"Who cares for me?"

Applying the UN Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children 'suitability' and 'necessity' principles to CYC around the world.

Jennifer Davidson, Director The Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children (CELCIS) University of Strathclyde, Scotland



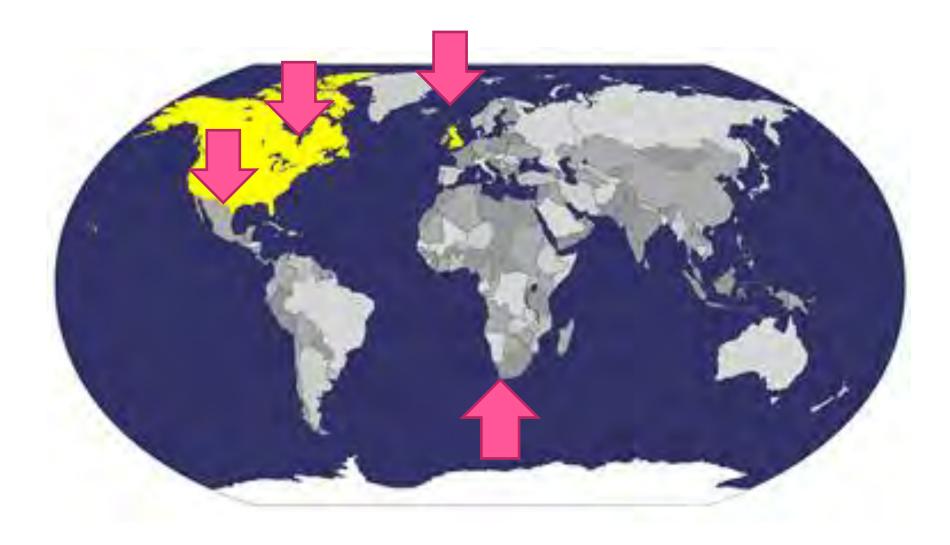
Outline

Introduction and backdrop

CRC, Guidelines, Moving Forward

Key principles of 'necessity' and 'suitability'

Promising practices





https://vimeo.com/103321414



Rights are essential

The evolving criteria for what is 'fully human' and what is 'other' have been used throughout history to disallow people having rights.

This lack of rights sustains groups' states of suffering.

-- Upendra Baxi

Rights are essential but not sufficient

Implementation

Ron Ratliff earthsky.org

Child and youth care makes rights real



"Ordinary experience and the efforts of ordinary people ...can be healing" --Robbie Gilligan

Child and youth care:

Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu

You are a person because I am a person; I cannot separate my humanity from your humanity;

I become more human as I treat you with humanity



Rights into practice

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child United Nations





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Sixty-fourth session Agenda item 64

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/64/434)]

64/142. Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 2 and celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Convention in 2009.

Reaffirming also all previous resolutions on the rights of the child of the Human Rights Council, the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly, the most recent being Council resolutions 7/29 of 28 March 2008,³ 9/13 of 24 September 2008⁴ and 10/8 of 26 March 2009⁵ and Assembly resolution 63/241 of 24 December 2008,

Considering that the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, set out desirable orientations for policy and practice with the intention of enhancing the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and of relevant provisions of other international instruments regarding the protection and well-being of children deprived of parental care or who are at risk of being so,

 Welcomes the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, as contained in the annex to the present resolution, as a set of orientations to help to inform policy and practice;

 Encourages States to take the Guidelines into account and to bring them to the attention of the relevant executive, legislative and judiciary bodies of government, human rights defenders and lawyers, the media and the public in general;

The Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children



MOVING FORWARD: Implementing the 'Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children'





MOVING FORWARD: Implementing the 'Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children'



www.AlternativeCareGuidelines.org

Ron Ratliff earthsky.org

Child and Youth Care makes rights real

Key principles underlying the Guidelines:

'necessity' and 'suitability'

Alternative care is used only when necessary and is appropriate for the child concerned.



IS CARE GENUINELY NEEDED?



Discourage recourse to alternative

Reduce the care perceived need for formal alternative care Ensure formal alternative care settings meet minimum standards Ensure that the care setting meets the needs of the child

Moving Forward with the Guidelines

The principles of 'Necessity' and 'Suitability'

'Necessity':

- Preventing
- Gatekeeping

'Suitability':

- Standards
- Matching based on need (a range of options)

Promising practices

Participation

Childheaded households

Foster care

After care





For more info www.celcis.org