

# CHILDREN ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Children engaging with decision making

Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia

"We work on daily basis with groups of Children and young people on our social media but also virtual gatherings, trainings, and different projects. We ran an international survey with children and adults about what themes matter for international relationships at the moment. The main topics mentioned were: use of technology (24%), living in confinement (18%) (in particular dealing with home dynamics in isolation), Interpersonal relationships (16%), health and safety related to COVID-19 (13%) and ageist stereotypes and different perceptions between generations (7%)."

Specifically in Bolivia the rates of violences have raised terribly due to confinement. Offering virtual spaces for children to connect is very important to protect them by having contact with adults outside their homes. There are no schools even virtually in Bolivia so offering virtual spaces where children can connect is also very important, crucial for them and their mental health. Children are eager to talk about the situation and their feelings. It is a crucial moment to create spaces for more child participation because they are really not heard.

We are working in Bolivia with around 300 adolescents in all the country working with decision makers so that they can build intergenerational initiatives to cope with the critical situation.

In Bolivia every school needs to have a student group, and every municipality an adolescent committee, and children have been active in setting them up. Children have seen COVID as an opportunity to connect with each other to make sure these committees are created. They're also supporting each other, transmitting information, connecting with one another".

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