to use their information to write a report.¹⁸ The SVRI contracted a Youth Participation and Engagement Consultant for the project to assist the group and ensure that their participation was meaningful and safe. The project facilitator held Skype interviews with country teams to outline roles and responsibilities of each party. For example, female facilitators were encouraged to accompany female youth participants. The SVRI staff together with the Youth Participation and Engagement Consultant produced a needs assessment survey for the group to develop a better understanding of their needs prior to the conference. The survey responses were used to further strengthen procedures to safeguard the protection and well-being of the young people before they travelled to the conference, during the conference and afterwards.

...violence against women and children are sensitive topics and presentations can trigger emotional responses

The SVRI ensured that all Being Heard funded participants (young people and facilitators) had travel insurance, and requested their medical details.¹⁹ In addition, prior to the young people's travel to Brazil, the SVRI hired a Brazilian-based organisation to assess risk²⁰ and develop safeguarding procedures. The WhatsApp chat group was also used as a space where young people could ask questions about Brazil and what they needed to plan for. When the young people and facilitators arrived in Brazil, a security briefing was provided by the Youth Safeguarding Consultant to address concerns before the conference started.

The focus of the SVRI Forum is violence against women and violence against children, which are sensitive topics that can trigger a trauma response. Therefore, the SVRI ensured that on-call counselling services were available for young people (and all conference participants) should they require psychological support during their time at the Forum.

The SVRI also provided young people with tools and information to enable them to communicate with facilitators and project staff. For example, each country team was provided with a mobile phone and data. An information sheet with emergency numbers, information on how to obtain onsite counselling services and vicarious trauma guidelines were included in all conference bags. It is important to differentiate between child

18 www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2018-02-12/Video%20Consent%20Form.pdf

19 www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2018-02-12/SVRI%20Forum%202017%20Medical%20Form.pdf

20 www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2018-02-12/Risk%20Assessment.pdf

protection and young people's protection. The youth participants at SVRI Forum 2017 were all adults over the age of 18, therefore the protection measures treated them as adults. The conference organisers and staff ensured that young people had support, but also recognised their independence and ability to make their own decisions.

It is important to differentiate between child protection and young people's protection.



GOOD TO KNOW

Attending international academic conferences can be overwhelming for young people, therefore, it is essential to ensure that appropriate safeguarding procedures are in place to minimise risks and create conducive spaces for them to learn and share their own work with other conference delegates. Conference organisers should ensure that the well-being of young people is prioritised by conducting a needs assessment and developing a risk assessment to put in place support and safeguarding services throughout the conference.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Have you taken steps to obtain and regularly check that young people give their consent before you share information about them?
- Have you ensured young people and others are aware of confidentiality procedures and processes to ensure the confidentiality of participants is maintained?
- Have you taken steps to ensure that skilled people are available to deal with any issues and concerns that young people may face leading up to, during and after the conference?
- Have you ensured that measures are in place to prevent and manage any trauma that could be triggered by young people hearing about or talking about experiences of sexual violence?
- Have you planned a risk assessment to develop procedures to safeguard young people and identified ways in which young people can assist in monitoring the well-being and safety of other young people in their group?

5 Ensure accountability to young people

What do we mean by ensure accountability to young people?

Conference organisers should ensure accountability to young people by involving them in decision-making processes, including planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

Why is it important?

Involving young people in the decision-making processes of the conference is central to ensuring that their perspectives and experiences are heard. It is important to establish mechanisms that demonstrate a commitment to monitoring and reviewing whether youth have been able to participate in a meaningful way.

Create an environment of accountability, where young people can freely express their views and experiences.

How to achieve this standard

- Involve young people in the decision-making processes for project planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
- Create an environment of accountability, where young people can freely express their views and experiences.
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework as part of the project planning.
- Hold a post-conference debriefing session with the youth participants to enable them to reflect on their experience and provide feedback on the conference.
- Ensure that feedback and lessons learned from the conference are shared with youth participants.
- Be transparent about any restrictions on young people's involvement in decision-making.

