

CONCEPT NOTE
Training on Advocacy and Networking Strategies

I. Background / Rationale

The Civil Society Coalition on the Convention on the Rights of the Child commits to lead civil society efforts towards strengthening government accountability for children's rights through systematic monitoring of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. One of our primary mandates is to organize discussion and advocacy activities on different child rights issues. To successfully carry out this mandate, it is equally essential that the Coalition is well-capacitated in advocacy and networking through effective strategies.

When we are trying to change government policies or public attitudes towards children's rights and issues, the forces against us can seem powerful. If progressive groups come together in networks and alliances, it can help make our voice stronger. Whether organizations forming a semi-permanent network or a shorter-term coalition or alliance around a particular issue, the most important is that the members have a common understanding of what they want to achieve and why it is better to work together to do so.

How can advocacy and networking strategies help civil society organizations? First, it generates more resources to accomplish the organization's goal: alliance members can pool human, material, and information resources and achieve much more. It also increases credibility and visibility: a united voice is a louder and stronger voice. Second, it produces safety in numbers: it is more difficult for the state to crack down on several groups than harass one. Moreover, it broadens the organization's base of support: joining forces brings together the different constituencies that each member works with. Learning opportunities also arise. Finally, it contributes to the long-term strength of civil society: the more networking that exists among actors in civil society, the more capable it is of holding decision-makers accountable.

II. Objectives of the Activity

The activity is expected to capacitate the Secretariat and Coalition Members to become active practitioners of child rights programming in the scope of their duties and responsibilities as development workers. Additionally, this workshop aims to enable the participants to:

- Understand the concept of advocacy and its role in civil society.
- Have an introduction to networks and the power of networks for advocacy.
- Apply a critical understanding of Advocacy and Networking Strategies and determine ways on how it may be applied to their work as development practitioners

III. Target Outputs

High results from the post-assessment activity and an individual organizational assessment using a checklist is ideal for measuring the member organizations' knowledge and capacity on the said topic.

IV. Target Participants

The target participants are the coalition secretariat and at least one (1) representative (preferably the advocacy point person in the organization) per member organization.

V. Target Date and Venue

The activity is expected to be conducted on 27-28 October 2021, 1-5 PM. The training is proposed to be completed online via the Zoom platform.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy for the Training on Advocacy and Networking Strategies

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When we are trying to change government policies or public attitudes towards children's rights and issues, the forces against us can seem powerful. If progressive groups come together in networks and alliances, it can help make our voice stronger. Whether organizations forming a semi-permanent network or a shorter-term coalition or alliance around a particular issue, the most important is that the members have a common understanding of what they want to achieve and why it is better to work together to do so.

How can advocacy and networking strategies help civil society organizations? First, it generates more resources to accomplish the organization's goal: alliance members can pool human, material, and information resources and so achieve much more. It also increases credibility and visibility: a united voice is a louder and stronger voice, whereas it is easier to ignore if CSOs are saying different things. Second, it produces safety in numbers: it is more difficult for the state to crack down on several groups than harass one. Moreover, it broadens the organization's base of support: joining forces brings together the different constituencies that each member works with. Learning opportunities also arise. Finally, it contributes to the long-term strength of civil society: the more networking that exists among actors in civil society, the more capable it is of holding decision-makers accountable.

Objectives

The hiring of consultancy is expected to conduct the following activities in the workshop:

- Session on advocacy and its role in civil society
- Session on tools and methods for advocacy
- Session on introduction to networks and the power of networks for advocacy
- Session on the advantages and challenges of networks for advocacy
- Session on monitoring and evaluating advocacy
- Session on organizational competencies for advocacy
- Session on advocacy and networking strategies in the time of COVID-19 pandemic

Additionally, the activities and sessions must be facilitated properly, interactively, and well documented.

Scope of Work

The consultant shall perform the following functions:

- a. Discuss and finalize the program with the coalition secretariat and Capacity Building Working Group
- b. Submit a detailed training design module
- c. Conduct 2-day training, subject to training design
- d. Facilitate the conduct of the workshop
- e. Ensure the proper documentation of sessions conducted and submit comprehensive documentation of the activity
- f. Prepare the learning assessment tool to measure the impact of the training

Expected Results

By the end of the training, participants will:

- Develop a clear understanding of Advocacy and Networking Strategies and their usefulness
- Be equipped with knowledge and skills on how to mainstream Advocacy and Networking Strategies and should be implemented in programs at all levels of programming and in the Coalition's operations.
- Participate in a workshop on action planning on how each member organization will use the knowledge gained on Advocacy and Networking.

Consultancy Costs

This consultancy provides a competitive rate equated to the skills, knowledge, and effort of the consultant.

Qualifications of the Consultant

The following are the minimum requirements for the consultant:

- Has technical expertise and comprehensive background on Advocacy and Networking
- Must be knowledgeable and exposed to the issues/concerns of children;
- Knowledgeable in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other documents related to children;
- Has an advanced University degree in communication, social sciences, development studies, or other relevant fields; and
- Has excellent facilitation/communication skills

Application Process

For interested applicants, please submit the following:

1. Curriculum Vitae
2. Letter of Intent
3. Draft Training Needs Assessment
4. Draft training design
5. Team composition (if will be working as a team)
6. Sample of post training activities
7. Financial proposal

Kindly email the above mentioned documents at secretariat@csc-crc.org and dbbona@csc-crc.org not later than 5 PM of October 20, 2021. Please note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.