

Report of 8th Online Care Leavers' Café

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ONLINE CARE LEAVERS CAFE

TOPIC

HOLIDAY SESSION

SOCIAL MEDIA



ORGANISING NETWORKS
GENERATION NEVER GIVE UP (SRI LANKA)



Introduction

For this Online Care Leavers' Café the topic was "Social Media". This session aimed to talk with care leavers from all over the world about the positive and negative aspect of social media.

The session was organized by the care leaver network of Sri Lanka "Generation Never Give Up" and moderated by Fabienne from Austria.

There were almost 30 guests. Also some groups of children homes from Sri Lanka were participating. Because some of the guests do not speak English we worked with translating and breakout rooms in different languages this time.

Highlights/News from the different countries

- Report of the **first Care Leavers Festival in Germany**. Organized by the organisations Brückensteine. Part of this festival was a workshop-day. One of this workshops was used to talk about the international care leavers declaration with regard to the leaving care situation in Germany.
- Care Leaver Network GNGN from **Sri Lanka received 3 year commitment** from a donor based in UK to establish 18+ Resource Center (Secretariat of GNGN)
- Care Leaver Network CLAN from **India** published **video** (english subtitles)
[//www.youtube.com/watch?v=de2dpOVzGtA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=de2dpOVzGtA)

Social Media

The main part of this café session about the topic Social Media was leaded by the care leaver network "Generation Never Give up" from Sri Lanka.

After a short Ice Breaker (Big Fish/Small Fish) Nimmu, one of the care leavers of the network, introduce the topic by the following presentation:



WHAT IS SOCIAL MEDIA ?



SOCIAL MEDIA are interactive technologies that allow the creation or sharing/exchange of information, ideas, career interests, and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks.



HIGHEST SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS (Including percentage)

Some of the most popular social media websites, with over 100 million registered users, include **Face book** (and its associated **Face book Messenger**), **TikTok**, **WeChat**, **Instagram**, **QZone**, **Weibo**, **Twitter**, **Tumblr**, **Baidu Tieba**, and **LinkedIn**. Depending on interpretation, other popular platforms that are sometimes referred to as social media services

include: YouTube, QQ, Quora, Telegram, WhatsApp, LINE, Snapchat, Pinterest, Viber, Reddit, Discord, VK, Microsoft Teams, etc



What Are Some of the Known Issues With Social Media?

- **Spam:** Social media makes it easy for spammers—both real people and bots—to bombard other people with content.
- **Cyber bullying/Cyber stalking:** Children and teenagers are especially take risks when it comes to posting on social media. And now that we all interact on social media via our mobile devices, most major platforms make it possible to share our locations, opening up the doors for cyber stalkers to target us.
- **Self-image manipulation:** What a user posts about themselves on social media only represents a small portion of their life. While followers may see someone who's happy and living it up via their posts on social media in such a way that makes them feel boring or inadequate by comparison, the truth is that users have the power to completely control what parts they do and don't want to broadcast on social media to manipulate their own self-image.

- Information overload: It's not unusual to have over 200 Facebook friends or follow over 1,000 Twitter accounts. With so many accounts to follow and so many people posting new content, it's almost impossible to keep up.
- Fake news: Fake news websites promote links to their own totally false news stories on social media.
- Privacy/Security: Many social media platforms still get hacked from time to time despite having good security measures in place. Some also don't offer all the privacy options that users need to keep their information as private as they want them to be.



Turn in to TALKING ABOUT CARE LEAVERS

What are the negative and positive effects of using social media while sharing the experiences by care leavers?

