

Scope of Work: Consultancy to Design and Facilitate Decolonizing/Transforming International Child Protection -- An online institute about dismantling racism, neo-colonialism, and patriarchy in humanitarian and development efforts to protect children and support families

Background

The year 2020 is undeniably a time to reflect upon--and to take action to combat--inequality, racism, and identity-based injustice. If not now, when? Although the United States is the country where the interwoven pandemics of COVID-19 and anti-Black police brutality have perhaps most starkly revealed systems of structural oppression, we also recognize that racism, neo-colonialism, and patriarchy underpin the ways in which humanitarian and development actors conceptualize and enact child protection in countries all over the world.

Practiced incorrectly and without making explicit the underlying dynamics of power and funding, humanitarian aid can cause harm and undermine the dignity and autonomy of those it intends to support, who become othered "beneficiaries." The axes of power differentiation include wealth discrepancies, gender, and race. If these inequalities and injustices are apparent across wide swaths of humanitarian action and international development, their roots of racism, neo-colonialism, and patriarchy are especially problematic in a field such as child protection, where the roles of children and caregivers in their families and communities will vary from context to context. As the humanitarian community seeks to create quick, cost-effective "solutions," the likelihood of the imposition of conceptual and practice models that replicate oppressive, patriarchal, and racist norms is high. We must examine the incongruence of these models and the ways in which their (mis)application can increase harms to children.

Recently, the CPC Learning Network and its partners pledged to spark critical conversations about racism, patriarchy, and power as they affect children and families in settings around the world. To that end, we will launch a public institute in late 2020, extending into 2021, featuring speakers who are confronting and dismantling racism, neo-colonialism, and patriarchy in international development and humanitarian work, using child protection and child rights as our own critical entry points into these worlds. These critical conversations will center the voices of immigrants and refugees, Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color, women, and sexual and gender minorities who are leading the change to make international child protection and child rights efforts safer, more relevant, more respectful, and more effective.

Format

We will release pre-recorded institute talks according to a mutually agreed calendar. These will feature either an individual speaker or a small group of speakers in conversation. The talks may be accompanied by briefing notes that consolidate core readings, summary considerations, and questions to wrestle with.

These public talks will be followed by a chance to have an in-person discussion about the topics at hand, moderated by the CPC Learning Network. We will seek to create a space in which our discussions can tackle hard topics while remaining safe for evolution and growth among those who participate. We will also develop discussion guides for those who would like to take the conversation forward in their own circles.

Potential topics (final topics to be agreed with team)
Colonialism and international Development and humanitarian work
Colonialism and child welfare systems
Racism and violence against children
Racism and sexism in the aid industry
Paternalism and neoliberal in parenting programs
Paternalism and neocolonialism in child rights
Decolonizing funding

Consultancy

The CPC Learning Network is seeking a consultant to co-design and facilitate this online initiative. The consultant will work closely with the CPC Learning Network team.

Specific tasks will include:

- Conducting research to identify topics, speakers and framing questions for the discussion
- Supporting the development of short briefing notes to accompany each session
- Co-moderating online sessions

We expect the consultancy to require 10 days of work for each session. The final number of days will be agreed prior to contracting.

Deliverables

- Two-page briefing notes for each session
- Liaison work with film producer(s)
- 6 to 8 online sessions moderated by June 2021

Consultant Profile

- Extensive experience working in the field of child protection and rights field and strong understanding of the various stakeholders and actors
- Strong written and oral presentation skills

- Experience in researching and analyzing the child protection and rights field
- Extensive experience facilitating and organizing high-level meetings with a range of stakeholders
- Excellent writing and analytical skills

Interested applicants should send their CVs, a cover letter, and their daily consultancy rate to info@cpcllearningnetwork.org by November 30, referencing “Decolonizing International Child Protection Public Institute” in the subject line.