

Policy Working Group



ICCRP

**International and Canadian
Child Rights Partnership**

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SUMMARY

Children and youth are rarely allowed to influence the development of laws and policies likely to affect their lives, however, their meaningful participation in decision making is a right guaranteed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). To help respond to this gap and advance scholarship about opportunities and conditions for laws and policies to be informed by young people and their needs, the goal of this study is to analyze and explore the intergenerational requirements related to child rights and participation to inform legal and policy frameworks and child rights implementation. The goal of this study directly responds to the broader objective of the ICCRP to clarify how intergenerational relationships may be applied to transform legal and policy frameworks and advance the realization of child rights across the Global South and North.

RESUMEN

A los niños y jóvenes rara vez se les permite influir en el desarrollo de leyes y políticas que puedan afectar a sus vidas, sin embargo, su participación significativa en la toma de decisiones es un derecho garantizado por la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Derechos del Niño (CDN). El objetivo de este estudio es analizar y explorar los requisitos intergeneracionales relacionados con los derechos del niño y la participación para informar los marcos legales y políticos y la implementación de los derechos del niño. La meta de este estudio responde directamente al objetivo más amplio del ICCRP de aclarar cómo pueden aplicarse las relaciones intergeneracionales para transformar los marcos legales y políticos y avanzar en la realización de los derechos del niño en todo el Sur y el Norte Globales.

RESUMO

As crianças e os jovens raramente têm permissão para influenciar no desenvolvimento de leis e políticas que possam afetar as suas vidas, embora a sua participação nos processos de tomada de decisão seja um direito garantido pela Convenção das Nações Unidas sobre os Direitos da Criança (UNCRC). Para ajudar a responder a essa lacuna, e avançar nos estudos sobre as oportunidades e condições para que as leis e políticas sejam informadas pelos jovens e suas necessidades, o objetivo deste estudo é analisar e explorar os requisitos intergeracionais relacionados aos direitos da criança, e à participação em estruturas legais e políticas para a implementação dos seus direitos. A meta deste estudo responde diretamente ao objetivo mais amplo da ICCRP de esclarecer como as relações intergeracionais podem ser aplicadas para transformar as estruturas jurídicas e políticas, e promover a realização dos direitos da criança no Sul e no Norte Global.

What work do we do with the ICCRP?

This study is situated within the context of the SSHRC-funded multi-year International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership (ICCRP), a global multi-sectoral, interdisciplinary partnership of researchers and practitioners from Canadian and international universities, governments, NGOs, human rights institutions, and young people with lived experience. The ICCRP is divided into 4 research streams, supported by 11 case studies situated nationally or internationally aimed at 1) expanding intergenerational conceptual models, 2) investigating child and youth participation and activism, 3) developing relational practices, and 4) analyzing child rights education, all of which have direct or indirect policy implications.

What does our work look like?/How do we do what we do?

In line with the efforts of the ICCRP Policy Working Group (of which the research team members currently co-lead), the specific objectives of this study are to document the 11 ICCRP case studies, by: 1) defining the policy landscape (direct and indirect policy implications) as it relates to the ICCRP case studies; 2) exploring intergenerational practices connected to policy-making and implementation; 3) supporting knowledge building and sharing; and 4) identifying relational and situational practices that can stimulate public policies that are reflective of children's rights and promote the implementation of the UNCRC. To reach these objectives, the research has been divided into 2 phases. The first phase, scheduled for this summer (June-September, 2024), will aim at defining the landscape and current opportunities; and the second phase, approximately 18-24 months later (Jan-June, 2026), will re-engage with case study research teams to identify shifts, trends, and learnings. In summary, each phase will involve a number of steps: (1) data collection through interviews, focus groups, document and literature analysis around the 11 ICCRP case studies; (2) analysis to identify patterns and trends as they relate to objectives 1 and 2 above; and (3) sharing of outcomes through community-oriented tools, conferences, and academic publications.

What are we doing?/What have we done so far?

This study aims to contribute to new and renewed perspectives for enhancing children's participation in law and policy-making and implementation, thereby advancing children's rights. By exploring the significance and nature of intergenerational relationships in child rights policy, our findings will inform government, and community organizations on how to promote young people's participation in policy making and implementation. For research, this study will contribute to conceptual models of intergenerational partnerships and relational understandings to inform rights-based research, policy, and practice. Dissemination will leverage the ICCRP network of over 40 research collaborators and 30 partner organizations across 6 countries and will involve: 1) presentations; 2) 2-3 peer-reviewed articles; 3) and community-friendly infographics.