

# A Profile of National Child Rights Coalitions

Findings of the NGO Group for the CRC  
survey of national child rights coalitions

NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child

## CRIN-NGO Group Joint Working Paper No. 1

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# A Profile of National Child Rights Coalitions

Findings of the NGO Group for the CRC survey of national child rights coalitions

## Introduction

National child rights coalitions are relatively new on the human rights scene. Many emerged as a result of article 45b of the Convention on the Rights of the Child that allows independent, expert submissions to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Over approximately twenty years many coalitions have arisen to become a leading voice for children's rights. In 2002 The Liaison Unit Programme conducted a survey of national child rights coalitions worldwide. Thirty-two coalitions participated to the survey. The results of the survey revealed that child rights coalitions attract a broad cross section of civil society organisations with the majority being non-governmental organisations. Monitoring and advocacy on children's issues are the primary areas of work. The level of formality in terms of structure and legal status varies, depending on the social context, but all have made significant strides in organisational development and influence. The working paper is a report on this survey.

## What are national child rights coalitions?

Over the years there has been a growing movement of support for children's rights as articulated by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within this movement are a variety of networks, groups and organisations that embrace the Convention's vision of children's rights. National child rights coalitions are among the most distinctive networks that have emerged in many countries since the Convention came into force. They regard the Convention as fundamental to realising legislative, policy and programmatic reform in the interest of children's rights. Often national child rights coalitions are the primary focus for civil society mobilisation on children's rights issues and act as a voice for children in their countries.

National child rights coalitions are networks of organisations, groups and people that share a common interest in promoting the rights of children. They take a variety of forms in terms of membership, structure and methods of work. There is no standard model. However there are some common features that characterise coalitions:

- They generally emerge in response to the wish to produce an 'Alternative Report' to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- NGOs make up the majority of members, particularly child-focused NGOs;
- In many countries national child rights coalitions begin through the initiative of international NGOs that are committed to supporting the promotion and implementation of the Convention;
- They represent a voice for children's issues;
- They mobilise civil society groups and organisations for support and action toward advancing children's rights;
- They generally regard themselves as having responsibility in a country for the promotion of children's rights and awareness raising on associated issues;
- They often seek to influence government at several levels to bring about favourable legislative, policy and programmatic reform in keeping with the standards of the Convention;
- They seek to find ways to involve children and young people in the promotion, implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

There are approximately one hundred known child rights coalitions worldwide spread unevenly between the continents. Table 1 illustrates the relationship between the number of countries in different regions and the number of child rights coalitions.

Table 1: States Parties to the Convention and the number of national coalitions in these countries

Geo-political Region	Africa	Asia	W Europe	C/E Europe	Americas	Middle East	Oceania
Countries (States Parties to the CRC)	51	28	25	19	36	14	17
National Child Rights Coalitions	26	13	18	8	21	5	1
Proportion of coalitions to member states	51%	46%	72%	42%	58%	36%	6%

Source: NGO Group Liaison Unit

The regions with the greatest concentration of coalitions are Western Europe followed by the Americas, particularly Latin America. Coalitions are found in 50 per cent of the countries in Africa that have ratified the Convention, mainly in the French and English speaking regions. Less than 50 per cent of Asian countries, which have the greatest proportion of the world's population, have national coalitions. Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East have only a few coalitions and New Zealand is the only country of Oceania to have a national coalition. Appendix 1 lists the countries with coalitions in each region based on the Liaison Unit Programme records in late 2003.

## Benefits of coalition building

Between 1992 and 1998 a series of regional meetings were held among national coalitions and NGOs, generally aimed at strengthening the child rights movement.<sup>1</sup> These meetings took place in Latin America, South Asia, the Middle East, South East Asia, Europe and West Africa. They covered a broad range of issues but with the common goal of strengthening their networks and promoting change at national level for children's rights. A review of the regional meeting reports shows a relatively high consistency in the interests, challenges and ambitions among the coalitions present. Their main concern was to find ways to influence government policy choices effecting children and the implementation of the Convention. Other issues that dominated these regional meetings were their perceived mandate to promote the Convention and to enable children to be full participants in advocating for their rights. While coalitions recognised the importance of children participating as equal partners, few at that time had any experience in this area. Consequently the question of child participation posed a dilemma, one with which many coalitions are still grappling.

