

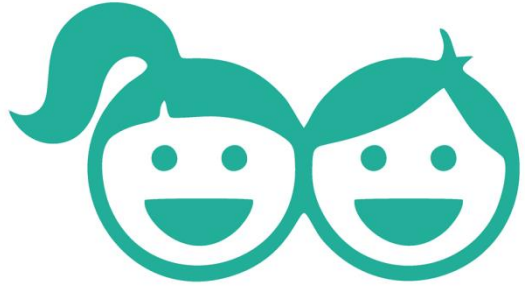
Situation of Child and Young Human Rights Defenders in the Republic of Moldova

by



Chişinău, 2021 October 14

Who are we?



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

We are child human rights defenders

We are members of a platform for children and adolescents to discuss and raise human rights issues



What are our aims and objectives?

- Raising awareness of child/young human rights defenders, their challenges and solutions
- Raising awareness of children's rights in different and neglected domains
- Empowerment – we as child/young human rights defenders have a voice and should be heard as well!



What are main challenges of child/young human rights defenders?

Moldova received recommendations from Belgium, Poland and Uruguay to recognize importance of human rights defenders and create a safe environment for them in line with Human Rights Conventions so that they don't fear or suffer negative consequences.

We as child and young human rights defenders still face risks:

*"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)*

"Young people who defend rights of LGBTQ are automatically considered LGBTQ and are exposed to bullying" (girl, 20yo)

"If you want to say something [critical] to the teacher, then your grades drop." (APSCF 2018 DGD)

*"We don't feel safe, and we feel left alone without support and protection when we act for human rights"
(girl, 20yo)*

"Teachers punished the whole class, and this ruined my relationships with colleagues." (DGD Submission 2018)

What are our recommendations?

- Authorities should react to our complains and reports about risks and violence
- Police should make sure that we are protected from attacks during protests
- Safe and confidential protection mechanism should be created in schools, care settings etc



- **Safe spaces** should be created for us to learn and express our opinions & feelings by public authorities, school staff, care institutions etc.
- Our opinions and views should be **listened to**, and we should get **feedback** form authorities, schools, and care institutions

- Parents, teachers, social workers, police, authorities should learn about human rights and support children to do the same, including what to do when rights are violated and how to promote rights
- Child human rights defenders should have access to persons of trust and support such as ombuds



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Thanks for your
support!



Weekend fain! 🙌