

Call for Papers

3rd International Conference: “Incorporation of the rights of the child into the educational programmes and curricula of universities - with a focus on teaching State Language and Education of Ethnic Minorities”

20-21 September 2022

Samtskhe-Javakheti State University, Akhaltsikhe, Georgia

1. General Information

The United Nations Children's Fund, in partnership with Samtskhe-Javakheti State University, and under the auspices of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia will be hosting the 3rd international conference dedicated to the incorporation of the Rights of the Child into university education programmes and curricula. This year's focus will be on teaching of state language and education of ethnic minorities as an important pillar for accessible and quality education for all. The conference aims to provide a space for teaching and learning the provisions and principles of Child Rights, and to help empower future specialists to act towards putting Child Rights into practice in day-to-day lives – at home, at school, and in communities.

The two-day conference will bring together professors and students, officials from the Government, members of Parliament, the Public Defender's Office, NGOs, the diplomatic corps in Georgia, representatives from UN agencies, respective international organizations, and school teachers and administrators.

This gathering will provide an avenue for rich discussions and presentations by well-known national and international specialists and teachers, as well as the student winners of an essay writing contest and presentations of school projects. The role of universities in promoting Child Rights and influencing social norms will be central to discussions.

The conference will enable universities to share their initiatives aimed at incorporating the Rights of the Child into university programmes for the education of future Child Rights advocates in the fields of education, law, business, and other important disciplines.

Working languages of the conference are Georgian and English. Simultaneous translations will be provided.

We invite interested candidates and students to apply with abstracts and essays and schools to apply with projects.

For further details, visit: www.unicef.org/georgia and www.sjuni.edu.ge

For more information, please contact Natia Jokhadze at: njokhadze@unicef.org and Anastasia Mshvidobadze at: amshvidobadze@unicef.org

2. The Conference Themes:

1. Teaching and learning of State Language and Education of Ethnic Minorities in Georgia and abroad – current situation and perspectives (conference focus);
2. Current situation and perspectives on the Rights of the Child to prepare future professionals studying at universities in Georgia (including emergency situations);
3. International best practices for teaching the Rights of the Child in universities;
4. Child-friendly society and Child Rights in: education, justice, health, and social services;
5. Strengthening Child Rights Culture.

Sessions will be organized around each topic and followed by panel discussions.

3. Submission of Conference Abstracts and Presentations

This is an open call inviting theoretical and empirical, as well as practical, contributions on the multi-dimensional issue regarding the Rights of the Child, focusing on the incorporation of Child Rights into university curricula for the preparation of future professionals in different academic specializations. This year's special focus will be *teaching of state language and education of ethnic minorities*.

a. Abstracts

- Participants interested in presenting oral or poster presentations are invited to submit an abstract.
- Conference abstracts should correspond to the stated theme(s) and adhere to the following requirements.
- Abstracts (main text) should be a maximum of 300 words and be presented in a MS Word file: compatible fonts (Sylfaen, Calibri), font size: 11 (font size 12 can be used for titles); spacing: 1.5. Please avoid the use of thematic pictures/charts/tables in the abstracts. These can be used in presentations.
- Abstracts should contain the following information:
 - Full name(s) of author(s),
 - Affiliation details: position of author(s), department/faculty, institution, city, country,
 - Contact information of the author(s): valid phone number and email,
 - Conference theme(s) to which abstract corresponds,
 - Indication on oral or poster presentation,
 - Indication on distance or in-person participation,
 - The title of the abstract,
 - Keywords,
 - Abstract (main text).
- Each author can submit up to 2 abstracts.
- Accepted abstracts cannot be changed after the submission deadline.
- Accepted abstracts will be published in a conference abstract book.

The **deadline** for submission of conference **Abstracts** is **10 July 2022, 18:00 (Georgian time)**. Conference abstracts should be sent to the Organizing Committee at the following emails (**both**): njokhadze@unicef.org and amshvidobadze@unicef.org Please indicate the following text in the subject line: "abstract - CR conference".

Conference Scientific Committee will select abstracts and participants will be notified of the decision no later than 15 August 2022, 18:00 (Georgian time).

b. Presentations

- Conference **Presentations** of the selected Abstracts should be prepared in MS Power Point, or any other relevant programme for presentations. Detailed instructions on the Presentations will be provided to the authors of the selected abstracts.

The **deadline** for submission of conference **Presentations** is **10 September 2022, 18:00 (Georgian Time)**. Selected Presentations should be sent to the Organizing Committee at the following emails (**both**): njokhadze@unicef.org and amshvidobadze@unicef.org Please indicate the following text in the subject line: "presentation - CR conference".

4. Contest for Students

The Contest for Students is a unique part of the conference that aims to involve university students in understanding and raising awareness of the Rights of the Child, as well as supporting students' ideas and their involvement in Child Rights Education.