The reports of the regional meetings also show that coalitions were faced with institutional and operational challenges, such as finding ways to maintain dynamic networks over an extended period of time and ways to gather accurate data for monitoring and advocacy purposes. They realised that the internal processes for ensuring sustainability, coupled with the capacities to carry out core tasks were fundamental to their existence. Hence a significant part of these meetings was devoted to tackling such issues. A table that illustrates the interests, challenges and ambitions of these regional meetings can be found in Appendix 2.

<sup>1</sup> The reports on the regional meetings are as follows:

“First Latin American Meeting to Monitor the Convention on the Rights of the Child”, Lima Peru, December 8 - 10, 1992; “Rights of the Child: Realities, Needs and Challenges”, Cyprus, May 9 - 11, 1994; “Workshop on NGO Coalitions and Experiences of Reporting and Monitoring the Convention on the Rights of the Child”, Nepal, December 3 - 5, 1996; “Experiences of NGO Coalitions and Government Institutions I Reporting and Monitoring the Convention on the Rights of the Child”, Philippines, Nov. 30 - Dec.4, 1997; “First European Regional Meeting of National NGO Coalitions for Children's Rights”, Berlin Germany, March 3 - 5, 1998; “Report from a Regional Consultation of West African National child Rights Coalitions and Child Rights Organizations in Guinea-Bissau”, March 17 - 20, 1998; “Fighting for the Rights of the Child in West Africa: The experiences of the national coalitions of non-government child rights organisations”, Save the Children Sweden 1998.

It is widely recognised that the reporting process of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is a catalyst for NGOs forming themselves into 'umbrella' coalitions to prepare and submit comprehensive 'alternative reports' to States Party reports. The very act of forming such networks often brings with it a realisation of the potential political strength for influencing government and international policy. Yet, although participation in the reporting process to the Committee on the Rights of the Child is an important aspect of national coalition work, the report of the regional meetings also make it evident that other interests were very important. The potential benefits of coalitions, especially in a weak civil society sector are high. This is illustrated in a study of the Lesotho NGO Coalition.<sup>2</sup> This revealed that the coalition served as a source of information and support to members and gave members a chance to learn, and to adopt a child rights approach to programming. It also brought improvement in members' understanding of advocacy and its application and, most of all, it resulted in practical gains for children. The perception that the coalition brings benefits to member organisations and makes a positive difference in children's favour are fundamental to sustaining the network, therefore requires that attention is paid to members' needs and the coalition's internal workings.

## Background and Method

At the time of the survey there were 100 known national child rights coalitions across the world. The NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child Liaison Unit Programme (LUP) has regular communication with these coalitions, providing information and technical support to complement their work in children's rights. While the LUP had information about several coalitions, little was known about their areas and manner of work. LUP conducted a survey to provide answers to these and other questions. With responses from just under a third of all coalitions, the survey was a 'snapshot' of the national coalition community and lays the basis for more detailed work in the future.

A questionnaire was sent to all coalitions in early 2002. The first section asked for the name, contact details, types of membership, as well as the year that the coalition was established. In the second section there were questions that sought to find out what issues/articles of the Convention coalitions were working on. This section was divided along the main thematic sub-headings of the Convention, namely: general principles; civil rights and freedoms; family environment and alternative care and so on. The third and final section looked at the types of activities, scope of operation and their perception of their level of activity.

The questionnaire was initially distributed by email. Subsequently, printed copies were sent to those coalitions that had not responded by email. It was also translated into French and Spanish to encourage co-operation. Data collection ended in mid-September 2002. Thirty-one coalitions (almost one-third of all coalitions globally) from all the geographic regions responded: Albania, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of Congo, England, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala (2), Haiti, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, New Zealand, Mauritania, Pakistan, Palestine, Scotland, South Africa, Tajikistan and Venezuela. (See appendix 3 for the names of the coalitions.)

