

GUIDELINES FOR THE GNRC NETWORK COORDINATORS AND CONTACT PERSONS

Nairobi, Kenya

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1. Name, Definition, and Aims

1.1. The Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) is an interreligious network of people, associations and/or organizations involved in working for children's rights and the well-being of children at local, national, sub-regional, regional and global levels. It promotes cooperation among its members, as well as with other interested parties, to achieve the aims described in section 1.2.

1.2. The aims of the GNRC and its members are:

- 1.2.1. To call members and others to make uniquely faith-based contributions to the creation of a better environment for children by engaging in prayer, mutual enlightenment, dialogue and cooperation among people of different faiths, including children, at local, national, regional and global levels.
- 1.2.2. To take concrete action with, and for, children through interfaith cooperation, and to engage adults and children in interreligious dialogue to create a better environment for children in a diverse and globalizing world.
- 1.2.3. To encourage members and others to build a global movement for children to promote significant changes in the environment facing children, working in cooperation with international organizations, academics, the business community and people from all walks of life around the world.
- 1.2.4. To promote children's rights in their entirety as defined by official documents, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- 1.2.5. To assist members and others in their work with, and for, children to build a peaceful world where children can grow up with sound physical, psychological, and spiritual health.

2. Guiding Principles

2.1 Inspired by deep conviction and impelled by a sense of responsibility to uphold the rights and dignity of children everywhere, and convinced that this is the most direct path to a world of peace and justice for all

- 2.1.1 Interfaith, Intercultural, and Intergenerational
- 2.1.2 Idealistic, Visionary, and Hopeful
- 2.1.3 Inclusive, Compassionate and Caring
- 2.1.4 Inspiring and Empowering
- 2.1.5 Cooperative, Responsible and driven by the spirit of Volunteerism

3. Membership

- 3.1. Faith-based organizations or groups as well as individuals of faith that are working with and for children anywhere in the world are invited to join the GNRC.
- 3.2. GNRC members shall meet any of the following conditions:
 - 3.2.1. They are actively engaged in promoting children's rights and well-being.
 - 3.2.2. The aims and work of the GNRC members shall be in full harmony with the aims and work of the GNRC.
 - 3.2.3. They are willing to cooperate with other GNRC members in building a better world for children.
- 3.3. Should any of the above criteria change for any GNRC member, the GNRC Secretariat, in consultation with the GNRC coordinator from that member's country, sub-region or region may reconsider the status of his/her/its relationship with the GNRC.
- 3.4. GNRC members may establish GNRC networks at local, national, sub-regional, and regional levels, with the facilitation and endorsement of the GNRC Secretariat and Arigatou International.
- 3.5. Organizations, networks and individuals that are not faith-based may be fraternal members.

4. GNRC Networks

- 4.1. For practical purposes of the GNRC 's work, there shall be a GNRC national committee in each country formed by GNRC members residing in that country.
- 4.2. An organization or individual meeting conditions to become a GNRC member may submit an application to the GNRC Secretariat
- 4.3. Once contact with the GNRC Secretariat is made, the person taking the lead as contact person may convene a meeting of organizations and individuals committed to the objectives of the GNRC to form a network led by the national committee
- 4.4. The GNRC national committee will be coordinated by a country coordinator who will be elected (or selected) by local members. The GNRC Secretary General in consultation with, and with the endorsement of Arigatou International will then confirm the coordinator.
- 4.5. The GNRC country coordinator will ordinarily come from a faith-based institution
- 4.6. Countries belonging to a specific sub-region may form a sub-regional group or network. A GNRC contact person (a.k.a. accompaniers) may be appointed as the contact point for the sub-regional group or network.
- 4.7. Countries and sub-regions belonging to a specific region may form a regional group or network. A GNRC contact person may be appointed as the contact point for the regional group or network.
- 4.8. A local GNRC network or group can be formed through the facilitation of the GNRC country coordinator.
- 4.9. Local, country, sub-regional and regional networks are formed as needed to facilitate the work of the GNRC in respective regions, sub-regions and locales.
- 4.10. A GNRC contact person for a region or sub-region will normally be chosen from the pool of GNRC country coordinator in a sub-region or region.

5. GNRC Coordinators and Contact Persons

- 5.1. GNRC coordinators and contact persons are GNRC members who serve as focal point persons for GNRC networking, who promote GNRC activities, and who contribute to the building of the Network at global, regional, sub-regional, national

