

Terms of Reference (ToR)

UNICEF Bulgaria - Youth Volunteering Engagement Programme

1. Background

UNICEF Bulgaria aims to engage young people above 18-year

old, in flexible, short-term volunteering opportunities during the summer period. The programme is designed to strengthen youth participation in advancing child rights, increase awareness of UNICEF's mission, and foster a new generation of advocates for children in Bulgaria.

The initiative aligns with UNICEF's global commitment to youth engagement and meaningful participation, providing young people with opportunities to contribute to real-world initiatives in a flexible and accessible way.

2. Objectives

The Summer Youth Volunteering Programme aims to:

- Engage young people in UNICEF-related activities in a flexible and accessible format
- Promote awareness and understanding of child rights among youth
- Support UNICEF Bulgaria's advocacy, communication, and outreach efforts
- Build an informal network of young advocates for children's rights
- Encourage continued civic engagement beyond the volunteering experience

3. Nature of Engagement

- **Type:** Short-term, task-based volunteering
- **Duration:** Flexible (from a few hours to several days, depending on tasks)
- **Time commitment:** Non-full-time; volunteers choose tasks based on availability
- **Location:** Primarily remote; not office-based
- **Compensation:** Unpaid (voluntary engagement), with potential non-monetary recognition (certificates, references, networking opportunities)

4. Scope of Volunteer Tasks

Volunteers will be engaged in a variety of activities, including but not limited to:

- Support the collection, review, and organization of child rights priorities and recommendations from international human rights mechanisms, including the UPR.
- Assist in compiling and summarizing child-focused recommendations for internal reference and advocacy.
- Conduct desk research on good practices in child rights promotion, monitoring, and academic engagement.
- Map universities, academic programmes, researchers, and potential child rights partners.
- Support preparation of the autumn academia conference, including research, outreach, logistics, and documentation.
- Perform other related tasks supporting child rights monitoring and promotion.

5. Eligibility Criteria

- Young people aged **18 years and above**
- Upper-intermediate command of English
- Interest in child rights, social impact, and youth engagement
- Ability to commit to short-term, flexible tasks
- Strong communication skills (preferred but not mandatory)
- Motivation to learn and contribute

No prior professional experience is required.

6. UNICEF Responsibilities

UNICEF Bulgaria will:

- Provide clear guidance and task descriptions
- Ensure flexible and inclusive participation opportunities
- Offer basic orientation on UNICEF's mission and child rights
- Provide supervision and support where needed
- Recognize volunteer contributions (e.g., certificates, references)
- Ensure a safe and respectful engagement environment

7. Volunteer Responsibilities

Volunteers are expected to:

- Complete agreed tasks within the assigned timeframe
- Uphold UNICEF values and ethical standards
- Communicate proactively with focal points
- Represent UNICEF responsibly in public and online spaces
- Respect diversity, inclusion, and child safeguarding principles

9. Learning & Benefits for Volunteers

While this is a voluntary engagement, participants may benefit from:

- Exposure to UNICEF's work and child rights advocacy
- Opportunities to develop communication and advocacy skills
- Networking with like-minded youth
- Participation in a recognized international organization initiative
- Potential longer-term engagement opportunities (e.g., youth panels)

10. Monitoring & Feedback

- Volunteers may be asked to provide feedback on their experience
- Feedback will inform future youth engagement initiatives

11. Duration of Programme

The programme is expected to run based on UNICEF activities and engagement with flexibility for continuation or scaling based on demand, interest and results.