## Membership of Coalitions

All the respondents are membership networks, however a few are more formalised and could be regarded as organisations in their own right rather than loose networks. The survey does not give details on the levels of formality versus informality, the choices of which are influenced by factors such as length of existence and context. The most formal and oldest network is Finland's Central Union for Child Welfare founded in 1937 and currently with 85 member organisations. Others, such as the Women Co-operative Union of NGOs of Mauritania and the Pakistan Children's Club began in the 1990s and are located in countries where recognition by the government is better achieved through a legal registration process. These are organisations in their own right, being registered as charities with a formal membership. Others, such as the coalition in Ghana, are registered networks; a measure they have employed to strengthen their political and legal positions while still maintaining fairly loose structures and operations.

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<sup>2</sup> Kevin Byrne, "An Evaluation of Lesotho NGO Coalition for Children's Rights", September 2001.

Whatever definitions we may ascribe to them, all are membership-driven and have adopted the Convention as part of their overall mandate.

The data on coalition membership show the following:

- NGOs form the majority membership in all coalitions. Of those surveyed, 64 per cent were NGOs. In 11 coalitions, NGOs comprise 100 per cent of membership. Ten coalitions have more than 40 NGO members (the largest, Bangladesh, comprising 152 NGOs). With the exception of Grenada, the data do not show whether these NGOs are local, national or international;
- Grenada, Ireland, and Ivory Coast were the only three countries to have faith-based institutions in their membership;
- In some instances government agencies/departments were members. The coalitions in Albania, Costa Rica, Grenada (which has nine), Guatemala, Ireland and Ivory Coast noted this in their responses. In the Finnish Union there are 33 municipalities as members. These municipalities carry a range of authority at local council level and are regarded as autonomous entities, although their work is funded by central government;
- Seven coalitions include individual personal members. Japan has by far the largest with 400 individual members. Albania noted that two of their four members are children. None of the others appear to have youth members. The Grenada coalition reported that they tried having young people on their board but found it unworkable for various reasons, not least of which was the incompatibility in schedules for convening meetings between the students' school and adults' working schedules.

Most coalitions started between 1995 and 2001. The breakdown is as follows:

Table 2: National coalition start dates

Period	Countries
1937	Finland
1985 – 1989	France, Guatemala and Japan
1990-1994	Bangladesh, Germany, Grenada, Haiti and South Africa
1995-1999	Albania, Angola, Belgium, Costa Rica, Ghana, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Kyrgyzstan, New Zealand, Scotland and Venezuela
2001-2001	Argentina, DR Congo, Guatemala, Italy, Mauritania, Palestine and Tajikistan
	Two non-responses

Source: NGO Group 2002 Survey

In summary, the data show that national child rights coalitions are dominated by NGOs. The emergence of national child rights coalitions is a relatively new phenomenon with most beginning from the mid-1990s onwards. Coalitions tend to be inclusive, attracting membership from a range of social sectors.

## Areas of the Convention on which coalitions are working

The Convention was presented in the thematic subheadings used by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, hence an internationally accepted framework for working with a complex legal instrument. Most coalitions that participate in the reporting process to the Committee have become quite conversant with these thematic subheadings; first at the stage of preparing alternative reports, then in utilising initial reporting guidelines to the Convention, and thereafter in the follow-up wherein the concluding observations, which list the Committee's recommendations, are similarly grouped. Therefore this framework appeared to be a sound basis for getting some insight into the areas in which the coalitions focused their work at the time of the survey.

The questionnaire also asked respondents to identify those articles that the coalition was currently working on. These articles are grouped under thematic subheadings as in Table 3.

