

GERMANY - COLOGNE

UNICEF CHILD
FRIENDLY CITIES
SUMMIT

14TH - 18TH OCTOBER 2019



CONTEXT

This report is about the CFCI Summit in Cologne, Germany, that was on the 14th - 18th of October 2019. At the Summit there were over 550 delegates (adults, children and young people) from over 60 countries. The summit aimed to unite the cities that the delegates had travelled from in order for them to discuss how to make their communities 'Child-Friendly'.

With so many countries and nationalities in one room, finding a common language was inevitably difficult. Though the Summit was in English, simultaneous translation services were available for all, meaning all delegates could listen or speak in their own language.

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For the duration of the Summit the young people stayed at the Jugendheberge Koeln Riehl, an international youth hostel near Cologne city centre.





DAY 1

On day 1, we set off to travel to Bristol airport. The commute was short as was the flight to Cologne/Bonn airport, so overall not a lengthy travel time. When we arrived we were delightfully surprised by warm weather. We were climatized to the bitterness of Cardiff in October and were expecting colder weather based off previous Autumn visits to Germany.

When we joined the programme there was the opportunity to join in on a range of different activities. Some young people were BMXing and skate boarding, whilst others were screen printing and trying out circus silks. We also got to meet the other youth delegates and heard some of their journeys, this made our journey feel even shorter as many had been travelling overnight.

There were professional photographers at the adventure hall that the activities were being held in. They were recording young people for the local news. Catrin and Rose both got to be filmed and were asked about their experience of child participation in the UK.

After an adventurous workshop, we headed back to the hostel, via tram, for the evening, to settle in and have dinner.



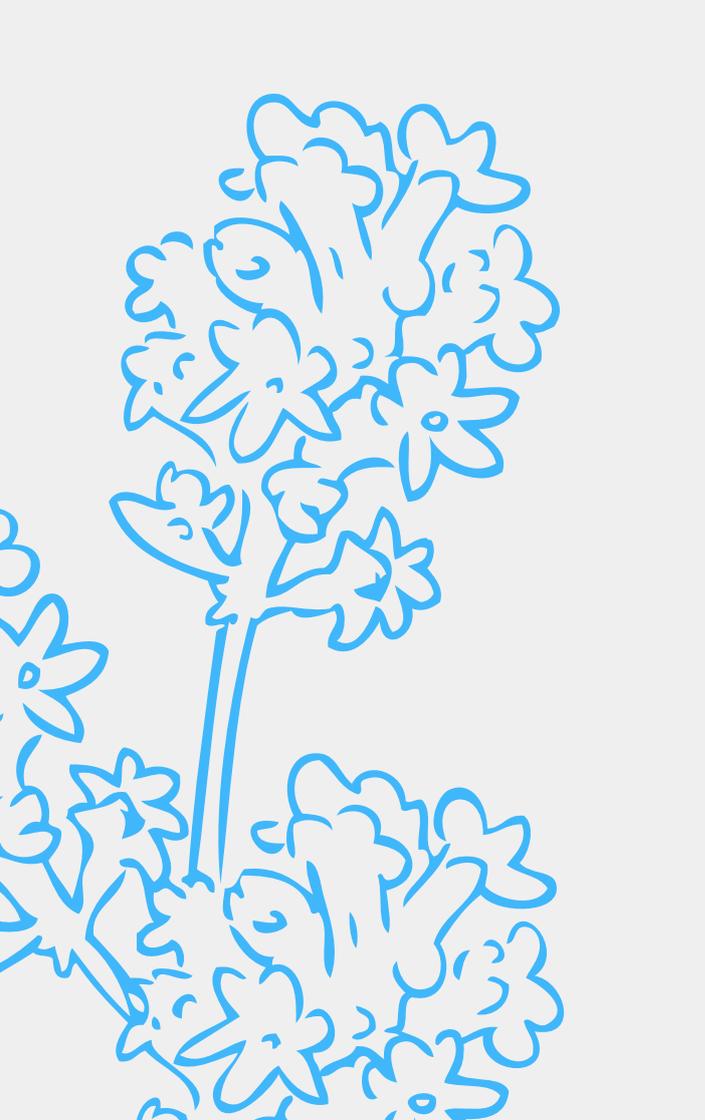


Day 2 - morning

Day 2 started by heading to Cologne city centre to the Gurzenich, the venue for the summit. This was our first time seeing the venue and it was set up beautifully. Lights were displayed in the reception area, UNICEF CFCI posters were dotted around and a photo booth was set up. We headed to a break out room and started with a musical warm up exercise. Everyone was given a coloured tube and taught a beat to repeat. Each different coloured tube made a different note so when the beats were all played together, magic happened.

The initial exercise connected everyone in a way that language couldn't. Many of the young people were speaking in a language that, to them, was non-native and some did not speak or understand English at all. Music helped to break through this barrier.

The workshop that followed was about advocacy, delivered by UNICEF UK. Firstly, the young people were tasked with defining advocacy. Many ideas were amalgamated to create a common definition. Secondly, they created an advocacy tree which helped them to address an issue that young people face and explore the root causes and solutions. Thirdly they explored the creation of an overall key message by appealing to the head, heart and hands of their audiences.



Day 2 - afternoon

In the afternoon the youth delegation split into their working groups. Rose and Catrin are in the communications group which focussed on social media at the event. They received some media training which covered consent, photograph angles and caption strategies to use when posting online.

The official introduction to the summit was the opening ceremony. This firstly consisted of opening remarks and a welcome from the Lord Mayor of Cologne, Henriette Reker, UNICEF Patroness and the First Lady of Germany, Elke Budenbender, and Secretary of State and Federal Minister, Julian Seifert.

