



**INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTATION OF
CHILD HELPLINES**

27–29 SEPTEMBER 2022

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

**RESILIENCE:
CHILDREN & CHILD HELPLINES
IN TIMES OF CRISIS**

CONCEPT NOTE



BRIS



Introduction

International Consultations of Child Helplines are organised by Child Helpline International every three years.¹ International Consultations bring together member Child Helplines from around the world, as well as government officials, child protection and child rights professionals, high-level partners and members of national and international youth advisory councils.

Rescheduled from 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the **10th International Consultation of Child Helplines (IC 2022)** will take place in **Stockholm, Sweden, on 27- 29 September 2022**, and will be hosted by the Swedish child helpline member Bris.



Child Helpline International is a **collective impact organisation** with 168 members from 141 countries and territories around the world (as of May 2022).

We coordinate information, viewpoints, knowledge and data from our child helpline members, partners and external sources. This exceptional resource is used to help and support child protection systems globally, regionally and nationally, and to help our members advocate for the rights of children and young people to amplify their voices.

Bris is a politically and religiously independent children's rights organisation that listens to, supports and strengthens children and young people's rights in society, and seeks to bring children's rights issues to the attention of politicians and decision-makers.

BRIS

Bris' support services offer children and young people up to the age of 18 a safe, anonymous and accessible way to email, chat or speak to a counsellor.

¹ International Consultations previously took place on a biennial basis, but following a change to the organisation's governance cycle in 2021 they will now occur every three years (in line with the terms of the Regional Representatives).



Objectives

The IC 2022 is an important opportunity that enables us to address the strategic pillars identified in our Multi-Annual Plan, and work towards achieving their accompanying goals.

Through the IC 2022, we aim to accomplish the following objectives:

- To **bring our members together face-to-face** – for the first time in four years – so they can **share good practices and experiences, exchange viewpoints and opinions, offer support to each other and learn from each other**. In particular, it will be an opportunity to reflect on the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russian-Ukrainian War and other crisis situations, their impacts on child helplines' operations, and the lessons learned and challenges overcome.
- To **connect our members with partners** in global child protection, children's rights, industry (especially technology and telecom enterprises), governments and international organisations.
- To **understand and promote new technologies to strengthen child helpline support** for children and young people.
- To launch the membership-led **Stockholm Declaration**.

Target groups

This event is open to child helplines (members and prospective members), child protection and children's rights organisations, youth organisations, government representatives, regional and international bodies, telecoms and technology industry partners, foundations, intergovernmental entities and philanthropic organisations.

It is expected that around 200 people will attend the IC 2022 in person.



Stockholm Declaration

The Stockholm Declaration will be an opportunity to create a lasting and powerful outcome of the IC 2022.

As one of the largest global networks focused on children and young people, we have the opportunity to position our work and their voices at the centre of national, regional and international policy and decision making.

At the IC 2022 we will launch our **Stockholm Declaration**. This Declaration will be used at the national, regional and global levels to engage policy and decision makers as we move forward in a world forever affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and to raise awareness of child helplines as a crucial service in this world, which supports children and young people and ensures that their voices are truly heard.

A process will begin in 2022 to identify a small working group of members to propose the draft declaration for review by the entire membership of Child Helpline International.



Theme of the IC 2022

The theme of the 10th International Consultation is **Resilience: Children & Child Helplines in Times of Crisis**.

resilience

/rɪˈzɪliəns/

noun

the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.

"the remarkable resilience of children and young people during Covid-19"

the ability to spring back into shape; elasticity.

"child helplines have shown great resilience in coping with the crisis"

- resilient *adj.* - resiliently *adv.*

In 2020², **mental health** and **violence** continued to be **the two main reasons for contact reported by child helpline members globally**. Over half of all counselling contacts were related to one of these two topics, clearly showing that it is our members who are at the forefront of addressing the global mental health crisis that children and young people are confronting.

The IC 2022 will focus on **the resilience of children and young people**, especially with regard to their mental health during the Covid-19 pandemic (social distancing, school closures and other fundamental changes in society), and during extreme crises such as the Russian-Ukrainian War (the devastation and the massive displacement of children and young people as a result); how can child helplines further strengthen children's resilience, and provide them with support to improve their situation in society? Specific workshops will address the **transversal themes** identified in the Multi-Annual Plan 2021-2023 – such as **violence against children, children and young people's health and wellbeing**, and **inclusive practices and non-discrimination**. These transversal themes inform our advocacy and campaigning priorities for the next three years, underscoring the work of child helplines. In addition, they are aligned with the targets and indicators of the SDGs and universal childrens' rights.

² 2020 is the most recent data set that has been collected and analysed at the time of developing this Concept Note.



Theme of the IC 2022

At the same, the IC 2022 will also look at **the resilience of child helplines**, who have shown tremendous fortitude in the face of global lockdowns, crises such as the Russian-Ukrainian War and other conflicts, and the significant impacts on how child protection services have been able to operate as a result of these events. Specific workshops will look at issues affecting the work of child helplines, including quality and standards, data and research, technology, funding, advocacy and campaigning.

Whether a new child helpline in the start-up phase, or a long-established member with lots of experience and a strong history; whether a key strategic partner who can work with national child helplines in exciting and ground-breaking ways, or a donor interested to support the work of child helplines around the world, there will be **value in everybody's participation**.

Resilience has seen us all successfully overcome enormous pressures in this last period, and against these odds we have pushed on, further and further, with our work.

With even more determination, we will now come together in Stockholm to support each other and to celebrate our movement and our work, which is done tirelessly each and every day and gives children and young people a voice that will truly be heard.



Theme of the IC 2022

How the Transversal Themes connect to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Violence against children: how can we protect and respond to children who have experienced violence, both online and offline?

This theme speaks to SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

Children and young people's health and wellbeing: how can we enhance children and young people's development and ensure that they can all realise their potential?

This theme speaks to SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing).

Inclusive practices and non-discrimination: how can we ensure that all voices are heard and that all children and young people have access to child helplines?

This theme speaks to SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities).