Table 3: Thematic sub-headings of the CRC

Sub-heading	Articles
General Principles	2,3,6,12
Civil Rights and Freedoms	7,8,13,14,15,16,17,37a
Family Environment	5.9.10, 11,18,19,21,25,29
Basic Health and Welfare	6(2),18(3),14,16,23, 27
Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities	28,29,31
Special Protection Measures	22,30,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40
Making the Convention known	42

The data reveal that:

- Generally coalitions do cover most of the Convention in their work;
- Articles 2 and 3 were most consistently identified under the section of ‘General Principles’. These articles refer to non-discrimination and the best interests of the child. Articles related to children’s rights to survival and development and rights to an opinion were also highlighted by most;
- There were no distinctive patterns of frequency of articles identified in the section on ‘Civil Rights and Freedoms’. However, four coalitions - New Zealand, Italy, England and Scotland - identified all the articles in this and other sections since they were preparing, or had prepared, an alternative report which necessitated examining the status of children under all articles;
- Those coalitions that appear to cover most articles under the section on ‘Family and Alternative Care’ were Albania, Belgium, England, Grenada, Pakistan, Palestine, Italy, New Zealand and Scotland. The last three for the reasons mentioned above;
- Under ‘Basic Health and Welfare’ those articles most frequently identified were: 6 - survival and development, 23 - disabled children, 26 - social security, and 27 - standard of living;
- Education, Leisure and Culture had a high frequency of positive responses with article 28 - education being the most popular. All the coalitions listed at least one of the articles;
- Special Protection Measures were grouped as in Table 3. There was a similar pattern in the coalitions most actively involved in this section - Albania, Belgium, Azerbaijan, Italy, Ireland, New Zealand, Palestine and Scotland. Angola, Ghana and the Ivory Coast were also actively working on this section;
- Publicising the Convention (article 42) received scores from all of the respondents and reaffirms this activity as universal for national coalitions. By implication, Article 4 – General measures of implementation – is of direct concern to all coalitions. This is either through the reporting process to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, or by other means at national level.

In summary, coalitions regard the Convention on the Rights of the Child as fundamental to their work. The results of the survey indicate that the Convention is the very reason for existence of national coalitions. Article 42 provides them the mandate for awareness raising, training and other related activities aimed at making the Convention known and respected. The very nature of coalitions also makes article 4 intrinsic to their work. The group of articles under ‘General Principles’ is second most important to coalition work, a strong indication of a developing child rights orientation.

## Method and scope of work and level of activity

All coalitions were asked to describe the way they work towards promoting and implementing the Convention. The results of this question are shown in Table 4. The table shows the range of activities pursued by national child rights coalitions. Preparing the alternative or shadow report to the States Party report on the CRC and awareness raising are the major activities of most coalitions. At the other end of the table are those that provide direct services such as legal representation and counselling. The five activities most frequently referred to were the preparation of the CRC alternative report, awareness

raising activities, advocacy activities, representation at international meetings, and monitoring the CRC. Over 20 of the 31 coalitions listed these activities. Other activities, such as research, media campaigns and child rights training also received high scores.

Table 4 – Types of Coalition Activities

Types of coalition activities	Number of countries from the survey of 31 countries
Preparation of CRC alternative report	25
Awareness raising activities	25
Advocacy activities	22
Representation at international meetings	21
Monitoring CRC	21
Forum of exchange among NGOs	20
Research	19
Media campaigns and publicity	18
Child rights training	18
Child participation activities	15
Direct services	9

Source: NGO Group 2002 Survey

Coalitions were then asked to state how many of their activities they were doing at the time of the survey. This question sought to assess the level of dynamism within these networks by the number of activities they were carrying out. Of the eight categories of activities mentioned, most coalitions were involved in at least four, with a modal average of six activities. A few coalitions, such as the English and Costa Rican coalitions recorded as many as ten activities but rated their coalitions as 'fairly active'. Others, such as Tajikistan and Angola, recorded few activities yet regarded their coalitions as active. Table 5 illustrates the variations in perception by respondents from the national coalitions on their levels of activity.

