



## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2021 - 2023) FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CHILDREN AND YOUTH DISABILITY NETWORK (CCYDN)**

**Deadline: extended for Pacific Region 5pm (BST) on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.**

Only successful shortlisted applicants will be contacted and invited to take part in an online interview taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. For enquiries or if you need support to access the application you can contact the team via email [ccydn@includemetoo.org.uk](mailto:ccydn@includemetoo.org.uk) or message the team via WhatsApp +447960105558

The **Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN)** is recruiting new members to join our Executive Committee. CCYDN is the first Commonwealth Children and Youth Network supporting strengthening and advocating for their collective voices to be included and represented in the Commonwealth and across the globe.

CCYDN provides a platform for youth with disabilities to connect, share learning, develop skills and knowledge to advocate and influence on disability rights, inclusion UNCRC and UNCRPD implementation at national, regional and global levels. A strong voice and platform for children and young people with disabilities strengthening their voices, increasing their representation and recognition in their roles as key agents, changemakers for positive change in achieving disability rights, equity and better future, inclusive futures for all.

We are welcoming applications from young people with disabilities aged 18 years to 29 years to apply for the 9 CCYDN Executive Committee members positions that are available to commence in May 2021 for a two-year period. CCYDN Executive Committee are voluntary roles.

Below are further details regarding CCYDN, our achievements to date, work themes, the Executive Committee roles and responsibilities, eligibility criteria and how to apply for this opportunity.

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## About the Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN)

During CHOGM 2018 and the 'Commonwealth Include Me 2 Project', Young People with disabilities involved in the Commonwealth Space through the various networks and roles such as Queen Leaders, Commonwealth Youth Council, Royal Commonwealth Society Fellows approached Include Me TOO to set up a Commonwealth network for and with us.

We felt strongly that a Commonwealth Disability focused Children and Youth Network was needed to ensure they have an independent voice and access to platforms to raise issues and share learning and solutions in areas that matter to them and to improve disability inclusion, rights and representation for and with them.

The **Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN)** was launched during the Commonwealth Week in London March 2019 in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Royal Commonwealth Society.

CCYDN is an affiliated Commonwealth Youth Network as part of the Commonwealth Youth Programme alongside several other youth networks. CCYDN is the first ever Commonwealth disability children and youth network driven by youth with disabilities and supported by Include Me TOO in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat.

CCYDN aim is to increase access to platforms for children and young people with disabilities as changemakers, and to influence positive change on issues that matter to them at local, national, regional and international levels.

CCYDN advocates the recognition of the vital role of children and young people contributions if the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Convention on the Rights of the Child and inclusive impactful delivery of the Global Sustainable Development Goals are ever to be fully realised and achieved.

### Who are we?

CCYDN Executive Committee Members are young people with disabilities representing youth led DPO's and disability NGO's.

We have representation from the regions of Africa, Asia, Pacific and Europe and within this recruitment we are keen to have further representation in these regions and youth with disabilities representative from the Caribbean.

The Executive Committee has key roles in leads covering the themes of CCYDN as well as countries and regions.

- Inclusive Education
- Economic Empowerment and Employment
- Gender Equality – Women and Girls with Disabilities
- Ending Stigma, and Taboos associated with disabilities
- Inclusive Technology and Digital
- Safeguarding, Ending all forms of harmful practice and abuse
- Policy and Advocacy
- Communications and Campaigning
- Training and Development
- Membership and Partnerships

We also have youth with disabilities advisors and will be recruiting mentors over the coming year. The Network has two Co-Chairs a Youth Representative, currently Jonathan Andrews and NGO's Representative, Include Me TOO CEO Parmi Dheensa.

**NOTE: Following the appointment of new Executive Committee members, CCYDN will also be electing a new Youth Co-chair from its Executive Committee in May 2021. New Executive Committee members are welcome and encouraged to apply for this role.**

**The current Youth Co-chair will remain as outgoing co-chair, supporting the incoming co-chair during their induction, until 22 June 2021 (the end of the Commonwealth Youth Forum CHOMG 2021 event).**

The CCYDN Executive Committee is made up of 12 youth with disabilities aged 29 years old and under. This year there will also be 6 youth with disabilities in the role as Associate Executive Committee aged 30 to 35 years who will continue supporting the work and development of CCYDN.

NGO's working with children and young people with disabilities enabling them to increase their awareness on their rights, inclusion and provide access and support to their participation and representation are also essential for the success and reach of CCYDN. NGO's can support the future these changemakers particularly those with complex needs and those who are underrepresented in the disability space / platforms.

## **CCYDN Members**

CCDYN is a network membership is young people with disabilities from across the Commonwealth, which includes individuals, youth with disabilities led DPO's and NGO's working with children and young people with disabilities who are making a difference locally, nationally and internationally regarding disability inclusion and rights. CCYDN are a representative network collectively aiming to work in parallel alongside other international networks and forums.