It is important to ensure that the debriefing session is a safe space where young people can express both positive and negative experiences.

SVRI's approach

The SVRI ensured accountability to young people during Forum 2017 by actively involving them in the decision-making processes of the Being Heard project throughout the conference and monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of their participation. In the early planning stages of the conference, young people were included on the selection panel for the Being Heard project bursaries. The youth researchers also played an integral role in providing input into planning the pre-conference workshop agenda and activities.

As a group, the youth participants developed the pre-conference workshop agenda and decided to include sharing experiences of participatory research, to discuss how they would engage with researchers at the Forum, and to gather new ideas and methodologies as a result of learning from one another. They also provided input into developing minimum standards and recommendations related to the inclusion and participation of young adults between the ages of 18-24 at SVRI Forum 2017. The young people shared their experiences and opinions on engaging youth in meaningful and ethical ways in both research and the Forum.

Monitoring and evaluating youth participation in the Being Heard project at SVRI Forum 2017 was also central to ensuring accountability to young people. A debriefing session was held after the conference to give young people the opportunity to reflect on their participation in the Being Heard project and share feedback with conference organisers. It is important to ensure that the debriefing session is a safe space where young people can express both positive and negative experiences.

Conference organisers should ensure that there is adequate time to hold a debriefing session after the conference has ended. Documenting the experiences and perspectives of young people through video²¹ and a debriefing session is a useful way to inform future youth participation and can serve as a tool to evaluate the results of the project. The SVRI shared the key materials and the youth feedback and lessons from the Being Heard project with the youth participants after the conference.

21 www.svri.org/documents/being-heard-project-outputs

CRITICAL TO KNOW

It is important to hold a debriefing session for youth participants after the conference. The young people emphasised the merits of the debriefing session as an opportunity to reflect on their experience and to receive the support and validation of the group.

Here are some example **facilitator questions** to prompt discussion:

- What were some of the positive things you learned through participating in the conference?
- How did being part of the Being Heard Project help you to maximise your experience at the conference?
- What would you recommend as ways to improve this sort of programme?
- What do you plan to do when you return to your home country?
- What have you learned that you think you will apply to your local context when you return?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- How have you planned to gather the input of young people about their positive and negative experiences participating at the conference?
- Did you share feedback with young people to ensure that it reflects their views and concerns?
- Have you planned for debriefing sessions to discuss lessons can be learned for future conferences?
- Did you develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the project?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FEEDBACK AT FORUM 2017

The young people identified a number of positive experiences from the Forum, which included:

- They learned about new research methods and technologies in the field;
- The Being Heard project enabled group cohesion and team building;
- The youth learnt from the diversity of delegates' experiences and knowledge;
- The graffiti workshop was a highlight of their experience at Forum.

Some challenges that the young people identified during the debriefing workshop included:

- The need to involve more youth in the Forum;
- The difficulties with interpreting for other participants;
- They were not always familiar with the terminology and phrases used during the conference;
- Traditional research methodologies were seen as a barrier to youth participation.



Being Heard Young Researcher's and their NGO counterpart's comments on the Toolkit:

"The final version looks so good and in my belief it captures everything that we all envisioned the document will capture. I think this is a very beautiful creation, which I am very happy to have been a part of making!"

"Thank you for the continuous efforts in ensuring that the Toolkit is on point. It is impressive. The youth voices were quoted which makes it so real. We are sure many international conference organisers will find it very useful because it is not super detailed yet makes a lot of sense."

6 Facilitate inter-generational openness and ensure that the conference is youth-friendly

What do we mean by inter-generational openness and youth-friendly?

Conference organisers should facilitate inter-generational openness through creating spaces where young people can engage with older people on an equal basis, and ensure that the environment is mutually respectful and welcoming for all participants.

Not all young people will have an academic background.

Why is it important?