Table 5 – Numbers of Coalition Activities and Perception of Activity

Very Active	Number of Activities	Active	Number of Activities	Fairly Active	Number of Activities
Belgium	6	Albania	7	Bangladesh	6
Germany	6	Angola	6	Costa Rica	10
Grenada	6	Azerbaijan	8	England	10
Guatemala (B)	5	France	5	Guatemala (A)	8
Ireland	6	Finland	7	Ivory Coast	6
		Ghana	8	Japan	8
		Haiti	6	Kyrgyzstan	5
		Mauritania	5		
		Palestine	8		
		Tajikistan	2		

Source: NGO Group 2002 Survey

The data suggest that coalitions generally regard themselves as active networks. It is worth noting that most of those that classified themselves as 'very active' were more immediately involved at the time in the reporting process to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

- Belgium completed their report to the Committee (June 2002) and were involved in follow-up activities.
- Germany was preparing its alternative report and expected to meet the Committee in the October 2003 pre-session.
- Ireland presented their alternative report and returned for the session with the Committee in September 2002.
- New Zealand was preparing an alternative report and saw the reporting process as setting the stage for a wider scope of work in the future.

- Scotland, like Ireland, returned in September 2002 to observe the session with the Committee and the UK government.

Similarly, several coalitions that classified themselves as ‘active’ were more closely involved in the reporting process to the Committee during the data collection for the survey. These included Haiti (pre-session), and Palestine (session). In some cases, for example Guatemala (A) in Table 5, coalitions list a high number of activities and yet regard themselves as inactive. One possible explanation for such inconsistencies lies in the perception of the person completing the survey. Whilst someone at a coalition secretariat may be undertaking several activities in the name of the coalition, that same person may consider the coalition membership to be less than active. Some coalitions are known to have fully operational independent offices such as Ghana, England, Albania and Bangladesh.

## Outreach and Capacity

Coalitions were asked to provide a brief description of the internal capacities, geographic outreach and types of groups/institutions their programmes targeted. In these sections of the questionnaire closed-ended questions were used which limited the respondents to the stipulated categories. Table 6 shows the results of this question.

Table 6: Coalition Capacity and Outreach

	Coalition Staff	Office	National Outreach	Regional Outreach	Targeted Groups	Community Outreach	International Outreach
Yes	21	18	22	8	17	12	11
No	7	10	6	19	9	15	16
Non response	3	3	3	4	4	4	4

Source: NGO Group 2002 Survey

The table shows the numbers of coalitions that gave ‘yes’ and ‘no’ responses to questions on the presence of a coalition secretariat, programme staff and their scope of outreach. A significant percentage (75 per cent) of the coalitions have staff persons, most on a part-time basis. A little over half have office space. Considering that most coalitions came into existence in the mid-1990s, this trend suggests a fairly rapid transition from a loose network without a strong operational base to a more permanent structure. This finding implies that coalitions recognise that the previously mentioned structural and operational challenges in the regional reports require human and material resources to ensure that core operations are carried out.

In relation to the scope of work, 22 national coalitions have outreach programmes at national level. By contrast, only eight coalitions reported a regional outreach. Outreach to ‘Targeted groups’ was identified by 17 coalitions and included government departments/officials, parents, youth, and schools. They were not required to specify these targeted groups, however a few noted that they worked with children. It is not clear how coalitions interpreted ‘international work’. No doubt for some, key events like reporting to the Committee, the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children and regional collaboration would constitute this classification.

In summary, most coalitions regard themselves as active, carrying out on average six types of activities at national level with targeted groups and institutions. The primary work of coalitions consists of preparing alternative reports, monitoring and advocacy.

## Conclusion

This survey suggests that national child rights coalitions are a growing movement that has found effective ways to sustain their existence while carrying out vital work in the interest of children’s rights. Coalitions are pursuing a range of activities, particularly with respect to monitoring and advocacy for the Convention. They have a certain flexibility that allows for a diverse membership and structure relevant to their contexts. The survey also prompts deeper questions on these very areas and others, such as the involvement of children and young people. Future research could provide answers to these and other questions in relation to the child rights movement.

National coalitions are a recent phenomenon. The survey allows us to question how much they have changed since their emergence during the 1990s. It is useful to compare our results to a previous survey carried out in 1995 of national coalitions in Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Mexico, Norway, The Philippines, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom by the International Save the Children Alliance.<sup>3</sup> What do our results tell us about the main recommendations from the 1995 survey?

