

## Special Session: The Kigali Declaration by Working Children and Youth

25 October 2023 - 10am EST / 4pm CET - Zoom. Register [here](#).

In January 2023, 63 working children from 16 countries of four continents came together in Kigali, Rwanda, for the first [Global Gathering of Working Children and Youth](#). It was organised as part of the global campaign “[Dialogue Works](#)” (DW) which seeks to sustainably anchor working children’s participation in societal and political processes on all levels (initiated by *Kindernothilfe* and *Terre des Hommes*).

Most of the participants to the Global Gathering are members of the different *Children’s Advisory Committees* (CAC) that constitute a vital part of the DW project. They were joined by representatives of working children’s movements from Latin America and Afrika. Together, they spent a week exchanging experiences, learning from one another, building capacities and sharing key messages on crosscutting issues affecting the lives of working children and youth. In addition, a special working group drafted the [Kigali Declaration](#), in which they present their suggestions and demands for policy-making and practice from local to global level. It was adopted unanimously by all participants at the end of the week.

For this Special Session, we have invited 6 of the child and youth delegates (see below) to present the main demands of the Kigali Declaration:

- 1) Address poverty, provide decent jobs for our parents and ensure our basic needs are met;
- 2) Take our education seriously and provide quality education and skill training;
- 3) Protect us from labour exploitation, harsh conditions and risks, and allow children to do suitable dignified work;
- 4) Listen to us, understand us and implement laws that respect our rights;
- 5) Prevent and protect working children from violence and discrimination;
- 6) Climate Justice.

The session will be held in English and Spanish (with interpretation).

### Presenters:

**Esmeralda:** 16 years, from Peru. I work in agriculture and raise small animals. I am from the Andean culture. I like to play volleyball. I like ancient and classical music, art and painting. I like to give my opinion, to debate and share new ideas and do social projects. I contribute to the social organisation of children and adolescents and to promoting the right to work in dignity. CAC representative, supported by DW partner organisations *Instituto de Formación para Educadores de Jóvenes, Adolescentes y Niños, Niñas Trabajadores de América Latina y el Caribe* (IFEJANT) and *Movimiento Nacional de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes Trabajadores Organizados del Perú* (MNNATSOP).

**Phyenele:** 17 years, from Kenya. A child rights activist (any decisions made for us without us is working against us) and student who loves playing basketball. CAC representative, supported by DW partner organisation *Welfare for Children and Youth* (WCY).

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**Sheyla:** 15 years, from Peru. CAC representative, supported by DW partner organisation *Centro de Estudios Sociales e Publicaciones* (CESIP).

**Reimond:** 15 years from Peru. Works in housing construction. He likes to play volleyball. He believes in a change in society until working children live in good conditions of dignity and respect, without exploitation or mistreatment. CAC representative, supported by DW partner organisation IFEJANT and *Programa de Microfinanzas cogestionada para los niños, niñas y adolescentes trabajadores* (PROMINNATs).

**Margaret:** 21 years, from Kenya. Former child labourer and currently facilitator for/ coordinator of the Dialogue Works CAC supported by DW partner organisation *Action for Children in Conflict* (AfCiC).

A second AfCiC delegate will be confirmed.