The inter-generational divide can act as a barrier to young people engaging with experts, older people and high profile organisations at an international conference. Some adults may be sceptical about young people's involvement and their ability to contribute meaningfully to issues addressed at the conference. Not all young people will have an academic background. Youth participants as well as colleagues who do not have research backgrounds or those that come from other sectors may not understand some concepts and terms used in presentations. This can be compounded by differences in language and culture.

How to achieve this standard

- Provide space for young people to share their research methods and experiences.
- Encourage experts, older people and high profile organisations to engage with young researchers.
- Encourage presenters to provide lay summaries of their research.
- Use communication tools such as videos, blogs and social media to share youth voices and experiences at the conference.
- Encourage young researchers to submit abstracts for the conference.
- Partner more experienced researchers with younger researchers through a mentoring programme.
- Consider having young researchers moderate panels and sessions that focus on youth research.

SVRI's approach

The SVRI facilitated inter-generational openness and ensured that Forum 2017 was youth-friendly by holding youth-focused events and activities and providing networking opportunities. Holding a pre-conference workshop with the youth participants was key to creating a youth-friendly environment where the young people shared their research methods and approaches. During the conference, the Being Heard project and the contributions of the youth participants were announced to conference delegates in the opening plenary. All participants were encouraged to engage with the young people.

The young people were encouraged to identify presentations, people and events to attend for networking and to learn about research methods and findings. A number of networking events were also held throughout the conference, which provided an informal opportunity for young and older participants to engage with one another. As previously noted, the young people gave performances on their experiences at the conference during the closing plenary. These performances and the young people's experiences at Forum 2017 were shared with older delegates and the public more broadly through a series of communications tools that were developed by the youth researchers and the SVRI. Refer to the communications tools section in this toolkit for more information.

Those who do not have research backgrounds may not understand some concepts and terms used in presentations. This can be compounded by differences in language and culture.

Some of the Being Heard project youth participants noted that they were unfamiliar with the academic terms and concepts used during the conference. To bridge the academic-practitioner divide, the SVRI could provide a glossary of key terms, and encourage presenters to provide lay summaries²² of their research and include lay summaries of key technical terms in their presentations.

²² 'A lay summary is a summary of a research project or a research proposal that has been written for members of the public. It should... avoid the use of jargon and explain any technical terms that have to be included.' INVOLVE, Jargon buster. Retrieved February 13, 2018 from: www.invo.org.uk/resource-centre/jargon-buster/?letter=L

GOOD TO KNOW

The critiquing booth was an important space where the young people engaged with older participants to provide specific input about their experience as youth researchers as well as to provide guidance to conference delegates on key points to consider to ensure meaningful youth participation in research on sexual violence. Participants also saw this booth as a safe place where they could come together to share experiences from the conference sessions, debrief and support one another.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Have you made spaces for young people to engage on an equal footing either with other youth or with adults who are open to listening and sharing?
- Can you create opportunities for young people to have more opportunities to interact with experts, older people and high profile organisations in informal settings?
- Can you identify ways to remind and enable experts, older people and high profile organisations to accommodate the voice of youth?



7 Staff have effective skills, knowledge and capacity for working with youth

What do we mean by effective skills, knowledge and capacity for working with youth?

Staff involved in organising the conference and facilitating youth participation have experience in working with young people, and they possess the relevant skills and knowledge to support and encourage youth participation and protect young participants.

Ensuring that youth participation is ethical and meaningful at conferences on sexual violence is value-driven and transformational work.

Why is it important?

Ensuring that youth participation is ethical and meaningful at conferences on sexual violence is value-driven and transformational work. It is essential to ensure that staff who are directly engaging with youth have the necessary values, skills and capacity to work effectively with young people.

How to achieve this standard

- Clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of all staff members in terms of reference or position descriptions.
- Develop operating protocols for young people's participation and train all staff in the protocols.
- Ensure that staff are properly mentored and supervised.
- Communicate expectations to staff and ensure that they model appropriate behaviour that is respectful towards young people.
- Ensure that staff are committed to youth participation and have skills in participatory methods and approaches.
- Ensure that staff have adequate tools, resources and budget to support youth participation.