- *Involve children at a meaningful level:* This remains a significant challenge. Few of the coalitions can manage the active participation of children in their work.
- *Be aware of the dangers of the loss of momentum.* At least those that responded to the 2002 survey appear to have maintained momentum. The reporting processes are clearly the stimulus to be active and most respondents were involved in this. Coalitions that did not respond (with a few exceptions) were not involved in any reporting processes at the time of the survey.
- *Building trust and co-operation between members are both great challenges and valuable opportunities:* Coalitions have become more accomplished at cooperation over time. The process of reporting on the Convention on the Rights of the Child has provided a clear common purpose. Our survey indicates, however, that coalition members can be stretched for time and, where applicable, much of the work of the coalition falls to secretariat staff.
- *Integrate the coalition's work with the work of individual organisations and exploit complementarities:* There is evidence from the survey that, at least between NGOs in coalitions, there is a merger of interests. There is not, however, so much evidence to indicate that complementarities between different kinds of organisation are being exploited.

In 1995 most coalitions were in their infancy. The 2002 survey indicates that they have stood the test of time through monitoring the Convention and advocating for child rights. In many cases, they have also managed to formalise their existence by setting up permanent offices and this, in turn, has helped coalitions to achieve longer-term programme goals.

Over time, coalitions have begun to achieve a level of national recognition as child rights organisations in their own right and, to some extent, work with a wide range of stakeholders and duty bearers in the community. In this respect, they have become important players in child rights. They have become a primary source of expert information required for the reporting process to the CRC, and a trusted check and balance to that of official reports by providing a broader view from the child rights community.

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<sup>3</sup> “The International Save the Children Alliance Working Group on the UN convention on the Rights of the Child”, International Save the Children Alliance, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, National Coalitions.

# Appendices

Appendix 1 – Geo-political Regions of States Parties to the CRC with National Child Rights Coalitions (late 2003)

Africa	LAC	Asia	Europe	C/E Europe	Mid. East	Oceania
Angola	Argentina	Bangladesh	Austria	Albania	Egypt	New Zealand
Benin	Bolivia	Cambodia	Belgium (2)	Azerbaijan	Israel	
Burkina Faso	Brazil	China (Hong Kong)	Denmark	Belarus	Jordan	
Cameroon	Canada	India	Finland	Czech Rep.	Palestine*	
C. African Rep.	Chile	Indonesia	France	Georgia	Yemen	
Chad	Costa Rica	Japan	Germany	Latvia		
Congo/Brazzaville	Dominican Republic	Kazakhstan	Ireland	Poland		
Ivory Coast	Ecuador	Korea (South)	Italy	Romania		
Ethiopia	El Salvador	Kyrgyzstan	Luxembourg	Ukraine		
Gambia	Grenada	Philippines	Netherlands			
Ghana	Guatemala	Thailand	Norway			
Guinea	Haiti	Tajikistan	Spain			
Guinea-Bissau	Honduras	Uzbekistan	Sweden			
Kenya	Jamaica		Switzerland			
Lesotho	Mexico		Turkey			
Mali	Nicaragua		England (UK)			
Mauritania	Paraguay		Scotland(UK)			
Niger	Peru		Wales (UK)			
Nigeria	Trinidad/Tobago					
Senegal	Uruguay					
Sierra Leone	Venezuela					
South Africa						
Sudan						
Togo						
Zambia						

\*Palestine is an observer to the UN

Source: NGO Group Liaison Unit

Appendix 2: Coalition Regional Meetings – A summary of interests, problems and ambitions

	Latin America	Middle East	South Asia	SE Asia	Europe	West Africa
<b>Areas of Interest</b>						
Making child participation work	x	x	x	x	x	
Effectively influencing government	x	x	x	x	x	x
Publicising the Convention	x	x		x	x	x
Alternative Report as a tool for advocacy and monitoring			x	x	x	x
Broad based participation		x		x		
Role of INGOs & UNICEF			x			x
Thematic interests		x	x		x	
Common Problems						
Difficulties in data gathering	x		x		x	x
Attracting & Maintaining NGO interest	x		x	x		x
Directly involving children in CR work	x		x	x		x
Insufficient financial resources	x		x		x	x
Giving full accord to special groups of children		x			x	
Insufficient clarity in the relationship between coalition work and INGOs			x			x
<b>Conclusion &amp; Way Forward</b>						
Strengthen regional network	x	x			x	
Strengthen national coalitions	x	x	x	x		x
More Training	x	x	x	x	x	x
More publicity of the Convention	x	x	x	x	x	x
Strengthen monitoring systems	x		x	x	x	x
Strengthen advocacy toward govt	x		x	x	x	x
More information for coalitions	x		x	x		x
More work on child participation	x		x	x	x	

