



WHO ARE STREET CHAMPIONS?

The Street Champion Programme is designed to give street-connected children in Kolkata their voice.

Street Champions are 14 to 20 year old street-connected children and young people who still live and/or work on the streets.

They are being given the opportunity to play an active role in their community and positively influence the decisions which impact on their lives so that all street-connected children in Kolkata:

1. Are safer in their communities
2. Have better able to access vital support and services and
3. Are valued by, and feel a sense of belonging to, their communities.

By becoming Street Champions, street-connected children benefit from:

- A child-centred training programme which enhances their understanding of their rights and responsibilities and develops the skills they need

to be effective advocates;

- Membership of a Street Champions Children's Group which provides a supportive and enabling environment in which to identify issues of importance and share their views and experiences;
- Opportunities to engage directly with duty-bearers to ensure that their views are listened to and taken seriously when decisions are made which affect their lives.

The programme has three key elements:

1. Development of and support for Street Champion Children's Groups,
2. Development of and support for a Street Champion's Parliament and
3. Inclusion of Street Champion Children's Groups and/or Parliament in Ward Level Child Protection Committees (WLCPC) and other consultations with duty-bearers.

Together, these:

- Provide a platform for street-connected children to associate together and express their views;
- Promote child participation as the process by which a child rights approach can be implemented;
- Generate awareness about and understanding

of child rights in the context of street-connected children;

- Empower street-connected children with knowledge about their rights; and
- Enhance street-connected children's capabilities



Interventions are of most benefit to children in street situations when the children themselves are involved in actively assessing needs, devising solutions, shaping strategies and carrying them out, rather than being seen as objects for whom decisions are made."

UN General Comment No. 21 (2017) on Children in Street Situations