

OUTCOMES OF OUR TALK

Thank you so much for participating in the virtual consultation we had on November 5, 2024, where we talked about how important it is for all children to have access to quality and inclusive education that promotes peace and understanding.

Thanks to your participation, we gathered some great insights and recommendations that will support the preparation of a report the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is preparing for the United Nations Human Rights Council. This report will be shared with all countries around the world to help guide them on how they can ensure equal rights, quality education, and safe environments for all children.

Here are the highlights of our talk:

After introducing ourselves and quickly getting to know each other, we split into small groups where we talked about problems that can make it hard for children to learn and to get along with others peacefully. These problems included bullying, discrimination, violence, and fake news, among many other things.

Children from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Norway, Romania, and Tanzania participated in this dialogue. You talked about how schools should be and you told us that everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, should have a chance to get a good education.

You mentioned that girls in some places have a tough time going to school because they're expected to get married young. Children from disadvantaged families might

struggle too, and you told us that sometimes these children get bullied because they cannot afford nice clothes or food.

You told us that bullying and discrimination are big problems in schools. Children need to learn to be kind and understanding, and schools should teach them how to solve problems peacefully.

You also talk about the use of social media, you told us that technology can be both good and bad. It's great for learning new things, but you told us that social media could also mess with children's mental health when they don't know how to differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate content online. It's important to be smart about what you see online and to think critically, you told us.

Sometimes, you told us, fake news and fear can keep children out of school, especially in places with violence. Therefore, you highlighted how important it is to teach children to think for themselves and question what they see and hear.

Schools should be places where children can learn to think creatively and be creative, you said; and you highlighted that all children should learn about different cultures and religions to help them understand and respect others.



YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Here are all the recommendations you shared during the dialogue and that will be really important to prepare a full report for the Human Rights Council on how we can ensure quality education for peace and tolerance around the world.

- **Fund Education:** Governments should spend more money on schools and make sure everyone can go to good schools.
- **Train Teachers:** Teachers should learn how to teach children about peace, human rights, and how to be kind and think for themselves.
- **Safe Schools, Happy Children:** Schools should be safe places where children feel good. Teachers should teach children about being kind and getting along with others.
- **More Than Just Grades:** School shouldn't just be about getting good grades. Children should learn to think creatively and solve problems.
- **Smart Tech Use:** Children (and parents) should learn how to use the internet and social media safely.
- **Teach Everyone About Rights:** Everyone, even adults, should learn about human rights.
- **Modernize the Classroom:** Schools should teach children about sexuality and gender equality. They should also teach about being kind and respecting everyone.
- **Connect Cultures:** Schools and communities should bring people from different cultures and religions together.
- **Build Trust, Boost Confidence:** Teachers should be friendly and make sure children feel comfortable talking to them.

The UN Human Rights Office and Arigatou International are committed to listening to children and making sure you have a say in all things that affect your lives. This consultation was part of that commitment, and we hope you had a good time participating in it. The ideas and recommendations you shared with us during the dialogue will be really important to help us promote and work towards having a more inclusive and good quality education for all children.