SVRI's approach

The SVRI identified key staff positions to facilitate youth engagement at SVRI Forum 2017. The positions included Project Leader, Youth Participation and Engagement Consultant, Youth Safeguarding Consultant, Youth Facilitators and counselling support (see the table on page 20 for more details). An advisory group who provided strategic guidance oversaw the project.²³ The SVRI, as the project leader, was responsible for the successful completion of the project. Various calls for proposals were circulated for the positions, and staff with suitable skills and experience in working with young people were chosen. The SVRI also partnered with a local Brazilian-based NGO, Promundo to provide support for safety and security during the conference. The youth facilitators played an important role in supporting the youth delegates at the conference. The facilitators were representatives of NGOs from the participants' countries. Facilitators were carefully selected based on their relationship and length of time working with the young people in their team, level of experience with supporting and accompanying youth to similar events and ability to support the young people, in terms of mental health and well-being and translation.

The youth facilitators played an important role in supporting the youth delegates at the conference.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Do staff have skills in working with young people?
- Do staff appreciate and embrace principles and practices of youth development?
- Do staff have the ability, willingness and experience to promote an inclusive, welcoming and respectful environment that embraces diversity?
- Have all new staff been briefed on policies, principles and practices related to engaging young people?

²³ Being Heard Advisory Group Terms of Reference: www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2018-02-12/Being%20Heard%20Advisory%20Group%20TOR.pdf
Advisory Group membership: www.svri.org/what-we-do/capacity-development/projects/being-heard/being-heard-advisory-group

STAFF POSITIONS AT SVRI FORUM 2017

TITLE	POSITION OUTLINE	KEY SKILLS AND CAPACITY
Project Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provides strategic guidance for the overall project ■ Oversees all staff responsible for youth participation, including logistics arrangements ■ Responsible for the successful completion of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An organisation that has appropriate staff, resources and capacity to engage youth participants at an international conference ■ Experience in organising international conferences
Youth Participation and Engagement Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Works with the project leader on the development and implementation of the selection process for youth participants ■ Facilitates pre-conference and post-conference workshops with young people ■ Acts as the main point of contact for youth participants ■ Reports to project leader on youth participation following the conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Experience coordinating the involvement of young people in formal international or national events ■ Skills in participatory facilitation and use of participatory techniques ■ Experience delivering training ■ Experience in monitoring and evaluating youth participation
Youth Safeguarding Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Acts as the main point of contact for any security concerns or enquiries prior to and during the conference ■ Prepares a risk assessment on the conference location ■ Ensures safety and security of youth participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Must be locally based ■ Must be fluent in the local language of the conference location ■ Experience in working with young people
Youth Facilitators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local NGO representatives that accompany the young participants to the conference ■ Ensure the safety and well-being of young people ■ Provide interpretation during the conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Must be fluent in the languages of the youth participants that they are accompanying ■ Experience working with young people and knowledge of participatory principles and techniques
Counselling support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide counselling support for youth participants and other conference delegates ■ A roster of counsellors should be used so that counselling services are available to delegates at all times during the conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Qualifications and experience in counselling

COMMUNICATION TOOLS: GIVING VOICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR EXPERIENCES AT SVRI FORUM

A series of communication tools and materials were developed prior to and during SVRI Forum 2017 to give voice to the young people and help them to communicate their experiences and the outcomes of their involvement in the conference. The communication materials included a project webpage, blog series, social media posts, a graffiti workshop, a story-telling workshop, performances and a series of short videos (refer to the table below for more details). These acted as a form of capacity- and confidence-building for the young people. They were also a central part of disseminating the Being Heard project's results and sharing the young people's participation with other conference participants and the public more broadly. SVRI were gifted mobile phones for use by Being Heard country teams to share their experiences on the conference via social media.

