

A General Comment for Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: A Program of Development

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has given the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) and the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD) the opportunity to draft a General Comment (GC) for Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 19 presents the Convention's central orientation to child protection, by virtue of which, it embodies the pre-eminent international principles and standards in this area. A General Comment for Article 19 (GC19) has the potential to meaningfully contribute toward securing the safety, development, and futures of children.

To pursue the overall GC19 Program of Development (GC19-POD), IICRD and ISPCAN have jointly organized an international leadership group from all major regions and cultures of the world to direct and conduct the drafting of GC19. This group of highly respected leadership, who have specialized knowledge in child protection and/or child rights, includes a 15 member Working Group, an Expert Advisory Panel and official liaisons with UNICEF, WHO, and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A Focal Group from the Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) is providing essential assistance to the Working Group throughout the GC19-POD.

A General Comment for Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child offers an opportunity to achieve a major transformation in child protection by infusing a holistic child rights approach in all its aspects. Article 19 encourages interpretations beyond the need for protection against immediate harm and loss of life to assure a life worth living by securing the protection and promotion of the child's rights, well-being, health, and development as well as providing the necessary social supports for those who have care for the child. The GC19 will establish the Committee's interpretations, applied to monitor, guide, and encourage States Parties toward implementation of the Convention. Added to the development of a draft GC19, a number of components to support its implementation are to be designed.

The context and a plan for drafting General Comment 19 (GC19) and for the planning of selected implementation components are presented on at this site, including a briefing paper, the present form of the outline for GC19, and the identification of the GC19 Program of Development Team.

Please contact the Chairs of the GC19-POD to provide your perspectives and suggestions. A monthly summary of developments, including comments from interested parties, will be posted on this site.

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