

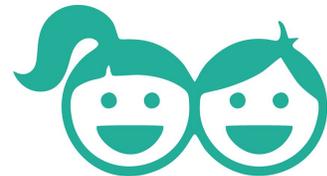
Universal-Periodic-Review (UPR)

40th Session

(Jan - Feb 2022)

Situation of Child and Young Human Rights Defenders in the Republic of Moldova

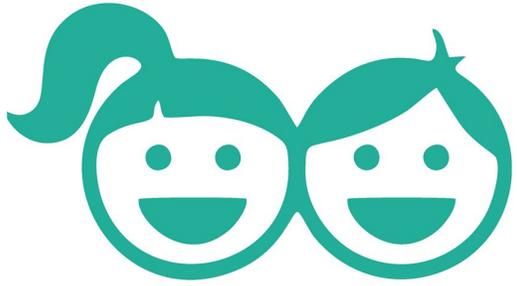
by



**Platforma
Copiilor**

Chisinau, 2021 december 17

Who are we?



**Platforma
Copiilor**

Main aim

*Raising awareness of
child/young human
rights defenders, their
challenges and
recommendations*

We are child human rights defenders
**Members of a platform for children and
adolescents to discuss and raise human rights
issues.**

**We are active in different
domains and initiatives, as
well (such as gender
equality, LGBTQ rights and
environment)**



In the previous UPR cycle, Moldova received and accepted 3 **recommendations** - from Belgium, Poland, and Uruguay - to recognize the importance of human rights defenders and create a safe environment for them in line with Human Rights Conventions.

Unfortunately, no state made specific recommendations regarding child human rights defenders. We strongly encourage recommending States to formulate clear and specific recommendations focusing on creating safe and enabling environment for **child human rights defenders**.



CHRD's main issues:

Lack of child/youth friendly information on human rights, including protection mechanism, opportunities, and support for action, etc

„In school we talk about activism, civic involvement, but the school does not support us to participate ... On the contrary, they stop us, marginalize us, set limits...” (girl, 17yo)

We mostly learn about rights and their realization from participating in activities with different NGOs and while volunteering; these programmes can involve only limited number of children.



Not-functioning protection mechanisms

A group of child human rights defenders told us that they announced their assembly at the local public authorities as according to the rules, but "No policeman was there to provide safety and security during the protest. A drunken man attacked a young man, and a woman swore at us. It was very humiliating." (Girl, 17yo)

Impact:

We don't feel safe and protected in general and even less so when we act for human rights.

CHRD's main issues:

Strong and widespread negative attitudes about children's capacities and activities of child human rights defenders

"Stereotypes that teenagers are not able to express themselves and understand [human rights issues or decision-making processes]." (DGD 2018 submission)

It is even worse for some children, for example children with disabilities, young children, children who experiment with hairstyles and clothing, children with low grades etc. As human rights defenders we are either not taken seriously or considered dangerous for our school, community etc.

Impact:

"Many young people give up their ideas because they are not taken seriously, they do not receive any response from the authorities or the school administration." (Girl, 18yo)

Risks of violence and negative consequences is widespread

"After the strike, the administration of a school from which several students came to strike gathered everyone from the school to threaten to expel the students who participated in the strike during school. They threatened with expelling or not admitting to the final exam." (girl, 17yo; Submission to the HRC General Comment 37, link)

