Declaration on Responding to the transnational needs of Care Leavers amidst COVID-19 & beyond!

Preamble:

We, the 51st International Conference on Care Leavers Network, are deeply concerned about the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on care leavers across the globe. With the pandemic disrupting educational opportunities, access to stable housing, and employment prospects, care leavers are particularly vulnerable.

Financial Security

Care leavers require stable income and savings to meet their basic needs. Governments and international organizations should prioritize financing programs that support care leavers in building financial resilience.

Housing

Affordable and secure housing is crucial for care leavers to maintain their independence. Policies should be implemented to ensure that care leavers have access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing.

Education

Care leavers should not be deprived of access to education. Universities should provide financial support, such as scholarships and grants, to enable care leavers to continue their education.

Career support/ Employability

Care leavers need access to employment opportunities. Strategies should be developed to support care leavers in finding suitable employment and advancing their careers.

Psychosocial support

Care leavers require support to cope with the stress and trauma associated with their care experiences. Programs and services should be developed to provide mental health support.

Health, nutrition and hygiene

Care leavers need access to health care and nutrition support. Efforts should be made to ensure that care leavers have access to quality healthcare and proper nutrition.

Legislative/policy reforms, awareness and advocacy

Promoting awareness and advocating for policy reform is essential to address the challenges faced by care leavers. Efforts should be made to raise awareness about the specific needs of care leavers.

Participation

Care leavers should have a voice in decisions that affect their lives. Their participation in policy-making and decision-making processes should be encouraged.

Social network

Care leavers require support from their families and communities. Efforts should be made to strengthen the social networks of care leavers.

Inclusion and social protection

Care leavers need to be integrated into society and protected from discrimination. Strategies should be developed to ensure that care leavers are included in the social and economic life of their communities.

Final Remark

We, the 51st International Conference on Care Leavers Network, call upon governments and international organizations to take immediate action to address the challenges faced by care leavers amidst COVID-19. We believe that together, we can ensure that care leavers have the support they need to thrive in these unprecedented times.