Source: NGO Group Liaison Unit

Appendix 3: Participants in the NGO Group for the CRC 2002 Coalition Survey

Country	Coalition
Albania	Albanian Children's Rights Network (ACRN)
Angola	Child and Peace Alliance of Angola
Argentina	Colectivo de ONGs de Infancia y Adolescencia de Argentina
Austria	Netzwerk Kinderrechte
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan Coalition on Child's Rights Convention
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF)
Belgium	Coordination des ONG pour les droits de l'enfant – Belgique
Costa Rica	Federación Costarricense de ONG para la Protección y Defensa de los Derechos de la Niñez y la Adolescencia (COSECODENI)
Democratic Republic of Congo	Coalition des ONG des Droits de l'Enfant en Sigle (CODE/RDC)
England	Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE)
Finland	Lastensuojelun Keskusliitto r.y (LSKL)
France	Conseil Français des Associations pour les Droits de l'Enfant
Germany	National Coalition für die Umsetzung der UN-Kinderrechtskonvention in Deutschland
Ghana	Ghana Coalition for the Rights of the Child
Grenada	Grenada National Coalition on the Rights of the Child
Guatemala	Movimiento Social por los Derechos del Niño y la Juventud y en Aldunas Accion
Guatemala	CIPRODENI
Haiti	Coalition Haïtienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Enfant (COHADDE)
Ireland	Children's Rights Alliance
Italy	Gruppo do la Voro per la Convenzione sui Diritti del Fanciullo
Ivory Coast	Forum des ONG et Associations d'Aide à l'Enfance en Difficulté
Japan	Federation for the Protection of Children's Human Rights
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan Child Rights Coalition
New Zealand	Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa (Inc.) (ACYA)
Mauritania	Coordination d'ONG et Unions de Coopérative Féminines
Pakistan	Pakistan Children Club - Coalition for Child Protection
Palestine	Palestinian Child Rights Coalition
Scotland	Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights
South Africa	National Children's Rights Committee
Tajikistan	National Coalition for the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Tajikistan
Venezuela	CONGANI

Source: NGO Group 2002 Survey



NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child  
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The NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child is a global network of NGOs, committed to promoting children's rights as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is a leading international forum for advocacy on children's issues within and outside the United Nations. Since 1995 the NGO Group has played a leading role in such events as the Graça Machel Study on Children in Armed Conflict, the Stockholm and Yokohama Congresses against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, the follow-up to the UN Special Session on Children, and the current UN Study on Violence against Children.

The NGO Group is a key partner in working with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, both in contributing to the monitoring work of the Committee and in facilitating the creation of, and support to, the work of NGO networks that advance children's rights at national level.

The Liaison Unit forms an important core area of the NGO Group's work. It was established in the early 1990s to encourage and support national NGOs in participating in the reporting process to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. It seeks to strengthen cooperation between the global NGO community and the Committee. The Unit also monitors the work of national child rights coalitions worldwide and provides technical support to them in order to effectively promote monitoring and implementation of the Convention.



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The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) is an independent, non-partisan forum for the exchange of information that assists the work of all those committed to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. CRIN aims to democratise information on child rights and to encourage information sharing between different parts of the world and different actors in the implementation of the UNCRC. CRIN was formally established in 1995 but has a history dating back to 1991.

Information is disseminated to thousands of individuals and organisations around the world, including over 1,400 organisations that have formally joined as members to the Child Rights Information Network.

The CRIN-NGO Group Joint Working Papers are published occasionally by the Child Rights Information Network, and can be downloaded in pdf format at [www.crin.org/about/working-papers](http://www.crin.org/about/working-papers).