



GUIDELINES FOR THE GNRC NETWORK COORDINATORS AND CONTACT PERSONS

Nairobi, Kenya
(Updated January 2024)

1. Name, Definition, and Aims

- 1.1. 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 objectives 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. GNRC Vision

A peaceful world where every human being takes full responsibility for children's dignity, safety, joy, and well-being.

3. GNRC Mission

Steadfast in belief in the infinite value of every human life, and in the shared universal values and common humanity of all peoples, the mission of the GNRC is to mobilize the potential of all religions to empower ordinary people at the grassroots level to make unique faith-based contributions to the realization of every child's right to attain full physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, ethical and social development while seeking partnership with leaders, individuals, and communities, international, national, and regional institutions, grassroots organizations, and people of goodwill everywhere.

4. Core Values

The core values of the GNRC are rooted in fostering interfaith, intercultural, and intergenerational cooperation while maintaining an idealistic, visionary, and hopeful perspective, guided by inclusivity, compassion, and care, all to inspire and empower individuals through cooperative, responsible, and volunteer-driven actions.

5. Membership

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. GNRC members shall meet the following conditions:
 - 5.2.1. They are actively engaged in promoting children's rights and well-being.
 - 5.2.2. The aims and work of the GNRC members shall be in full harmony with the aims and work of the GNRC.
 - 5.2.3. They are willing to cooperate with other GNRC members in building a better world for children.
- 5.3. 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.
- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. Organizations, networks, and individuals who are not faith-based may be fraternal members.

6. GNRC Networks

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. An organization or individual meeting the conditions to become a GNRC member may apply to the GNRC Secretariat.
- 6.3. 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.
- 6.4. The GNRC national committee will be coordinated by a 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.
- 6.5. The GNRC coordinator will ordinarily come from a faith-based institution
- 6.6. 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.
- 6.7. 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.
- 6.8. A local GNRC network or group can be formed through the facilitation of the GNRC Coordinator.
- 6.9. 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.
- 6.10. A GNRC Contact Person for a region or sub-region will normally be chosen from the pool of GNRC Coordinators in a sub-region or region.

7. GNRC Coordinators and Contact Persons

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. GNRC Coordinators coordinate the mission and work of the GNRC at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.
- 7.5. 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.
- 7.6. Each Coordinator's tasks and responsibilities include:

- 7.6.1. Monitoring GNRC activities in the country of their responsibility, and developing new strategies aimed at making GNRC work more effective and relevant at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels.
- 7.6.2. 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.
- 7.6.3. 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.
- 7.6.4. 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.
- 7.6.5. Implementation of initiatives proposed at GNRC forums.
- 7.6.6. Organizing GNRC meetings, when necessary, in coordination with members, and allowing for representation of all members in the respective areas.
- 7.6.7. 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.
- 7.6.8. Reviewing projects proposed by the members in the area and advising the GNRC Secretariat on their merit.
- 7.6.9. Where and when necessary, prepare an annual country or regional report of activities to be submitted to the GNRC Secretariat.
- 7.6.10. All GNRC Country 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.
- 7.6.11. Liaise with the GNRC Secretariat to appoint their respective Global Country Communication Associates (GCCAs)

8. GNRC Contact Persons

- 8.1. In some instances, 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 organization.

9. GNRC Coordinators and Contact Person Meeting

- 9.1. 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.

10. Support to GNRC Coordinators and Contact Persons

- 10.1. Arigatou International through the GNRC Secretary General, will support GNRC members by providing technical support, capacity-building on advocacy, skill development and training on resource mobilization, networking opportunities, communication, mentorship programs, recognition and awards, and where possible access to grants and funding opportunities.
- 10.2. GNRC Coordinators may pursue technical and 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.
- 10.3. Support for GNRC Coordinators:
 - 10.3.1. At the request of the GNRC Coordinator to the GNRC Secretariat, Arigatou International, within the limits of its capacity, may offer support for activities proposed by members.
 - 10.3.2. Applications for support are prepared by the GNRC Coordinator (or Contact Person) and sent to the GNRC Secretary General.

10.4. Support for GNRC Projects:

- 10.4.1. Arigatou International, within the limits of its capacity, will provide technical, and in exceptional cases, financial assistance 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 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.
- 10.4.2. GNRC Coordinators and Contact Persons are expected to mobilize resources for GNRC projects, and encourage members to contribute financially or in-kind to projects in their countries or sub-regions or region.
- 10.4.3. 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:

- 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.
 - Strengthen the capacity of GNRC members working on child rights, ethics education, and poverty eradication from interfaith perspectives.
 - Entail a greater number of organizers, a 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.
 - 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 United Nations Special Session on Children in May 2002.
 - Contribute to ending violence against children, including the implementation of the Panama Declaration ([with its 10 commitments](#))
 - 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.
- 10.4.4. Activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the target group identified by the project.
 - 10.4.5. The Directors of Arigatou International Initiatives will provide technical support to the Arigatou International and GNRC-supported projects.
 - 10.4.6. How to Apply for Project Assistance:
 - 10.4.6.1 The GNRC Coordinator may submit a request to Arigatou International for in-kind and financial support, capacity building, and technical assistance for a GNRC project.
 - 10.4.7. Monitoring and Reporting:
 - 10.4.7.1 Each GNRC Coordinator will monitor the status of the implementation of GNRC projects/activities supported by Arigatou International at the country level.
 - 10.4.7.2 At the end of each fiscal year, the GNRC Coordinator may submit a full report on all projects and activities undertaken during the period

