

Online Care Leavers' Café

28.11.2021

Date

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ONLINE CARE LEAVERS CAFE

TOPIC

SHARING EXPERIENCES IN MEDIA/PRESS/TV &
NEW FORMAT "BETWEEN YOU AND ME"



ORGANISING NETWORKS
CARELEAVERS COMMUNITY &
GENERATION NEVER GIVE UP (SRI LANKA)

Introduction

The cafe' session threw light on the topic Sharing Experiences in Media/Press/T.V. The session aimed to highlight the importance of a right-based approach to media advocacy to enhance the visibility of Care Leavers. The session was organized alongside the care leaver network of Sri Lanka "Generation Never Give Up (GNG)" and moderated by Fabienne from Austria.

Nimali Chanu Kumari, an active Care Leaver from the GNG network presented her experience with media forums and, illustrated the importance of being vocal about articulating the right thoughts into society. After the brief presentation, the breakout rooms were created for the Between me and you segment. The segment is a safe space for Care leavers to connect and share their stories and thoughts. The non - Care Leavers have a discussion in a separate breakout room on different topics.

Almost 22 attendees joined in from Sri Lanka, Germany, the Netherlands, India and a few African and Latin American countries.

Highlights from Different Countries

- Deepak from Nepal mentioned that they will soon formally register their Care Leavers Association after two long years of wait. The Covid situation put the process to halt but, now they are going full throttle with the process and hope to have a National gathering soon.
- Lourdes (Africa - specifically Namibia, Swaziland) appreciated the format - Between you and me and mentioned that individuals are all praises about the format.
- Nihal Kovali (worked as District Child Protection Unit and State Child Protection Unit in Telangana (India), spoke about his work in the region and proposed his vision to have guidance to replicate the existing model of CLAN in the region.

Care leavers exposure to media:

Speaking on the topic, Nimali Chanu Kumari talked about her experience as an active voice in media and how it enhanced the visibility of Care Leavers, specifically in Sri Lanka. Nimali, through her presentation, echoed the point on why the media presence is necessary to advocate the aspirations and thoughts of Care Leavers. She also spoke about the do's and don'ts while interacting with media to safeguard the security of Care Leavers.

Nimali echoed a point loud and clear, ***Speak up because the day you don't speak up for the things that matter to you is the day your freedom truly ends.***

Presenting the glimpses from the presentation:

A Care Leaver Exposure to Media

📌 How it's happened

Lockdown Period – FB wall Post

1K comments
7.3K Reactions
9.5K Shares on Ladies Only Page and more

YouTube Interviews

Point Of Parishes (Nimmi Kumari) | The True Story
5670 views · Jan 26, 2021

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TV Programs & Special Programs

MEETARE (12/08/2021) | සාකච්ඡා වැඩසටහනක් සඳහා 7 | Nimmi S. Kumari
38 views · Aug 12, 2021

Sinhala Ra | මනසේ එකමුදුම | Nimmi Kumari | 605 | Lanka Rupavahini
151 views · Feb 02, 2021

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107 views · Jan 5, 2021

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY SRI LANKA - 2021 YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENT
Youth for Environment - World Environment Day Sri Lanka 2021
57,222 likes

Planting Program 2021 | Thank you, K.G.Nimal S. Kumari
K. G. NIMAL S. KUMARI
3,241 likes



HOW GNGN BENEFITTED



- GNGN Represent any many Online forum which talk about Youth/Children in Care / Women etc.
- GNGN Members got chance to appear in some TV programs.
- Attention from everywhere on 18+ also Children in Institutional Care

What Goes Well

- ❖ Attention for 18+ group
- ❖ Job opportunities for the CL
- ❖ Network Membership Increased
- ❖ GNGN identified as 01st Care leavers Network in SL
- ❖ GNGN Registered as Organization
- ❖ Care Leavers wake up and start to stand confidently
- ❖ Social Media plat form were truly supportive for the CL
- ❖ Children in Care , received many support than previous years
- ❖ Commissioners (few provinces) are already invited for advocacy program for children in care.

What Goes Wrong.....

- ❖ Some CL found Social Media is plat form for the Famous through personal stories, which is unsafe.
- ❖ Some of the “Headlines ‘of media is not much suitable when it’s come to sensitive matters.

What Do's	What Don'ts
❖ Check text before they Publish	❖ Never share anything which will make you guilty on later
❖ Be aware other can Google your name	❖ Don't ask for the Opportunities
❖ Be OK with your own past/story before you share	❖ Don't use political in your speech, be equal
❖ Be confident and be truthful	❖ Don't use any words which hurt CL or other
❖ Be careful about the Headline	❖ Don't wear anything what will make you uncomfortable in front the camera
❖ Take the soft and hard copies of your articles /also draft proof read one	❖ Don't ever share any information which you can't proof in case
❖ Be honest with your ideas	❖ Don't argue in front of camera
❖ Be aware on your target group	
❖ Skip the question what you don't want to answer	

Speak up, because the day you don't speak up for the things that matter to you is the day your freedom truly ends

After the presentation the group was discussing the topic splitted in different Breakout rooms – one common breakout room for Non – Care Leavers and multiple breakout room with 4 Care Leavers each.

Key Highlights and Outcomes

- The cafe acted as a podium for active discussion and highlight of the need for media presence of care leavers.
- Nimali successfully embodied her role as a Care Leavers in advocating thoughts and voices in the media.
- Media presence provides a platform to broaden the network of care leavers and connect with new people and opportunities.
- There is a need for attention to detail and the use of media platforms while making a presence. CLs have a responsibility to utilize the platform positively and not to misuse the opportunity
- Care leavers present in the cafe appreciated the talk of Nimali and agreed to the point of a safe presence in media.
- The breakout rooms facilitated a safe space for care leavers to connect and share their stories.
- The Non - care leavers group conversed on the different Care Leavers associations in different regions and understood the similarities and gaps in the same.

Glimpses from the Café