

# Checklist

## #ForYouthRights

Youth organisations are not often seen as human rights organisations despite the fact that our work is usually directly or indirectly related to the promotion or defense of young people's rights. This checklist was compiled by the European Youth Forum's Expert Group on Youth Rights 2017-18 to empower youth organisations and help them adopt a rights-based approach in their work.

### 7 STEPS TO ADOPT A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

1

#### **Identify the rights that are not realised**

Guiding questions: Which rights relate to your context?  
Which rights are not being realised?

2

#### **Identify the rights-holders and their views**

Guiding questions: Whose rights in particular are not being fully realised? What groups of young people does the situation affect in particular? What are the views of the rights-holders on this issue?

3

#### **Identify the consequences of the rights violations**

Guiding question: What are the consequences of these rights not being fulfilled, on the affected individuals and groups and the wider society?

4

#### **Identify duty-bearers and their views**

Guiding question: Who are the duty-bearers with responsibilities towards realising these rights?

5

#### **Identify reasons for the rights violations**

Guiding question: What are the reasons for the duty-bearers not fulfilling their responsibilities in ensuring that rights are fulfilled?

6

#### **Identify existing mechanisms for rights protection**

Guiding question: What measures are currently in place to ensure the rights are realised?

7

#### **Identify opportunities for action**

Guiding questions: How can you work with rights-holders to support them in claiming their rights and to hold duty-bearers accountable? How can you work with duty-bearers to support them in fulfilling their responsibilities and to be more accountable to rights-holders?

# IDENTIFYING RIGHTS

The rights and violations listed here serve as examples, rather than an exhaustive list.



## HOUSING

### Rights:

- Access to adequate and affordable housing for all
- Reduction and eventual elimination of homelessness; housing policy targeted at all disadvantaged categories
- Limitation of forced evictions
- Equal access for non-nationals to social housing and housing benefit

### Example of violation:

- High rates of homelessness among young people compared to adults
- Forced evictions of Roma communities



## WORK

### Rights:

- Fair remuneration to achieve a decent standard of living
- Equal pay for work of equal value
- Reasonable working hours and holiday with pay
- Safe and healthy working conditions
- Prohibition of forced labour

### Example of violation:

- Minimum wages for young people that fall below the national minimum wage
- Unpaid internships, consistently high youth unemployment rates.



## PARTICIPATION

### Rights:

- The right to take part in government, either directly or through freely chosen representatives
- Right to vote and to be elected
- Free elections at regular intervals by secret ballot to ensure the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature

### Example of violation:

- Higher age to stand for election to public office than the legal voting age or age of majority



## DISCRIMINATION

### Rights:

- Right to freedom from discrimination

### Example of violation:

- age-based discrimination in employment or other areas of life
- View of young people as inexperienced
- Intersection of age with other identities such as sex, religion or belief, disability, sexual orientation, gender expression, ethnic origin, gender identity, etc. leading to multiple discrimination



## HEALTH

### Rights:

- The right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health through accessible and effective health care facilities
- Policies for preventing illness, including the guarantee of a healthy environment
- Healthy working conditions, including the protection of children and young people

### Example of violation:

- Lack of access to information on sexual and reproductive health and services; lack of adequate mental health support for young people, lack of or poor services in relation to intersex, non-binary and transgender children/youth
- Lack of healthy meal options at schools/university/work



## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY & ASSOCIATION, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

### Rights:

- Right to peaceful assembly
- Right to form and join associations
- Right to freedom of expression
- Safe and healthy working conditions

### Example of violation:

- Laws restricting the freedom of peaceful assembly or the practice of authorities/police not protecting peaceful assemblies or not producing a permit or decision on time. For example, banning of Pride Parades/events with the excuse that there will be counter protests, late or denied permits.
- Banning or censoring publications with information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, such as information on LGBTI for the "safety of children and/or the family".



## EDUCATION

### Rights:

- Free and compulsory primary education for all
- Free secondary education, or progressive introduction of free secondary education
- Free and effective vocational guidance services
- Higher education accessible to all on the basis of merit, with a view to progressive introduction of free education
- Parents' right to choose the kind of education for their children, in conformity with their own moral and philosophical convictions
- Access to education and vocational training for persons with disabilities, including school integration of children with disabilities

### Example of violation:

- Very high dropout rates among specific groups, such as Roma youth. Bullying on the basis of i.e. sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression (LGBTI) causing students to drop out, lower results or mental health issues.
- Lack of access to education for young migrants/refugees/asylum seekers

# THE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Have you identified which rights are not being realised?
- ☐ Have you identified the relevant rights-holders in your case?
- ☐ Have you involved the rights-holders in your work?
- ☐ Have you reached out to the rights-holders to include their perspective?
- ☐ Have you identified the consequences of the rights not being fulfilled to the people in question and the wider society?
- ☐ Have you identified the duty-bearers that are responsible for ensuring the rights are realised?
- ☐ Have you reached out to the duty-bearers to include their perspective?
- ☐ Have you considered the reasons preventing the duty bearers from protecting/fulfilling rights?
- ☐ Have you considered the reasons preventing the rights holders from claiming their rights?
- ☐ Have you identified the current mechanisms on different levels that are in place to ensure that the rights are realised?
- ☐ Are the mechanisms working for the rights-holders?
- ☐ Have you worked with rights-holders to identify ways to improve the situation?
- ☐ Have you worked with duty-bearers to identify ways to improve the situation?