Conference organizers are inviting students to apply with their essays on any of the five themes of the conference. Organizers invite students of all specializations from all authorized higher education institutions of Georgia to apply. To qualify, participants should have active student status, currently enrolled in the fourth year of their BA studies, or studying at the MA level.

All participating student-authors of essays will receive a Certificate of Participation. The Scientific Committee of the Conference will select the three best essays for an award. Authors of the selected three best essays will be invited to the conference to deliver presentations.

Submission of Essays

Submitted essays should comply with the following conditions:

- Essays should correspond to the theme(s) of the conference;
- One student can submit only one essay;
- Each essay should have one author;
- Essays should be submitted in Georgian or English languages (or in both);
- The maximum length of an essay is 10 pages;
- Essays should have: compatible fonts (Sylfaen, Calibri), font size 11 (font size 12 can be used for titles); spacing: 1.5. Essays may contain pictures/charts/tables for better demonstration of the issue;
- Essays should contain the following information:
 - Full name of student (author),
 - Affiliation details: BA/MA and the year of education, department/faculty, institution, city,
 - Contact information of the student: valid phone number and email,
 - Conference theme(s) to which the essay corresponds,
 - The title of the essay,
 - Keywords,
 - Essay (main text).

- Accepted essays cannot be changed after the submission deadline;
- The three best essays will be selected for publication in a conference abstract book.

The **deadline for submission of conference Essays is 10 July 2022, 18:00 (Georgian time)**. Conference essays should be sent to the Organizing Committee at the following emails (**both**): njokhadze@unicef.org and amshvidobadze@unicef.org. Please indicate the following text in the subject line: “essay - CR conference”.

Authors of the three best essays will be notified by 15 August 2022, and will be invited to prepare presentations for the conference.

5. Contest for schools

The Contest for schools is a unique part of the conference and aims to activate schools in understanding, supporting, awareness rising and realizing child rights.

Conference organizers are inviting schools to apply with their projects into two directions:

- a) Already conducted initiatives on child rights (2017-2022) and
- b) Ongoing and/or planned initiatives on child rights (to be conducted in period of 2022-2023)

Project team must be composed by minimum one teacher/school administration representative and students. Conference organizers will select 5 best projects and award with certificates. Teams of selected 5 projects will be invited to the conference to present projects. All other participant teams will receive certificates for participation.

Projects submitted in the 2nd international conference held in Batumi in 2021 will not be considered for this contest.

Submission of projects

Submitted projects should comply with the following conditions:

- Projects should reflect already conducted or ongoing and/or planned initiatives in school on child rights;
- One school can submit only one project;
- Project team must to be composed by minimum one teacher/school administration representative and students;
- Projects should be submitted in Georgian or English languages (or in both);
- Projects should be prepared in MS Word and have: compatible fonts (Sylfaen, Calibri), font size 11 (font size 12 can be used for titles); spacing: 1.5. Projects may contain pictures/charts/tables for better demonstration of the issue;
- Projects should contain the following information:
 - Full name and last name of each member of the project team. Their phone numbers and contact emails,
 - In case of participating teachers – subject(s) and grades taught; in case of participating representatives of administrations – title/position; in case of participating students – indication of grade,
 - Name of school, address, contact phone and email,
 - Title of the project; indication if project is already conducted (2017-2022) or is ongoing and/or planned in near 1 year (2022-2023),
 - Description of the project (goals, activities, planning, participants and etc),

- The role of each member in the project planning and implementation,
 - Beneficiaries of the project and results of the project,
 - Any additional information for better introduction of the project.
- Accepted projects cannot be changed after the submission deadline;
 - Project team of selected project should prepare presentation to deliver at the conference;
 - The selected five projects will be published in a conference abstract book (project team will be required to provide brief description of the project after the conference).

The **deadline** for submission of school **Projects** is **10 July 2022, 18:00 (Georgian time)**. Projects should be sent to the Organizing Committee at the following emails (**both**): njokhadze@unicef.org and amshvidobadze@unicef.org Please indicate the following text in the subject line: "Project - CR conference".

Authors of the five best projects will be notified by 10 September 2022, and will be invited to prepare presentations for the conference.

6. Financial support

Conference organizers will financially support (transportation and accommodation costs) participation of the selected authors/representatives from other regions (abstracts, three best essays, five school projects) in the conference.

For any further information please contact Natia Jokhadze at: njokhadze@unicef.org and Anastasia Mshvidobadze at: amshvidobadze@unicef.org

We believe that participants will find the conference valuable by actively taking part in lively and rigorous discussions about the realities, challenges, and opportunities that co-exist in national, regional, and international contexts.

We cordially invite you to join us, and we are looking forward to meeting you in Akhaltsikhe!