Membership is 13 to 29 years and Associate Membership 30 to 35

## **CCYDN Achievements to Date:**

**1:** Youth with disabilities delegation at the Global Disability Summit and subsequent report [Global Disability Summit Children and Young People's Report](#)

**2:** During the Global Disability Summit London 2018 children and young people with disabilities from across the globe representing 23 countries shared their views on what matters to them in regards to the Global Disability Summit six themes. They shared key messages they wanted included in their own charter and produced the [Global Disability Children and Young People's Charter](#)

**3:** Official side event [Strengthening the Participation, Inclusion and Rights of Children and Young People with Disabilities](#) at the United Nations in New York during the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD (June 2019)

**4:** Members have represented and presented on behalf of CCYDN on many platforms including ECOSOC, Queens Commonwealth Trust, South Asia People's Forum on SDG's, CDPF, Disability Inclusive Form, United Nations, Davos and several official Commonwealth functions.

**5:** I am Able II Antigua and Barbuda Conference

**6: Covid-19 Children and Young People with Disabilities Global Statement and Recommendations** Young people with disabilities representatives of DPO's and NGO's from Fiji, Malta, France, India, Maldives, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia Mauritius, Australia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Canada and United Kingdom came together for roundtable discussions during May to July 2020. Producing the [COVID 19 Children and Young People with Disabilities Global Statement](#) which received further endorsements from key stakeholders in the disability and human rights movement supporting the recommendations to protect children and young people with disabilities human rights and inclusion and commitment not to be left behind in COVID-19 responses and recovery.

**7: COVID 19 Hospital Communication Passport**, CCYDN worked with Include Me TOO with this resource a response to the pandemic supporting persons with disabilities access, communication whilst supporting their rights. safety and dignity during health and medical care and treatment. CCYDN worked with youths, DPO's NGO's translating the resource and delivering train the trainer workshops. Establishing local partners and focal points in Maldives, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Tanzania, Zambia, Cameroon, Kenya, Australia and Fiji.

**8: IDEAS Capacity Building Programme and Masterclass Series** was delivered during November 2020 to March 2021. Supporting young people with disabilities to increase and build their skills and confidence as Disability Rights Representatives, Changemakers and Advocates. 33 countries were, there were 50 places for the programme and was oversubscribed resulting to 125 young people with disabilities taking part.

### **CCYDN Executive Committee Members Roles and Responsibilities**

- 1.** Support and promote the network and deliver on the CCYDN workplan, aims and vision.
- 2.** CYDN executive committee members will take lead on themes within the workplan and build a team of young people to support CCYDN to deliver each theme as well as increasing their skills and capacity as a team.
- 3.** Work effectively remotely, respond to communications, attend web-meetings, CCYDN events online and actively participate in discussions, events and social media communications.
- 4.** Proactively involve and support the participation, inclusion and representation of children and youth with disabilities strengthening their voices, and influence on

commitments and policies to implement their disability rights and inclusion in the Commonwealth.

5. Support regional and local focal points to build a strong network and engagement at grassroots level for the participation, representation of children and youth with disabilities and effectiveness of CCYDN work and aims.
6. Monitor CCYDN activities and contributions in workplan delivery, and other tasks such as outcomes measuring signing up to Global Disability Children and Young People's Charter and COVID 19 Children and Young People with Disabilities Statement and Recommendations.
7. Increase awareness of the disability rights, advocacy, social constructs of disability. Tools to support and protect disability rights and human rights of children and young people with disabilities advocating for the implementation of UNCRC, CRDP and inclusive delivery of the SDGs.
8. Ensure and support diverse representation of the CCYDN executive committee and members and ensure active engagement with members in regional areas and Collectively within the Commonwealth and Globally.
9. Reach out and work with other Commonwealth Youth Networks and Youth International Networks working at local, national, regional and international levels to collaborate with CCYDN on issues that matter to children and young people with disabilities increasing their involvement and representation in the youth and disability rights advocacy movements
10. Actively engage Commonwealth children and young people with disabilities and CCYDN members on areas CCYDN are requested to contribute or represent on ensuring evidence-based responses and contributions are gathered on related themes to share at the platforms CCYDN will have access to influencing disability rights implementation and policies.

#### **Enabling representation inclusion and participation:**

- Increase reach and engagement with children and young people with disabilities by working with Disabled People's Organisations (DPO's) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) supporting and connecting to CCYDN activities and efforts for inclusion and representation.
- Capacity building via CCYDN of children and young with disabilities and youth led DPO's and non-disabled youths regarding disability rights, inclusion and advocacy.
- Identify and share opportunities for the CCYDN members to participate, represent and contribute towards.
- Support profiling members achievements in disability rights movement, spaces sharing innovation, practices for inclusion, advocacy and contributions/collaborations in campaigns.

- Advocate for children and young people with disabilities including those who cannot vocalise on behalf of themselves and support their participation and visibility in the disability and youth spaces and movements.
- Empower via CCYDN children and young people with disabilities to be self-advocates.
- Increase local, regional, national, international opportunities for children and young people with disabilities via CCYDN to have a platform on issues that matter to them, to be listened to and have their voices heard to influence change.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

1. Aged between 18 to 29 years at the time of application
2. Citizen of a Commonwealth member country
3. Be a young person with disabilities / impairments
4. Experience and knowledge of disability rights and inclusion, advocacy, campaigning,
5. Good communication skills in English, and online access and computer skills
6. Be able to demonstrate working well both on own initiative and with teams
7. Available to commit a minimum of 6 hours a month
8. A strong commitment to advance disability rights, inclusion, participation and representation of and with children and young people with disabilities in the Commonwealth within the global disability movement and youth movement.