

# Upholding children's right to be heard during the pandemic

Konstantinos Papachristou,  
Teens4World  
@Konspapa (Insta)



Kristen Hope  
Terre des hommes  
@Kristenhopes (Twitter)

Global Protection Cluster Webinar  
29th September 2020

## What is #CovidUnder19?

**#CovidUnder19 aims to create spaces for children across the globe to be meaningfully involved in the discussions about responses to the Covid-19 pandemic and to contribute towards shaping the post-Covid-19 world.**

**The initiative seeks to understand children's views and experiences about life under Coronavirus, and amplify their voices to inform policymakers, professionals working with children, and governments.**



# #CovidUnder19 Partners



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

CENTRE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



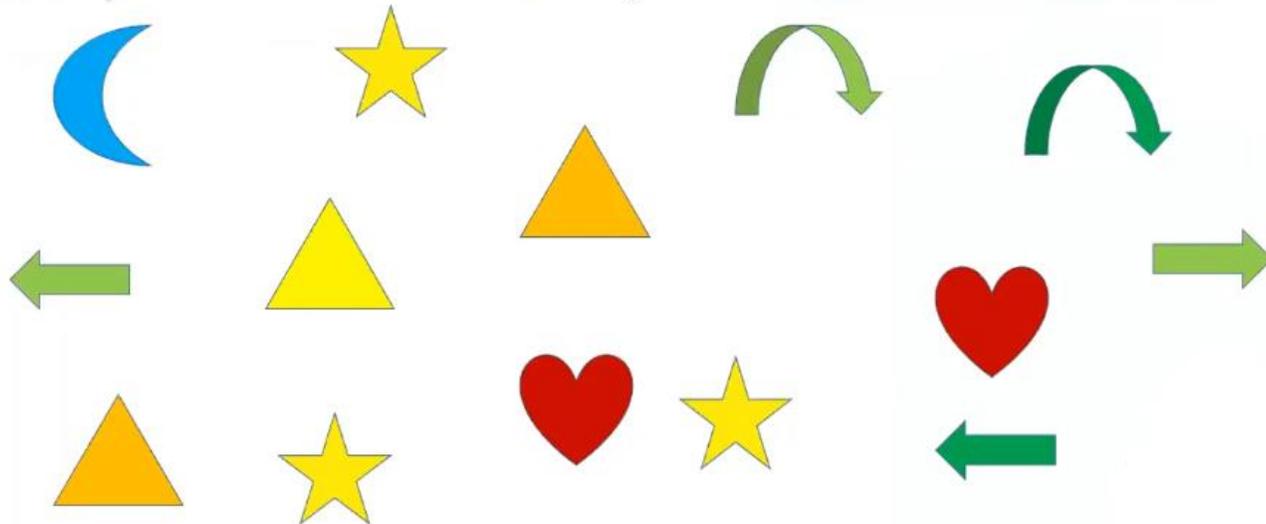
# How has #CovidUnder19 unfolded & What roles have children played

Phases of initiative	Milestones with children
<b>Phase 1 (April-May 2020):</b> Co-creation of survey with 270 children from 20 countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrating children and young people into advisory &amp; steering group</li> <li>- Pilot language of survey questions with children             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ex: question around safety &amp; violence</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Phase 2 (June – July 2020):</b> Roll-out of survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Young people managing social media channels</li> <li>- Children contribute content             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Constant focus on do no harm &amp; support</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Phase 3 (August- September 2020):</b> Participatory data interpretation & design of advocacy messaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training children in quantitative &amp; qualitative data analysis + advocacy (Virtual Skillz Camp)</li> <li>- Consulting with children to design the communications &amp; advocacy strategies</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 4 (October-December):</b> Dissemination of results & child-led advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting children in participating in global advocacy &amp; ‘cascading’ to national and local level</li> </ul>



# Example: training children in data analysis

**“Coding”**: Organize the shapes into groups



# Global survey using a children's rights-based methodology

- Online survey in 28 languages and an easy-read version
  - Facilitator's pack for frontline practitioners => hard to reach groups
- Largest global survey of children's experiences of covid (+26,000 responses)
  - **Only global survey designed & analysed with children.**
- Focus is on the UNCRC:
  - i. Children's human rights.
  - ii. Indivisibility – so the full range of rights.
  - iii. Disaggregation of the data
  - iv. Children's experiences *plus* views on what governments need to do.
- Version of questions disseminated by U-Report poll. Approx 5,000 responses
- Links with other ongoing research projects
  - Global Kids Online (LSE)
  - Covid 4P LOG (University of Strathclyde & Pathfinders)



## Reflections on involvement: Through the eyes of an adolescent participant

- **Challenge :**
  - Deepening inequalities
  - ‘Check-list participation’ expériences
- **Solutions:**
  - Engaging children in communications
  - Intergenerational partnership : opportunity to examine your partnerships with children and young people and shift power to them.
  - Share stories



# In a nutshell

- 1) **Rights-based, ethical child participation in research & advocacy is possible, even during a global pandemic!**
- 2) **It is an end in itself : upholding children's right to be heard**
- 3) **It is a means to an end: Opportunity to shift power**
  - **What has prevented us (adults) from enabling children to play greater roles?**
  - **Do we understand children's motivations and ambitions to be involved in participatory initiatives? How does this inform what approaches we take?**
- 4) **Putting it into practice requires :**
  - **Integrating children & young people into decision-making**
  - **Cultivating spaces for exchanges & connections with other children**
  - **Building their skills and competencies, and supporting them in fulfilling their own ambitions**



# What can you do when you leave here?

- Share information about #CovidUnder19 with children you are working with & explore their ambitions for research & advocacy during the pandemic
  - **Importance of connection!**
- Follow social media channels
  - [www.facebook.com/CovidUnder19](https://www.facebook.com/CovidUnder19)
  - [www.twitter.com/CovidUnder19](https://www.twitter.com/CovidUnder19)
  - [www.instagram.com/covidunder19](https://www.instagram.com/covidunder19)