- and local levels in consultation with other members and/or contact person(s) in their respective sub-regions, regions, countries and local areas.
- 5.2. GNRC coordinators work with the Secretary General through the Network and Programs Coordinator to determine the general framework for Network activities, deliberate on issues, and participate in decisions concerning the GNRC within their jurisdiction.
 - 5.3. GNRC coordinators present proposals to the GNRC Secretariat that have been discussed collectively with GNRC members at the local, national, sub-regional, or regional level.
 - 5.4. GNRC coordinators coordinate the mission and work of the GNRC at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.
 - 5.5. GNRC coordinators are accountable to the GNRC Secretary General through channels established by the GNRC Secretary General in consultation with Arigatou International and are responsible for the implementation of decisions made collectively by local members.
 - 5.6. Each coordinator's tasks and responsibilities include:
 - 5.6.1. Monitoring GNRC activities in the country of their responsibility as a whole, and developing new strategies aimed at making GNRC work more effective and relevant at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels.
 - 5.6.2. Building the GNRC at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels; through visits, correspondence and various forms of communication with other GNRC members and/or contact person(s) in the respective areas, while ensuring that the GNRC networks established are multi-faith, intergenerational and inclusive in their composition and promote interreligious dialogue.
 - 5.6.3. Facilitating and coordinating the implementation of GNRC policies and programs at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels (of their responsibility) and addressing related matters.
 - 5.6.4. Implementing GNRC projects to address the specific needs of children, and enhancing GNRC initiatives at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels, while ensuring that projects and programs are implemented in a spirit of interfaith cooperation through the establishment of interfaith committees whose members represent religious groups and institutions.
 - 5.6.5. Implementation of initiatives proposed at GNRC forums.
 - 5.6.6. Monitoring the implementation of GNRC projects and the appropriate use of funds provided by Arigatou International; ensuring that the local organization that receives the actual disbursement of the Arigatou International grant carries out project accounting and produces a detailed financial report.
 - 5.6.7. Organizing GNRC meetings when necessary, in coordination with members, and allowing for representation of all members in the respective areas.
 - 5.6.8. Formulating overall objectives and policies for local, national, sub-regional or regional activities in consultation with the GNRC members in their areas and, advising members of ongoing activities at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels.
 - 5.6.9. Reviewing projects proposed by the members in the area, and advising the GNRC Secretariat on their merit.

- 5.6.10. Drawing up an annual country activity plan with a proposed financial budget, to be submitted to the GNRC Secretary General through the GNRC Network and Programs Coordinator in conformity with the financial procedures and guidelines set by Arigatou International.
- 5.6.11. Preparing an annual country or regional report of activities with an annual country or regional financial report, to be submitted to the GNRC Secretariat in a timely manner.
- 5.6.12. All GNRC coordinators and contact persons will be required to sign, and ensure observance of the guidelines for Child Safeguarding and any other guidelines including the Code of Conduct issued by Arigatou International

6. GNRC Contact Persons

- 6.1. In certain cases, the GNRC Secretary General in consultation with, and with the endorsement of Arigatou International, may appoint a GNRC contact person for a specific area, sub-region or region or organization.

7. GNRC Coordinators and Contact Person Meeting

- 7.1. To provide a venue for discussing issues related to GNRC's mission and initiatives, Arigatou International through the GNRC Secretariat organizes GNRC coordinators and contact persons meetings, as needed, to which representatives from regions or sub-regions may be invited. The organizer may invite other GNRC members and resource persons, where necessary, to these meetings.

8. Financial Support

- 8.1. Arigatou International through the GNRC Secretary General will facilitate GNRC activities by providing financial support of the three types described below, as well as administering assistance. Arigatou International is limited in its capacity to provide financial support, and neither the organization nor the GNRC Secretary General is able to make any commitment to meet requests for support before a final decision is made by the Arigatou International Board of Directors.
- 8.2. GNRC Coordinators may pursue financial assistance from institutions other than Arigatou International, to be used in implementing GNRC projects and programs under the same provisions as indicated in these guidelines.
- 8.3. Operational Support for GNRC Coordinators
 - 8.3.1. At the request of the GNRC coordinator to the GNRC Secretariat, Arigatou International, within the limits of its capacity, financially supports activities proposed by members.
 - 8.3.2. Applications for support are prepared by the GNRC coordinator (or contact person) to the GNRC Secretary General (separate guidelines for projects proposals and applications are available).
- 8.4. Support for GNRC Projects
 - 8.4.1. Arigatou International, within the limits of its capacity, will provide financial support for projects that are in accordance with the purposes of the Network and implemented by GNRC networks at local, country, sub-regional and regional levels, taking into consideration the unique circumstances of the region/country.

- 8.4.2. The term “GNRC project” unless otherwise approved by the Secretary General, means a project that involves concrete action for children, undertaken through interfaith cooperation, and initiated and implemented by more than one religious organization or group from different faith backgrounds in accordance with the aims of the GNRC.
- 8.4.3. GNRC coordinators are expected to mobilize funding for GNRC projects and encourage members to contribute financially or in-kind to projects in their countries or sub-regions or region.
- 8.4.4. GNRC projects should contribute to one or more of the thematic priorities of the Network:
 - a. Promote the development of GNRC regional, sub-regional or country networks
 - b. Enhance poverty eradication
 - c. Enhance ethics education for children and other educational initiatives
 - d. Create a peaceful environment for children
 - e. Promote prayer and action for children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Some of the specific expectations of such projects are that they should, to the extent possible:

