

## MOOC “Child Participation and the Right to a Sustainable Environment”

### Report



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E-learning Expert

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Online Programmes  
Officer

*I believe that the subject in this MOOC is the best example to understand the complexity of the human rights approach to any issue.*

(participant)

*I work in an NGO trying to promote children participation in Paraguay. I want to implement all the knowledge I acquire in this course for the benefit of Paraguayan children.*

(participant)





## Executive summary

### Key information

Dates:

31 May 2021 – 11 July 2021 (6 weeks)

Estimated effort:

6+ h/week

Access:

[edX platform](#)

Presentation & promotion:

[Dedicated page](#) on the GC website, [video-teaser](#) and social media campaign

Features:

17 experts from 6 regions; 13 video lectures; 5 webinars; introductions; readings

Engagement & evaluation:

6 discussions, 3 quizzes  
1 poll, 2 surveys  
1 live chat



### Highlights

- Featuring young activists as lecturers (Luisa Neubauer - Fridays for Future) and protagonists of selected videos
- Participation of Right Livelihood Laureates Maude Barlow and Raoul Montenegro, UN and NGOs specialists, top-notch academics
- Increased focus on engagement with 5 live webinars
- Anticipating the participation of a young audience, a lot of effort put in creating tailored and inspiring materials, easy to digest courseware, guidance and explanation



### Statistics

Enrolment:

2073 participants (target: 1500)

Age & gender:

Mainly 19-24 (40%), 11% under 18; female (67%), male (31%), other (1%)

Country of origin:

All 7 GC regions + North America (see p.4)

Professional profile:

Student/researcher (48%), NGO/human rights professional (15%); teacher/educator (9%)

Surveys:

572 (welcome); 217 (participant-experience)

Certificates issued:

193 (9% of enrolment)

Top viewed videos:

CRC General Principles (C. Altafin)  
Meaningful child participation (V. Karunan)  
Children’s freedom of expression and association (A. Daly)

\*edX, youtube, surveys



### Recommendations from participants

- Keep the quality of materials and the ‘curation’ effort
- Online meetings among participants/focus groups in real time
- More quizzes; test/essay at the end
- Consider making content accessible for even younger audiences
- Promote further the course in collaboration with NGOs





## A snapshot



Visalaaksh Annamalai



Youusra Abourabi



Maude Barlow



David R. Boyd



Laura Lundy



Raul Montenegro



Jonas Schubert



Leo Ratledge

Some of our lecturers

### 4. Evolving capacities of the child

The concept of evolving capacities:

- was introduced for the first time in international human rights law through the CRC
- refers to the way that each young person gradually develops the ability to take full responsibility for her or his own actions and decisions
- should never be used to dismiss a child's view
- requires finding the balance between protecting children and enabling them to exercise autonomy

SUBMIT

In your opinion, child participation and the right to a healthy and sustainable environment:

#### Results

- should always go hand in hand as two fundamental aspects of a rights-based approach to children's rights and environmental rights **71%**
- can strengthen each other only if child participation is carried out in a meaningful way **22%**
- can do more harm than good if children are not informed, prepared and equipped to have a say on environmental matters **5%**
- cannot be reconciled because States' interests are always going to over-run children's interests **2%**

Results gathered from 262 respondents.

Quizzes & Polls



Video samples: Victor Karunan, Juliane Kippenberg and Luisa Neubauer



## A young audience committed to changemaking

This MOOC marks the engagement of our youngest ever audience: 40% of the enrolled participants were between 19 and 24 years old, and 11% under 18. Young and aspiring human rights and climate activists from different regions were attracted by the topic, and realised that their dreams and idealism could legally be grounded within the children’s rights framework. This has been an (acknowledged) discovery for most of them.

Many of these participants stated they are focussed on how sustainability plays within global scenarios, and aim at taking an active role in eco-friendly living. They simply want to “change the world”, “be part of the solution” and believe this MOOC could be a powerful, insightful tool they could use beyond “mere dialogues”.

*I watched and read about activists from all around the world and I realized that I definitely want to be a part of this movement.*

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*Now I can confidently talk about my rights.*

*Now I'm more aware of what impact climate change has on us.*

*Why children are the most vulnerable to climate change.*

*How their participation is essential for a systemic change.*

*I feel more empowered and aware of human rights and legal tools after this course.*