GOOD TO KNOW

They ways in which the youth participants engaged in communications activities was different from our initial expectations. Many of the youth participants did not take part in writing blogs, and some were not very familiar with using social media platforms as communications tools. It is important to adopt a broad understanding of communications, beyond the typical types of communications such as presentations and written materials. The graffiti workshop received the most positive response from the youth participants. They felt comfortable expressing themselves in their own languages and in creative ways. The performances by young people at the closing plenary, as well as the Being Heard videos and film project were also well received by all conference delegates.

Points to consider when developing communication tools

- Encourage young people to take part in communication activities where possible. However, it is important to ensure that participation is voluntary, and recognise that young people can choose not to participate.
- Provide a range of communication tools for young people to choose. This can include blogs, social media posts, artwork, photography, performance and filming.
- Provide training and support for youth participants in the different communication tools.
- Allow young people to communicate their experiences in their own languages where possible.
- Try to involve a range of people in the development of communication materials, such as the youth participants, youth facilitators, staff and other stakeholders, so that the materials reflect different perspectives and diverse experiences.

COMMUNICATION TOOLS USED AT SVRI FORUM 2017

TOOL	DESCRIPTION
Website	The Being Heard project website was used at each stage of the project to disseminate the call for proposals for young researchers, provide information on Forum 2017, and feature all of the communications materials that were produced. The website is central to project sustainability, as it continues to hold all the project materials and the Minimum Standards for Youth Participation at SVRI Forum 2017 after the conference has ended.
Blogs	<p>The young people were encouraged to write blogs prior to the conference to share their experience on the SVRI website. One of the youth participants, who was an avid blogger, wrote a series of blogs about their experience at SVRI Forum 2017. The blogs included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A dream come true ■ A passion stirred ■ Being Heard: More than just being listened to <p>Academics and practitioners in the field also wrote blogs linked to the Being Heard project, for example the International Centre wrote a blog titled Public and private bodies: the politics of child sexual abuse.</p>

COMMUNICATION TOOLS USED AT SVRI FORUM 2017 *(continued)*

TOOL	DESCRIPTION
Social media	<p>Social media was used to share the young people's participation at SVRI Forum 2017 to a broad audience. The SVRI and the youth participants developed a Social Media Toolkit to share key messages and materials on platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The kit included example posts, relevant hashtags, and Twitter and Facebook handles that the participants could use to communicate their experiences and views on attending the conference.</p> <p>The SVRI and conference delegates actively used social media throughout Forum 2017 to highlight key findings and notable presentations throughout the conference. Prior to the conference, some of the young people were not very familiar with using social media platforms as communications tools. Through their experience with and exposure to social media at Forum 2017, some of the youth participants felt empowered to use social media platforms in their work when they returned home.</p>
Newsletters	<p>The SVRI Update was a key tool through which information on youth participation was shared with SVRI's members. The Update featured the blogs from the Being Heard project and news of the young people's engagement at Forum 2017.</p> <p>The young people's participation in SVRI Forum 2017 was also shared in the newsletters of some of the NGO's which they were representing. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania has been selected to participate in SVRI Forum 2017, July 2017 ■ UYDEL was selected to attend the SVRI young researchers program in Brazil, June 2017 ■ CEDECA is among the five NGOs participating in the World Forum, May 2017
Graffiti workshop	<p>Panmela Castro Art Projects facilitated a graffiti workshop with the young people to develop creative ways to express key messages about youth participation during the conference. They were asked to choose a word or phrase about youth participation that would act as the basis for a presentation or performance for the closing plenary. The graffiti workshop gave the young people an opportunity to express themselves in their languages.</p>
Story-telling workshop	<p>The Goodman Centre facilitated a story-telling workshop at SVRI Forum 2017. This aimed to help participants communicate their research and projects through stories to better engage and influence key stakeholders. The youth participants took part in this workshop and learned new skills in storytelling and communication.</p>
Performances	<p>The young people were invited to give performances on what they need and want as youth participants at an international conference. Each team selected a key message or phrase about youth participation to share with the other delegates. The teams used different types of performance, including songs, poems, role-plays and sketches, to express their messages creatively and in their own languages. The messages included being listened to and being heard, empowerment, participation, respect and diversity, and consciousness raising. The performances were a highlight of the Forum.</p>
Video series and film project	<p>A film company was contracted to capture the experiences and contributions of youth throughout the Forum in two short videos. The filming process actively engaged the young people. Both prior and during the Forum, the youth participants recorded video footage of themselves and each other to contribute towards the videos. The videos provided young people with another communication tool through which they could express themselves in their own languages and were critical in conveying the importance of youth participation to a wide audience.</p> <p>It is recommended that separate funding be allocated to engage a videographer or team of videographers to capture the experiences of the participants as video is increasingly being seen as an effective communications tool. Given the sensitivity of the topic, measures should be taken to ensure that participants are comfortable with being part of the video project. The youth signed consent forms to participate in the film project.</p>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Key guidelines and reports on how to include children and young people, which can be explored further, are listed below.

