



2nd International Care Leavers Convention, 2022

CARE LEAVERS FESTIVAL 2022

10
DAYS

November 20 - 30, 2022

CARE LEAVERS FESTIVAL 2022

BRIEF ANALYSIS REPORT

BACK TO 2020



- The [1st International Care Leavers Convention \(ICLC\)](#) was organised in 2020, with over 2300 participants.
- It was a joint effort between 4 Care Leavers Networks from across the world:
 - Care Leavers Association and Network, India
 - Generation Never Give Up, Sri Lanka
 - Latin American Network of Care Leavers
 - Zimbabwe Care Leavers Network
- 4 Civil Society Organisations were also part of the organising efforts:
 - Kinderperspectief, Netherlands
 - SOS Children's Villages
 - Udayan Care, India
 - University of Hildesheim, Germany
- The Convention was preceded by a string of webinars with around 100 Care Leavers from over 25 countries between June and September 2020.



BACK TO 2020



KEY
OUTCOMES

Declaration - “Responding to the transnational needs of Care Leavers amidst COVID-19”

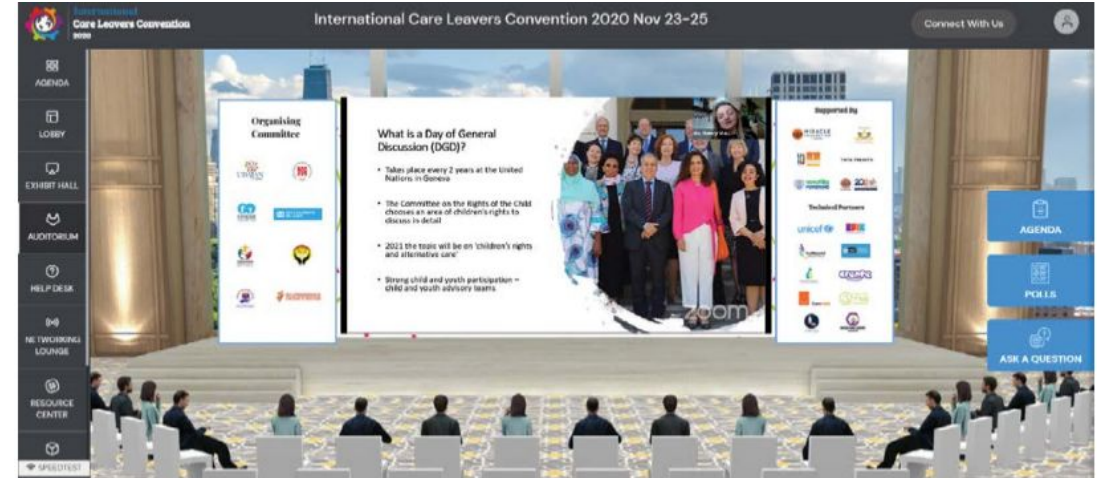
Brief for Policy Makers

Brief for Practitioners

Global Care Leavers Community

Virtual Care Leavers Café?

Report: International Care Leavers Convention 2020



MISSION OF THE FESTIVAL 2022



- Amplify the voices of care leavers, encourage transnational sharing of knowledge and resources, and forming connections beyond boundaries.
 - To build understanding and connections between as many care leavers networks as possible, as well as individual young people from across the world.
 - To facilitate discussion on different domains of social inclusion and independence
- Ensure flexible participation of as many young people as possible without any hindrance such as language barriers, time zones, etc.

APPROACH & INCEPTION OF THE FESTIVAL

The approach was to enable the care leavers community to host an event and hear their own powerful and diverse voices from across the globe breaking all the barriers of language, time, and distance. The idea of the festival itself was conceived by the Care Leavers, and the festival format echoed this sentiment.

The 10 - Day Care Leavers Festival featured the direct voices of Care Leavers and celebrated diversity by bringing together snippets and conversations globally on a common platform, and was hosted by the **Global Care Leavers' Community**.

Each festival day celebrated and shared their voices, and aided in increasing the visibility of the Care Leavers expectations, visions, challenges, and aspirations in multiple formats.

THE PROCESS



Inception

The concept of festival was envisioned during the working group meetings of **Global Care Leavers Community**, with participation of representatives from 4 care leaver networks.

Conception

The core group of care leavers involved participation from 23 care leavers from 13 countries. The core group met weekly every Thursday to discuss the progress and points around the festival.

Themes and Formats

10 themes was converted to 10 days of festival – a mix of previous convention outcomes and new themes, including financial independence, need for a globally recognised Care Leavers Day, etc. A safeguarding committee was set up.

