



GIRLS NOT BRIDES

The Global Partnership
to End Child Marriage

Handout – Quality standards for ensuring meaningful and ethical youth participation

Adapted from 'A Toolkit for Measuring Children's Participation' by Save the Children

Quality standard	Questions to ask yourself to find out if your organisation is meeting this standard
1. Participation is transparent and informative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do youth have enough information about the programme to make an informed decision about whether and how they may participate? Is information shared with youth in appropriate formats and languages they understand? Are the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved clearly explained and understood?
2. Participation is voluntary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is young people's participation voluntary? Have youth been given enough information and time to make decisions about whether or not they want to participate? Can they withdraw (stop participating) at any time they wish?
3. Participation is respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are young people's own time commitments (e.g, to study, work, play) respected and taken into consideration? Do the ways of working with youth consider and build upon local cultural practices? Has support been gained from key adults in youth's lives (e.g, parents, carers, teachers) to ensure respect for young people's participation?
4. Participation is relevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the issues being discussed and addressed of real relevance to young people's lives? Do young people feel any pressure from adults to participate in activities that are not relevant to them?
5. Participation is youth-friendly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are youth-friendly approaches and methods used? Do the ways of working build self-confidence among young men and young women of different ages and abilities? Are youth-friendly meeting places used? Are such places accessible to youth with disabilities?
6. Participation is inclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are young men and women of different ages and backgrounds – including younger youth, youth with disabilities, youth from different ethnic groups – given opportunities to participate? Is the process inclusive and non-discriminatory? Are youth encouraged to address discrimination through their participation?
7. Participation is supported by training for adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do staff have the confidence to facilitate youth's participation? Are staff able to effectively support youth's participation in your community?
8. Participation is safe and sensitive to risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do youth feel safe when they participate? Have risks been identified and have young people been part of identifying the risks? Do youth know where to go for help if they feel unsafe while participating in the project?
9. Participation is accountable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are youth supported to participate in follow-up and evaluation processes? Do adults take youth's views and suggestions seriously and act upon their suggestions? Are youth given feedback from your organisation about any requested support needs and follow-up?