



Community Empowerment to Ensure Human Rights: Guiding Principles

Developing Partner Practices through Purposeful Play & Advocacy

Introduction:

Throughout the world, organizations use CAC's Purposeful Play and Education Outside the Classroom to impact their communities. From our experience as a Pioneering member creating the UN's International Safeguards for Children in Sport, as well as our own Child Protection Policy, Peace and Child Rights, Women's Rights Policy, and Theory of Change, in addition to our work in communities of all types across 6 continents, CAC has developed our Community Empowerment to Ensure Human Rights Guiding Principles.

Community Empowerment is a vital component of creating safe community environments where community members are an active part of promoting, protecting, and ensuring all individual rights, especially the rights of traditionally disadvantaged or discriminated against persons or groups. These guiding principles will influence our partnerships and help create strong community protections throughout our collaborative network, and to help communities understand the role Purposeful Play can have in this process.

Definition of Community Empowerment to Ensure Human Rights:

CAC Community Empowerment to Ensure Human Rights is a continuous process to empower communities to recognize and ensure all community and individual rights, including safety from all forms of abuse and neglect. Strong Community Empowerment creates an environment through mutual care for one another for the promotion of peace and individual human rights.

Why is Community Empowerment to Ensure Human Rights Important?

Guiding Principles are needed to create a safe community environment where community members are an active part of promoting, protecting, and ensuring all individual rights as outlined by key UN Documents including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Coaches Across Continents Believes:

- Community Empowerment to Ensure Human Rights is based upon the shared sense of responsibility within a community where individuals provide care for one other.
- By endorsing the necessity for Community Empowerment, community members are encouraged, mobilized, and supported to take an active protective role within their community.



- Community Empowerment strengthens and builds caring communities.
- Community Empowerment recognizes and ensures the rights of all individuals and safety from all forms of abuse.
- Community Empowerment is a process through which cooperation and collaboration leads to the creation of systems and practices for the protection of all community members, especially vulnerable individuals.
- Coaches Across Continents' role is to advocate for and support communities in building a network of caring individuals to promote and ensure individual rights through strong Community Empowerment.

Community Empowerment to Ensure Human Rights is Different & Necessary Across All Communities and Contexts:

CAC's Community Empowerment through Purposeful Play is different and necessary across all communities and contexts globally. It is influenced on various circumstances including:

- Different contexts and locations, such as rural/urban, country, continent, and available resources
- Different cultural and historical backgrounds including existing laws, as well as traditional, religious, and cultural practices
- Increased importance in communities experiencing radical change including emergency situations, such as refugee / displaced persons situations, humanitarian crisis, natural disasters, and more

Policy into Action (how these Guiding Principles Influence Practices):

Coaches Across Continents adopts a community-based approach with all the communities and people it serves. CAC requires that community partners, through consultation and participation, engage meaningfully and substantively in all aspects of programs that affect them, and initiate, implement, and monitor their required changes in accordance with CAC's Theory of Change.

CAC provides community partners with a structure of building blocks with which to create their own Community Empowerment and Protection policies.

In established communities:

1. Through Purposeful Play and Education Outside of the Classroom, focus is placed upon raising awareness of child rights and women's rights through CAC-led workshops and curriculum. These provide a foundation for the creation of community based children's and women's rights policies, as well as the protection of all vulnerable individuals.
2. Through Process Consultancy, CAC supports partners to create and implement their own protection policies.



3. CAC supports community partners to question harmful traditional, religious, and cultural practices in order to create and implement policies that align with established UN values for human rights.

In communities experiencing radical change:

1. CAC initiates positive actions to engage communities. Through Education Outside the Classroom, CAC works swiftly to embed the principles of Purposeful Play with community partners, focusing on conflict resolution by building cooperative and collaborative problem solving skills.
2. Through an inclusive and transparent approach, which facilitates trust and buy in by key stakeholders, CAC partners with communities to develop situational analysis and shared understanding of their specific history and current context.
3. CAC supports communities to recognize, clarify, and address the rights and needs of individuals, with a particular focus upon vulnerable groups, as established by key UN documents for human rights.
4. Through Process Consultancy, CAC works with community residents to identify problems and collaborate on implementing solutions, which recognize and ensure community and individual rights, including prevention of abuse and exploitation, policy creation, and public advocacy.
5. CAC's structured partnerships focusing on Community Empowerment Ensuring Human Rights, strengthens community members to develop transferable skills so they are able to independently respond to future emergencies.

Conclusion

Coaches Across Continents' partnerships including Purposeful Play and Education Outside the Classroom are a vital component to create safe environments where community members are an active part of promoting, protecting, and ensuring all individual rights, especially the rights of traditionally disadvantaged or discriminated against persons.