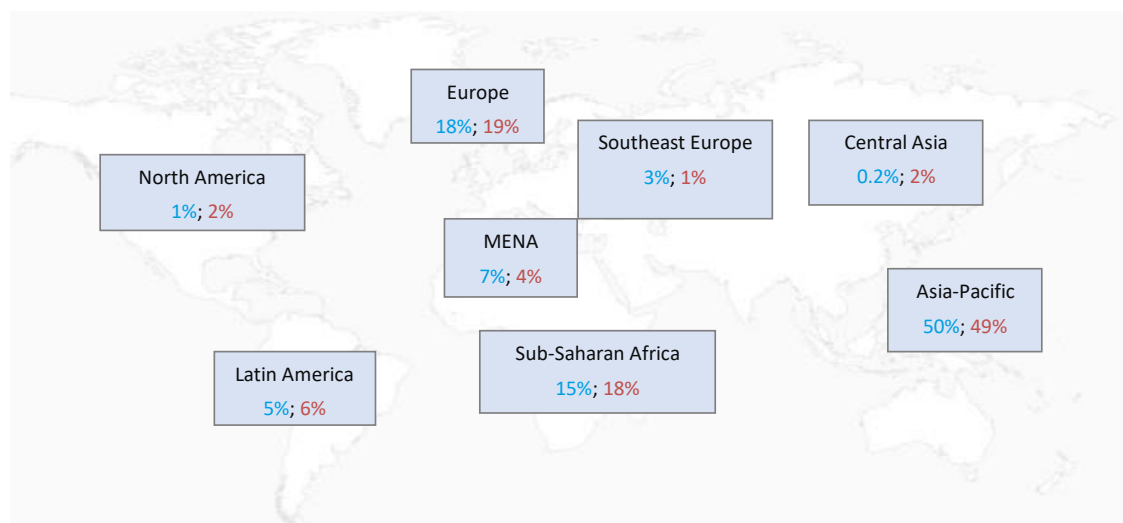
Some participants are already active in schools, within environmental/climate change clubs and plan to inform their MUN (Model United Nations) debates and motions.

A portion of the young audience was comprised of BA and MA students who want to combine their specialty (aerospace engineering, health, fashion, urban design, pedagogy, political science, etc.) with both sustainability and the realization of children’s rights. Integrating children in the decision making is seen as something that is not only possible but also a moral duty.

Among the MOOC’s adult audience, we wish to highlight educators (teachers, academic instructors, parents) who stated that the course had provided them with very useful information and references that could support the development of more meaningful and in-depth learning content for children and youth. They think that not only the course can help them addressing the risk of their knowledge becoming obsolescent, but also that they can link the care for the environment to the rights discourse, and specifically children’s right to participation: “I can also explain to them [the children] that they have rights to politically participate in those debates.”



## Participants' location and issued certificates



### Certificates by country of origin

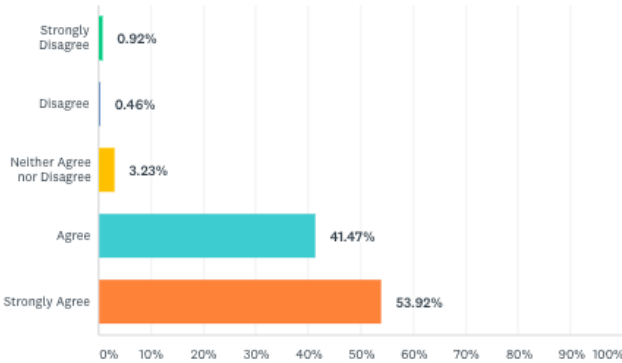
Albania	1	Mauritius	1	Canada	2	Sri Lanka	3
Argentina	1	Mexico	1	Chile	2	Turkey	3
Benin	1	Moldova	1	Cyprus	2	Brazil	4
Burma	1	Mozambique	1	Ethiopia	2	Nigeria	5
Cameroon	1	New Zealand	1	Ghana	2	Philippines	5
Colombia	1	Nigeria	1	Madagascar	2	Zimbabwe	5
Croatia	1	Romania	1	Malaysia	2	Kenya	6
Denmark	1	Singapore	1	Nepal	2	Pakistan	6
Ecuador	1	Slovakia	1	Niger	2	Germany	7
Finland	1	Somalia	1	Portugal	2	Indonesia	9
Georgia	1	Sweden	1	Spain	2	Italy	11
Hong Kong	1	Uganda	1	Venezuela	2	India	61
Hungary	1	Ukraine	1	Zambia	2		
Iran	1	United States	1	France	3		
Ireland	1	Uzbekistan	1	Greece	3		
Lesotho	1	Bangladesh	2	Lebanon	3	<b>TOT</b>	<b>193</b>



## Feedback of participants (217 respondents, 10% of enrolled)

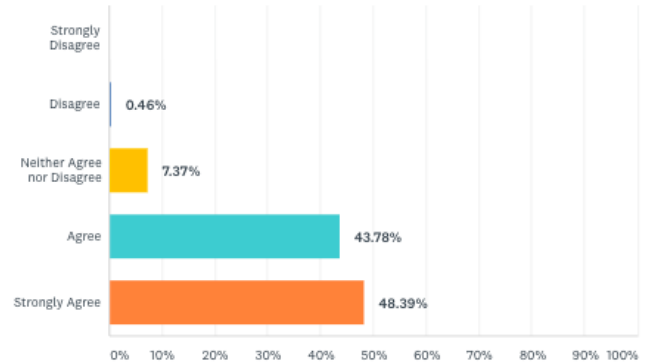
### Positive impact of materials: 97% agrees

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The course materials (lectures, videos, documents) have had a positive impact on my learning experience.



