

OCI Foundation International

Sponsors of the: (i) Cyfed Undergraduate Scholarships (ii) CBH Scholarships (iii) IFOMSSA Junior Awards (iv) IFOMSSA Senior Awards and (v) Annual JAMB Awards (vi) ArOF Health Campaign (vii) LAMS Initiative (viii) The Gynocular Project



CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION (March 2025)

Background/Introduction/Purpose

- This OCI Foundation's Policy Document is guided by UNICEF's stand on the right to participation for children as a fundamental component of their well-being.
- That UNICEF right, enshrined in Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), is crucial for children's development and empowerment.
- UNICEF's Article 12 states that a child who is capable of forming their own views has the right to express these views freely in all matters concerning them. Such views should be given due weight in consideration of the child's age and maturity.
- The OCI Foundation, therefore, commits to involving children in all decisions and initiatives that affect them.
- We treat all children equally, regardless of their gender, nationality, religious or family background, economic status, physical or mental health, and other factors.
- We also respect children's rights and create safe spaces for them to express themselves, empowering them to influence decisions that affect their lives.
- Effective participation for children within the OCI Foundation should be relevant, informed, voluntary, safe, respectful, and transparent. They will not be pressured into participating and should receive appropriate support to engage in relevant decisions.

OCI Foundation Commitments on Children's Rights to Participation

1. Have in place a staff person with specialised expertise in child-centred development.
2. Support activities that aim to build the capacities and confidence of children to participate in and influence issues that affect them.
3. Provide child-centred development or child rights training for members and partners.
4. Establish child participation, child empowerment and/or child rights-based performance indicators and periodically evaluate and reflect on progress against these targets.
5. Conduct targeted research to gain a deeper understanding of children's perspectives.
6. Report periodically to the OCI Foundation's governing body, broader constituency and relevant primary stakeholders on achievements relating to the participation and empowerment of children and child right issues more broadly.
7. Promote the value of child-centred development in communications with the public and external stakeholders.
8. Ensure that the perspectives of children inform the design of initiatives that affect them.
9. Conduct periodic reviews of the nature of complaints handling processes regarding children.
10. Regularly test the design of our initiatives against the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure they are in alignment. To test such principles, these questions will always be answered for each of our initiatives related to children:
 - a. Is the activity in the best interests of the child?

- b. Is any form of discrimination present?
- c. Do the most disadvantaged and marginalised children have opportunities to participate, and are their voices heard?
- d. Are children genuinely participating?
- e. Can children make a difference in the decision-making processes?

Review of Policy

This policy is subject to review in March 2028, three years after its implementation. This can be sooner if legislation or other events warrant so.

Complaints/Feedback

If you feel violated in any way by anyone associated with the OCI Foundation, please contact us immediately via the link [**HERE**](#).