NEGATIVE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY CL AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS

- Labeling as orphans
- Various implications of spreading their life stories everywhere because they want to become popular quickly.
- Most of children lived most of the lives in children homes have limited experience and knowledge on social relationships. This may lead them to get involved in abusive relationships by expose more into the society and without any guidance
- Misuse of social media to make money fast



POSITIVE

- Social media is a good platform care leavers to advocate for their rights
- Social media is good platform to connect with like-minded organizations/people to share experiences and learn from each other
- A space to express their feelings and connect with outer world



How GNGN used Social media to promote the Network

- WhatsApp is a easiest and cheapest way to get connected and share information among members (WA group is strictly among members and we ensure the details of CLs will not share within other groups)
- We promote GNGN through FB. GNGN FB page connect us with government counterparts, well wishes, youth from all walks of live ect.
- We use FB to share information on;
 - o Job opportunities
 - o Events
 - o Promotion of creative work of members
 - o Advocacy work



'Very first Social media post on Care Experienced Girl viral on FB



Awareness on Probable Age Certificate. Those who never knew on that.

Awareness on care experiences ,
Care Leavers By Nimmu got
more than thousands heart touched





Stop saying "Orphans or Orphan Home"
Request Post On FB



Awareness on Teenage pregnent mothers
at children Home

Awareness on care experiences ,
Care Leavers By Nimmu got
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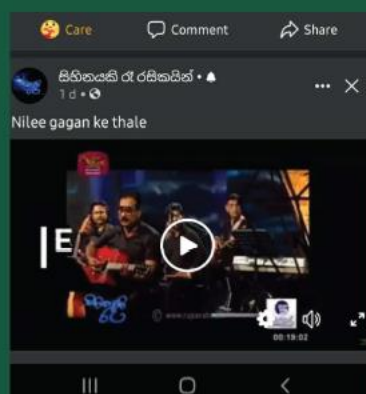



Awarness on care experiences ,
Care Leavers By Nimmu got
more than thousands heart touched

" Article against Child Abuse case
in Children Home

Awarness for priwet sector help for
Care leavers to find jobs

" Life of a Child /youth/ care leaver
by personal life story on sri lankan very first Governmnet Television

HOW SOCIAL MEDIA HELPS CARE LEAVERS NETWORK

- To improve the membership
- For better online campaign
- To share about the issues face by CL
- Online Awareness program through FB post related to CL



What **GNGN** so far achieved through Social Media Posts

Screen Shots of FB Posts and Media Appearance

Recognition and publicity to GNGN. I started sharing my own blogs, stories on FB and this has resulted increased awareness among public on alternative care and care leavers.

we use social media to fund raising events. Eg Covid, art exhibitions



Future Planned Programs on Social media By CL

- Probable Age Certificate awareness Campaign
- Petition sign to changes on BC via Online
- Online Care Leavers Live experiences Sharing
- YouTube Channel Launching Nimmu4U



THANK YOU
WE ARE



GENERATION
NEVER GIVE UP NETWORK



After the presentation the group was discussing the topic splitted in two Breakout rooms – one for the Sri Lanka Group and one for the English speaking persons. After that the Breakoutrooms-experiences were shared in the main rooms:

Experience from the Sri Lanka Group:

Brief on group discussions

- Social media provides an opportunity for new comers to show off their talents. When the new groups perform in events, many times they experience discrimination from the already established and reputed individuals/groups. This will limit new comers/groups to present themselves and show off their talents.
- With more children/youth have access to social media, we see many issues that negatively affect children and youth without having proper knowledge on how to use them. Therefore, there is a greater need to have improved knowledge on using social media.
- Social media provides a platform to broaden the network of care leavers and meet new people and opportunities.
- There is a responsibility of the users of social media to utilize it in responsible manner and for the benefit of the society. There are no regulations imposed and it open to all. Therefore, as CLs we have responsibility to use it positively and not to misuse the opportunity
- need to have awareness programs on cyber security.

Main Take aways:

1. use social media for the benefit of the society
2. an opportunity to meet new people in the society
3. need to have awareness on how to use social media

Experiences from the English Speaking Group:

- the things we are sharing via social media has an effect on other people
- impact of hearing stories of other people –good to hear a lot of positive stories to get positive ideas → „If we are sharing positive stories perhaps it has an positive impact on the persons who are reading it!“

After this common exchange we already arrived the end of the café session. One again it was a great experience for all the members to meet people from all over the world and to work together to one topic although we are speaking different languages.