

INTERNATIONAL CARE LEAVERS' CONVENTION 2020

PRE-EVENT WEBINAR 1

DATE: 24 October 2020, 1:30-3:30 PM IST

[Link to register](#) (details of link to attend will be shared with all who register)

HOW DO I CONNECT WITH THE LARGER WORLD? : THE NEED FOR PEER LED NETWORKS

Rationale: Connecting with the larger external world is critical for youth leaving care, for their wellbeing, growth and empowerment. One of the most effective ways of engaging with the larger society is through collectivization, or the formation of care leavers' networks. Such networks can provide these youth with both peer-support and access to information, services and opportunities in their journey towards independent living, and most importantly, provide the space for speaking out and advocate for their rights. However, such collectives may present their own challenges as well as opportunities. Furthermore, these networks are not yet present in many of the countries either, while State, civil society and private sector engagement with them needs strengthening. Nonetheless, the civil society plays a significant role at present in the formation and sustenance of care leavers' networks, while facing their own challenges in the process. Thus, it is important to explore and gain insights into the dynamics of care leavers' networks and their relationship with the civil society, with the intention of understanding how to improve the functions, experience and outcomes of such networks and their external relations.

Objective: to understand the need and role of care leavers' networks, and the role of civil society in this collectivization process, from the perspective of care leavers themselves and civil society organizations and draw out key learnings.

Format: panel discussion, moderated by care leavers

Methodology: the session will take the form of an exchange between care leavers and organizations/practitioners mobilizing/supporting care leavers' networks. The youth will speak about their experience forming and engaging with care leavers' networks, where different aspects can be articulated by each youth including motivational factors, roles and responsibilities, challenges, achievements, support requirements, etc. The organizational representatives/practitioners will speak about their experience supporting such networks, including the challenges they face and promising practices. The youth and civil society representatives will also respond to each other, sharing their perspectives of each other's roles. The session will run as a Q&A where the speakers respond to the questions posed by the moderator and the audience.

No of youth – 6 (representing various care leavers' networks from different regions).

No of organizations/practitioners – 4 (representing different regions).

Outcomes:

- Better understanding of the need and role of care leavers' networks and the supportive role of the civil society.
- Concrete actions that the participants can take post-event, to encourage and support the collectivization of care leavers, especially in the form of care leavers' networks.