- Strengthen the capacity of GNRC members working on child rights, ethics education and poverty eradication from interfaith perspectives.
 - Promote interfaith cooperation and networking between GNRC members at regional, sub-regional, national, and local levels, as well as the establishment of new GNRC networks.
 - Entail a greater number of organizers, greater number of participants, participation of a more diverse range of religious and spiritual traditions, and a broader beneficiary area.
 - Feature strong participation by children and young people.
 - Make significant contributions to the promotion of children’s rights and children’s well-being from the point of view of the role of religions.
 - Indicate a favorable ratio of self-help efforts by the members implementing the project.
 - Contribute to any or all of the three specific commitments that the GNRC made at the UN Special Session on Children in May 2002.
 - Contribute to ending violence against children, including the implementation of the Panama Declaration (with its 10 commitments), adopted at the GNRC 5th Forum held in Panama in May 2017.
- 8.4.5. Activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the target group identified by the project.
 - 8.4.6. The financial support for GNRC activities must be budgeted on an annual basis. Multi-year projects will be subject to annual evaluation to determine whether new funds will be granted by Arigatou International to support the continuation of such projects.
 - 8.4.7. The directors of Arigatou International Initiatives will provide technical support to the GNRC funded projects
 - 8.4.8. How to Apply for Project Assistance

- 8.4.8.1. Project applications with budget proposals presented by GNRC members must be submitted, with the endorsement of the GNRC country coordinator, to the GNRC Secretary General through the GNRC Network and Programs Coordinator.
 - 8.4.8.2. The GNRC Country Coordinator may submit a request to Arigatou International for financial support for GNRC projects, coordinating the various needs of the GNRC within the respective country, as part of his or her annual country activity plan and budget proposal.
 - 8.4.8.3. When receiving a request for financial support from a single organization or person for a project that does not meet the criteria for GNRC projects in section 7.4.2, the GNRC Country Coordinator for the respective country will examine the potential for the project to be modified so as to contribute to the development of the GNRC and be considered a GNRC project. If this is not possible, he or she will consult with the GNRC Secretary General, who will then advise the organization or person to make the request for assistance directly to the Secretary General of Arigatou International as a non-GNRC project.
 - 8.4.8.4. When a GNRC member makes such a request, Arigatou International will inform the relevant GNRC country coordinator, asking for comments for reference purposes as part of its process of consideration. Further, when Arigatou International receives a request for financial support from a non-GNRC member, religious organization, or other organization for a project that is thought to have an influence on GNRC activities, Arigatou International will provide information to the GNRC Secretary General who will in turn consult with the GNRC country or sub-regional or regional coordinator where the request originated.
- 8.4.9. Monitoring and Reporting
- 8.4.9.1. The GNRC Secretary General will inform GNRC coordinators of the decisions of Arigatou International concerning applications.
 - 8.4.9.2. Each GNRC coordinator will monitor the status of implementation of GNRC projects/activities supported by Arigatou International at the country level.
 - 8.4.9.3. The beneficiary of the project or activity must keep accurate and regular records and dedicated, transparent accounts of the implementation of the project.
 - 8.4.9.4. The GNRC country coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the local organization implementing projects/activities uses the funds for the approved purpose. Financial reports should be itemized in the same way as the original application for funding, with no more than 10% of any line item used for a different item than originally requested. The GNRC coordinator must request prior approval from the GNRC Secretary General through the GNRC Network and Programs Coordinator before sanctioning any change larger than this.

- 8.4.9.5. When a new bank account is required to manage a GNRC project, its signatories should consist of no fewer than three organizations, all of whom must be GNRC members.
- 8.4.9.6. After completion of each project or activity, the GNRC coordinator should submit a summary report on the project or activity and a detailed financial report to the GNRC Secretary General. The financial report must be accompanied by original receipts.
- 8.4.9.7. At the end of each fiscal year, the GNRC coordinator should submit a full report on all projects and activities undertaken during the period, including a thorough evaluation.

8.5. Deadline for Receipt of Applications

The deadline for the submission of applications/budget proposals for projects to take place during the upcoming fiscal year (April 1 to March 31) is the end of November.

8.6. Support for GNRC Networking Activities

- 8.6.1. Arigatou International provides, within the limits of its capacity, financial support for GNRC networking activities, as part and parcel of GNRC projects facilitated by the GNRC coordinators or contact persons.
- 8.6.2. Requests for Support for GNRC networking activities should be submitted in advance to the GNRC Network and Programs Coordinator at the GNRC Secretariat as a part of the annual country activity plan and budget proposal. This may also include sub-regional or regional networking for GNRC.
- 8.6.3. GNRC Coordinators are expected to mobilize funding for GNRC networking activities and encourage GNRC members to contribute financially or in-kind to GNRC networking activities in their regions, sub-regions and/or countries.

9. Submission of GNRC Annual Activity Plan and Budget Proposal

- 9.1. The coordinator will draw up an annual country activity plan with a budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year (from April-1 to March-31).
- 9.2. The annual country activity plan with a budget proposal should be submitted to the GNRC Network and Programs Coordinator by the end November of each year.
- 9.3. An expense report for the current fiscal year that details the use of the budget to date and remaining anticipated expenses for the fiscal year should be attached and submitted at the end of April.