Responsibility and Preparations

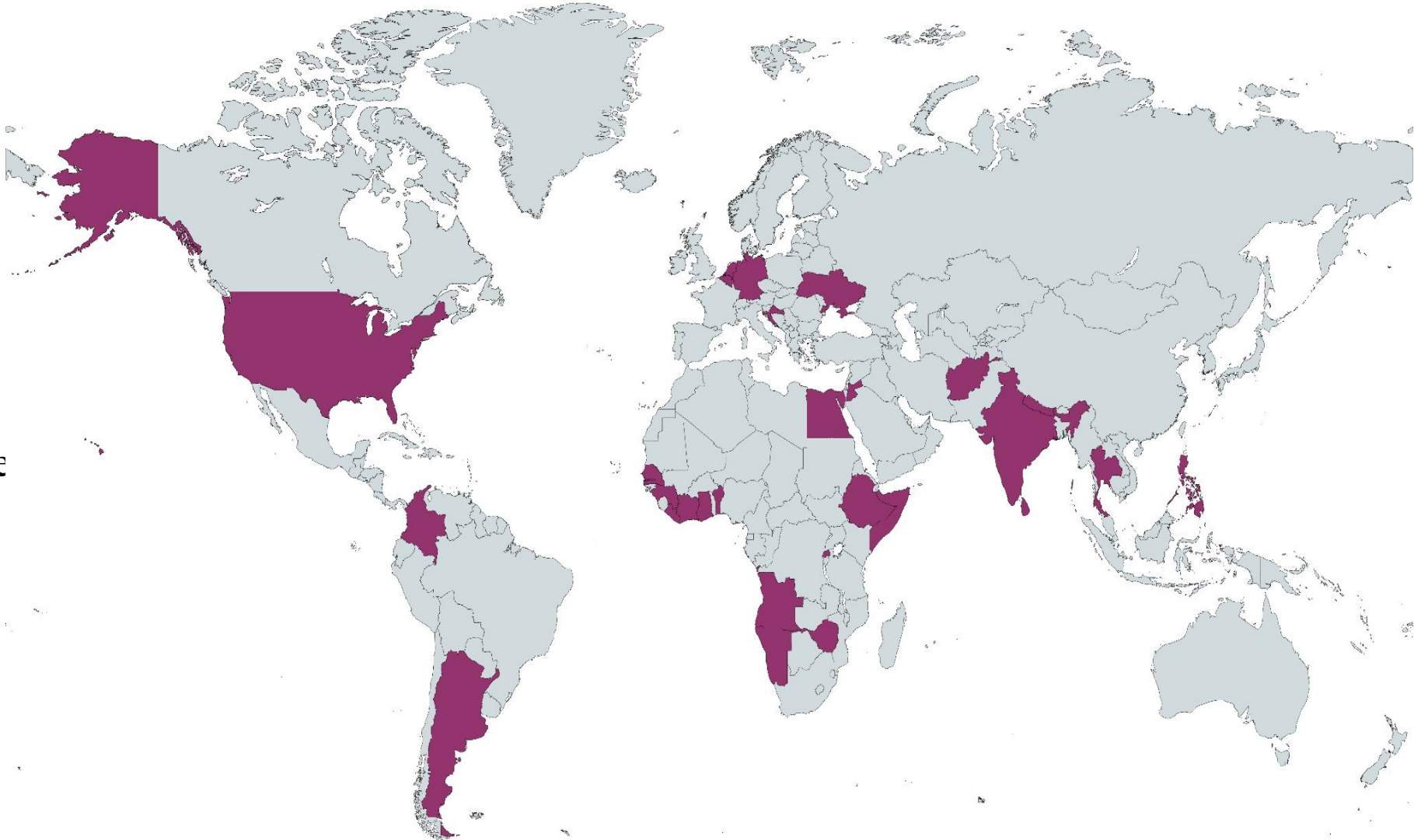
The core group were responsible for disseminating the information and addressing the queries related to the festival. Safeguarding group was active in ensuring comfort of all participants.

Participation

The care leavers participated in multiple capacities, from outreach & format layout to moderation of the live sessions hosted on the 1st and the last days of the festival.

Multiple entries were received and posted on the [festival website](#).

THE 30 COUNTRIES THAT PARTICIPATED



Afghanistan

Angola

Argentina

Belgium

Benin

Cambodia

Colombia

Croatia

Côte d'Ivoire

Egypt

Ethiopia

Gambia

Germany

Ghana

Guinea

India

Jordan

Liberia

Namibia

Nepal

The Netherlands

Philippines

Rwanda

Senegal

Somalia

Sri Lanka

Thailand

Ukraine

USA

Zimbabwe

10 DAYS OF CARE LEAVERS FESTIVAL



Day 1: Live Launch Festival

Day 2: Roadmap from Education to Employment

Day 3: Why do we need a globally recognised care experienced day

Day 4: Care Leaving Stories- transitioning to independent living

Day 5: A voice from the past for a hopeful future



“Because being independent does not mean being left alone.”