Secondly was a panel of young people, Soohong, Gabriel and Breanna, who had been involved with the creation and development of the summit. We also had a speech from Graf Walderson and Gary Stahl about the relevance of child friendly cities today, a panel of mayors discussing their commitment to the initiative, a word from LEGO about building bridges and a rap from RobenX, a young American rapper known as 'the white boy who could rap'.

The conclusion of the evening was a meet and greet reception; a chance for youth and adult delegates to mingle and get to know each other. We also met the rest of the UK delegation during this time.





Day 3 - morning

After the opening plenary of the day which consisted of a welcome from UNICEF and a look back at what had been achieved so far, a panel discussion by representatives from the Child and Youth Advisory Board about the summit and beyond, a message from mayors of CFCs about co-creation with young people and a message from the mayor of Eltville about climate change and identifying solution with young people, was a set of track sessions.

These track sessions were split into the following categories;

- inclusive cities
- participatory cities
- safe, secure and healthy cities
- child-friendly local governance

Each category had 3 consecutive sessions within it, the first of which were;

- child rights awareness raising and capacity building
- child participation training
- child rights and urban planning
- partnerships for child-friendly cities: the role of the private sector

Catrin and Rose took part in the child participation training session and formed part of a panel. The question posed during the session was 'What do we mean by child participation in Child Friendly Cities?'



Day 3 - afternoon

Following a lunch break were more track sessions in the aforementioned categories.

These were;

- Child rights in school
- Child participation in policy and decision making: youth and school councils #1
- public places for and with children
- smart child-friendly cities: innovation and digitalisation.

and;

- cities without barriers: children with disabilities
- child rights ombudspersons
- playful learning
- child-friendly budgeting

To conclude the evening and bring the main agenda to an end for the day was a plenary session titled 'Building child-responsive cities and communities' where everybody came back together in the main hall. During this plenary session we had a message from the Mayor of Tirana in Albania, Erion Veliaj. He said that many people ask him as mayor, 'what is the most difficult infrastructure to change?' to which he says 'It is about 10cm wide and sits between each temple.'

We also had a message from Mara Mintzer, a community engagement specialist in Boulder in the United States of America.





Day 3 - evening

After the main agenda of the day came to a close, the young people had an activity planned. A trip to the circus!

There was a van serving chips and German sausage just outside and the circus activities included;

- Fire sticks
 - juggling
 - tightropes
 - aerial activities
 - gymnastics
- and even;
- glass walking
 - fire walking

Though these activities were very enjoyable and caused a great deal of excitement the best part of the circus was the disco.

At this point in the Summit the majority of the young people were at least acquainted. Those with English as a second language or who did not speak English were still struggling to integrate fully into the group.

The disco lights and the music beating allowed for them to communicate and bond in a way that no other point of the summit had achieved thus far. Through the medium of dance, people came out of their shell and even started teaching each other different styles of dance from their respective countries.





Child Friendly
Cities Summit
Cologne, October 2019

Cities and Communities Enabling Every Child to Reach Their Full Potential

Day 4 - morning

The morning began with a plenary session entitled 'Cities and communities enabling every child to reach their full potential' which consisted of a word from influencer and activist, Janis McDavid, professor of social psychology at London school of economics, Sonia Livingstone and Head of campaigns and advocacy at UNICEF, Benjamin Perks.

They introduced the agenda of the day by talking about 'making the impossible possible,' 'Children online: risks and opportunities,' and 'Creating resilient communities and preventing lifelong costs of violence and trauma in the lives of children.'

Following a coffee break were a set of track sessions in the following categories:

- Inclusive cities
- Participatory cities
- Safe, secure and healthy cities
- child-friendly local governance

As before, each category had 3 consecutive sessions within it, the first of which were:

- cities free from inter-personal violence and bullying
- inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised in child and youth participatory processes
- child-friendly cities in climate change
- sports and child rights



Day 4 - afternoon

After lunch further track sessions took place in these categories which were:

- Cities without discrimination: children uprooted
- Child participation in decision making: youth and school councils #2
- Healthy food environments for children
- A child rights based approach to public services and finally:
 - Family-friendly cities and workplaces
 - Children in the digital environment
 - Mayor's roundtable discussion
 - Child-friendly situation analysis and data

Rose and Catrin formed a part of a panel with Councillor Sarah Merry, Cabinet member for Education, during the 'A child rights based approach to public services' session.

The highlight of the day was the inspire awards. With 6 categories entitled, meaningful child participation, non-discrimination and equity, child-friendly social services, safe, secure and clean environments, family life, play and leisure and child-friendly governance, and 20 shortlisted nominees, the winners were from Ukraine, Vietnam, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Switzerland and Iceland. See more about the awards here: <https://childfriendlycities.org/2019-summit/vote/>





Day 5

To conclude the trip and the summit was one final plenary session during which the Child and Youth Advisory Board (CAYAB) presented the manifesto they had been creating over the nine months leading up to the summit (which they then finalised during the summit itself) to all of the participants of the summit.

We also heard from the Lord Mayor of Cologne, Henriette Reker, who opened and closed the plenary, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, and Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Luis Ernesto Pedernera Reyna.

Along with a few panel discussions and a press hour which included all mayors, city councillors and other present at the summit, signing the CAYAB manifesto, the summit came to a close with the promise of another happening in the future.

The main theme of the manifesto, entitled 'Our cities. Our lives. Our future.' is an answer to the following question. 'What would child-friendly cities look like, if children were mayors?' The 10 themes of the manifesto look at every angle of a community/city that affect children and young people and the CAYAB's take on the best way to enshrine the UNCRC in any area. Find the full version here: <https://s25924.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CFCI-Child-and-Youth-Manifesto-FINAL.pdf>

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