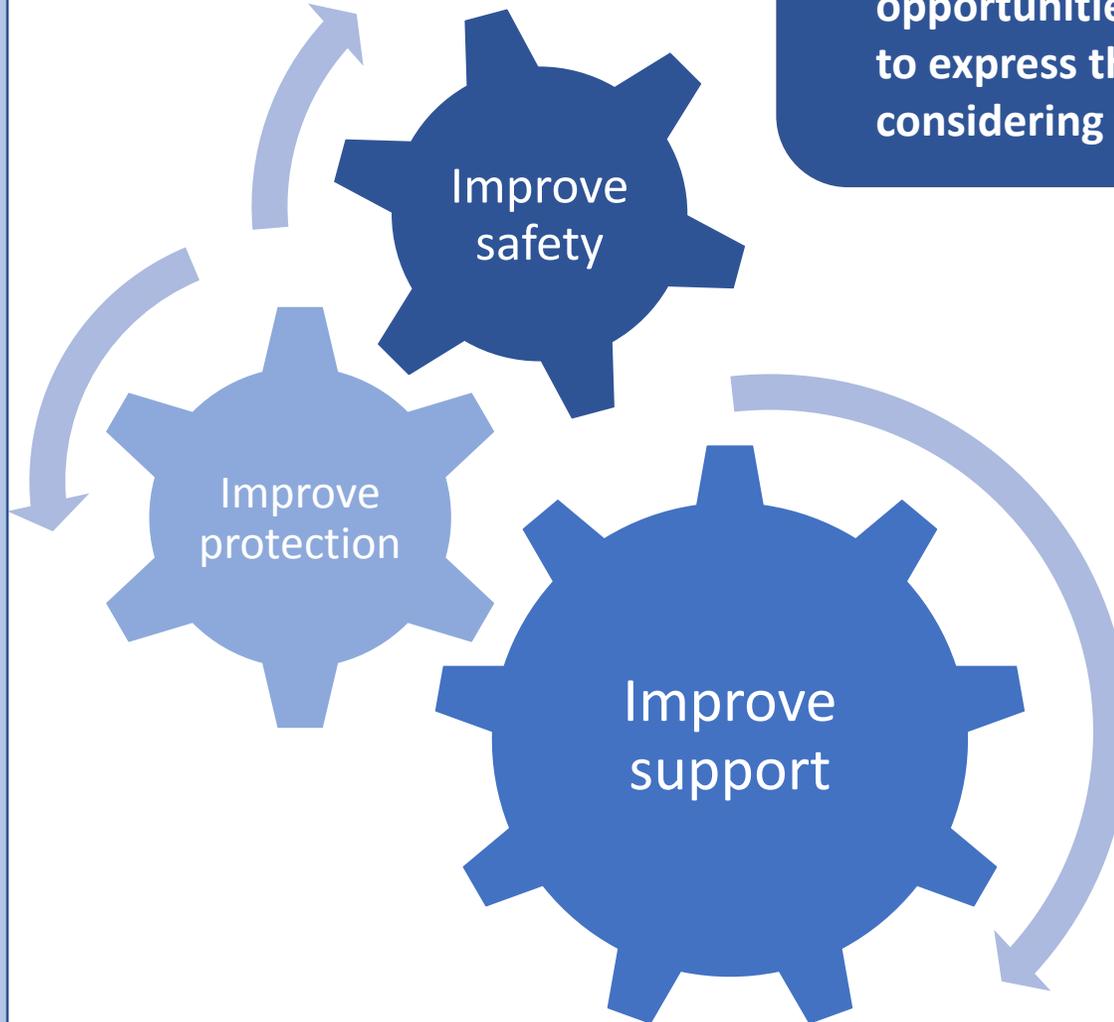
"We cannot express ourselves freely about LGBTQ in schools, community, because as a defender of the rights of the LGBTQ community, you are associated as a member of it and because this is a taboo in our country you get exposed to bullying, online and offline, including from school staff. And, people around you get involved in your personal life without permission." (Girl 20yo)

Impact:

These issues make it difficult or even stop us from getting active for human rights and put our other rights at risk.

What are our recommendations?

- Ensure that child human rights defenders have access to multiple, safe, child-appropriate mechanisms to report reprisals, violence, and abuse, seek redress for violations and receive support and care for physical and psychological abuse. .



- Establish an exchange platform between children's and youth organizations and government, creating a safe space and opportunities for child human rights defenders to express their views and develop policies considering them.

- Conduct an awareness-raising campaign to inform children, parents and everyone working for and with children (such as teachers, social workers, police), about human rights, and in particular children's rights, including what can be done if rights are violated.



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Thanks for your
support!



Weekend fain! 🙌