10 DAYS OF CARE LEAVERS FESTIVAL



Day 6: Networks as Networths

Day 7: A walk towards positive mental wellbeing

Day 8: Enabling financial independence and literacy

Day 9: We pave the way- a message towards change

Day 10: Closure Session- taking forward the declaration



“I want to enable a world where investments are made to ensure those from public care and others affected by adversity everywhere can reconnect, build, and heal, free from shame and public stigma.”



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The contributions had multiple formats including podcasts, videos, posters, poems, and articles giving space to articulate messages.

The contributions highlighted glimpses of the hopes and changes that care experienced youth wish to bring in to aftercare and the lives of care leavers.

The 10 day festival created a unique opportunity to talk about different areas of advocacy, including the Care Leavers Declaration, created in 2020.



The care experienced youth got a chance to spread their messages despite the language barrier. Participation from Latin American Countries was a key highlight from the festival.

The platform showcased the coming together and interaction of care experienced youth from across the globe.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

At all live sessions, the entire webinars were solely anchored by care leavers. All breakout rooms were moderated by care leavers.

“No matter where we live as care leavers, each of us has different, unique stories of life struggles. What is important is to raise a voice.”

On the Twitter live chat, the care leavers have raised a demand to have an International Care Leavers’ Day declared. Further global advocacy on this will be needed.

20 Care Experienced People from all over the world actively participate in the festival, through organising committees, talk giving, moderating breakout groups, etc.

The webinars were lighter in nature, with songs, fun filled activities and conversations that the youth wanted, held in their way. The Secretariat played the role of an facilitator.

KEY OUTCOMES



01

Education

- There exists a large gap between the education provided and what is needed.
- Public education policies in Argentina were discussed as an example of useful policies.

02

Psychosocial Support & Physical Health

- Care experienced people face a lot of challenges due to the often traumatic history behind why they are in care.
- More support is needed, in a systematic manner, particularly from professionals.
- Social support through housing, healthcare, etc, needs to be provided more efficiently and effectively.

03

Policy Reform

- The importance of schemes and policies being in place to provide scholarships, assistance, etc., was emphasised.
- The need for policies for sponsorship of finding families, whether biological or foster, etc., was discussed, due to the support system these can create.

04

Globally Recognised Care Leavers' Day

- To increase visibility on the matter as well as to receive support from international bodies, the importance of having a globally recognised Day for Care Leavers was emphasised.
- Work on this is sorely needed and involves petitions, campaigning, and focused advocacy.



DISSEMINATION HIGHLIGHTS

Global Care Leavers' Festival (Udayan Care) – FICE International

Announcing the Care Leavers Festival as part of the 2nd Care Leavers Convention – INTRAC website

“We need a proactive rather than a reactive approach to mitigate challenges and adjustment difficulties faced by Care Leavers. Implementation is the key.”



2nd International Convention

Vision

The 10 Days CL FESTIVAL connects and builds understanding with care leaver networks, as well as with individual young adults from across the globe on different domains of social inclusion and independence.

Mission

Feature the direct voices of care leavers and allow transnational sharing, being together and connections beyond boundaries

Ensure flexible participation of as many young people without any form of hindrances such as language, time, etc.

Increase visibility of the Care Leavers' expectations, visions, strengths, resiliency, leadership and aspirations in multiple formats (presentations, videos, artwork, write-ups, social media engagement and more!)

About the International Care Leavers FESTIVAL

The 1st Global Care Leavers Convention, 2020 held virtually, brought together over 500 youth with lived experience of care from over 23 countries, leading to them coming together as the [Global Care Leavers Community \(GCLC\)](#). We virtually convened every month thereafter over our Café sessions to build our own safe platform to learn, share, and exchange experiences, knowledge, and challenges.

The [key agreement](#) from the 1st convention and thereafter has been that we, care leavers, want a “central place at the decision making table” and “no decisions about us without us”. Continuing the legacy, GCLC brings to you a unique first of its kind 10-days Care Leavers FESTIVAL.

The key takeaway and developments from the Care Leavers FESTIVAL 2022 will be raised and discussed during an [Online Care Leavers Convention, an online event in December 2022](#) with participation from researchers, academicians, civic bodies and CSOs. The online 1 - Day Convention will highlight the outcomes and way forward for collective advocacy.

For whom?

The International Care Leavers Festival is an event for care leavers by care leavers only. Interested policy makers and professionals are invited to visit the online platform during the event to check out the different contributions of care leavers networks and individual care leavers.

Care Leavers FESTIVAL 2022



November 20 - 29, 2022

10 DAYS

careleaverscommunity.org



TECHNICAL PARTNERS

On behalf of the organisers of the Care Leavers' Festival, 2022, we would like to thank our technical partners for their invaluable support.



“We need organizations to follow a user-centered approach and involve the care leavers in every step of the process. This ensures that the solution that is developed actually responds to care leavers' needs and solves user problems.”



THANK YOU!