- **CIDA** (2001). *Meaningful youth participation in international conferences: A case study of the international conference on war-affected children*. Winnipeg: CIDA.
www.eldis.org/document/A10772
- **Family Health International** (2008). *Youth participation guide: assessment, planning, and implementation*. New York: UNFPA and Y-Peer.
www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/youth_participation.pdf
- **Inter-Agency Working Group on Children's Participation (IAWGCP)** (2007). *Minimum Standards for Consulting with Children*. Bangkok: Inter-Agency Working Group on Children's Participation (IAWGCP), ECPAT International, Knowing Children, Plan International, Save the Children Alliance, UNICEF EAPRO and World Vision.
www.crin.org/en/docs/participation.pdf
- **Inter-Agency Working Group on Children's Participation** (2007). *Operations Manual on Children's Participation in Consultations*. Bangkok: ECPAT International, Knowing Children, Plan International, Save the Children Alliance, UNICEF EAPRO and World Vision. [www.unicef.org/honduras/Operations_manual\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/honduras/Operations_manual(1).pdf)
- **Bovarnick, S., Peace, G., Warrington, C. and Pearce, J.** (2018). *'Being Heard': Promoting children and young people's involvement in participatory research on sexual violence. Findings from an international scoping review*. Luton, UK.
- **International Centre** (2017). *Involving children and young people in participatory research on sexual violence: Challenges and approaches*. Published online: International Centre.
www.svri.org/what-we-do/being-heard-webinar-involving-children-and-young-people-participatory-research-sexual
- **International Save the Children Alliance** (2005). *Practice Standards in Children's Participation*. London: International Save the Children Alliance.
<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/sites/default/files/documents/3017.pdf>
- **International Save the Children Alliance** (2004). *So You Want to Consult with Children? A Toolkit of Good Practice*. London: International Save the Children Alliance.
<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/2553/pdf/2553.pdf>
- **National Sexual Violence Resource Center** (2014). *Best practices for engaging youth as partners in sexual violence prevention*. Published online: NSVRC.
www.nsvrc.org/publications/nsvrc-publications-sexual-assault-awareness-month-guides/best-practices-engaging-youth
- **Oak Foundation** (2012). *Oak Foundation: Child Abuse Programme Guiding Principles*. Published online: Oak Foundation.
www.oakfnd.org/assets/oak-foundation-cap-guiding-principles-extended-version.pdf
- **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** (2009). *General comment No. 12: The right of the child to be heard*. Published online: UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.
www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/CRC-C-GC-12.pdf
- **UNICEF** (2006). *Child and youth participation resource guide*. Bangkok: UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office.
www.unicef.org/eapro/Child_Youth_Resource_Guide_text.pdf
- **United Nations Association in Canada** (2002). *Navigating international meetings: A pocketbook guide to effective youth participation*. Ottawa: UNAC.
www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/intl_meetings_eng.pdf
- **Veitch, Helen** (2005). *Protocol on Children's Participation at the Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence Against Children*. Bangkok: Interagency Regional Steering Committee for the UN Study on Violence Against Children.

More resources are available on the SVRI website:



www.svri.org



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