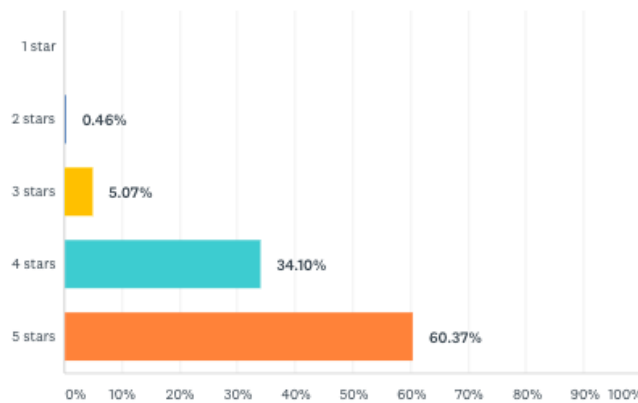
### Positive impact of activities: 92 % agrees

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The course activities (discussions, quizzes) have had a positive impact on my learning experience.



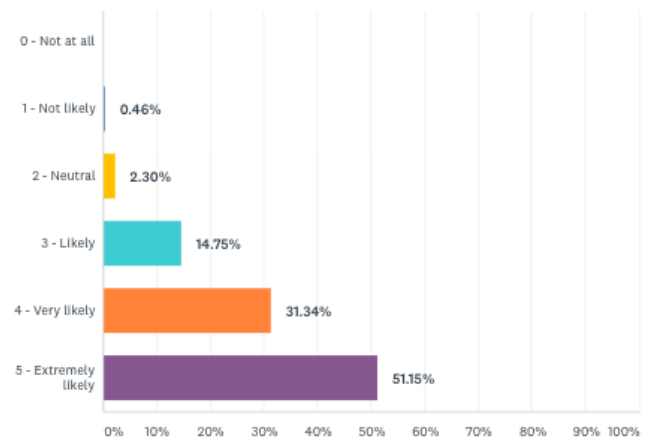
### Overall rating: 94% gives 4 - 5 ★

Please give this course an overall rating on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest rating



### 97 % would recommend it

How likely are you to recommend this course to a friend?





## An inspiring MOOC beyond relevance and timeliness

The well-balanced courseware and mix of teaching styles (videos, readings, quizzes, summaries) and engagement opportunities (webinars, forums, prompts sent by email) were praised even by the younger participants, who found it “easy to digest”. In fact, one of them wrote “Thank you Ms. Angela for framing the course content [and arranging it in such a] diluted and interesting [way] even for my age. I like all the videos and presentations [whose] concepts are easy to grasp.”

The following were among the most appreciated characteristics of the MOOC:

- The inspiring videos of young activists from different regions of the world, selected by the MOOC’s academic director and instructor Angela Melchiorre
- The contributions from practitioners who added new insights and a global perspective
- The level of discussions that allowed an enriching, inspiring exchange with peers

Many participants stated that they will use the course to carry out professional tasks such as designing, monitoring and evaluating development projects and in their child protection capacity. Various professionals who joined the MOOC acknowledged that such a course is missing from the mainstream training programmes they usually attend. This reflects similar comments made by all the MOOC lecturers who congratulated us on “such a needed and timely initiative.

### Selected comments

#### 13 YEARS OLD

*It helped me learn more about child rights, the rights of the environment and how all is related. And how to become an activist and engaging in community programs for the improvement of our environment and planet. As I am in 8th grade, I hope the knowledge gained through this course will help me to confidently debate and write resolutions in my future MUN conferences.*

#### YOUNG ACTIVIST

*As a climate activist I aim to fight climate change in Malaysia. I am only 18 and through this course I have learnt how to convey my thoughts appropriately so that I am heard.*



### **FASHION STUDENT**

*I am a fashion design student in Tamil. Fashion being the world's second largest polluting industry I'd like to be one amongst many other who wish to change the face of this industry.*

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

*The overall course has helped me to look at environmental issues with a different eye, that everyone is accountable and can change the status quo.*

### **A STRONGER DETERMINATION**

*As a law student who wishes to pursue environmental law as post grad, this has really helped me understand where the problem lies, especially with regards to laws governing the environment.*

*I have an even stronger will and determination to help alleviate the huge work undertaken by climate activists around the globe.*

### **SUPPORTING PRACTICE**

*I am more equipped now to undertake evaluations of EU financed assistance to South Asian countries.*

### **POTENTIAL**

*Huge advocacy can be made after this course!*

### **KNOWLEDGE INTEGRATION**

*As Save the Children South Africa we are exploring ways to work with children on climate change. This will assist us in structuring our knowledge to assist them in their different environmental agendas.*



## Certificates posted on LinkedIn



Anita Danka Dr. · 1st

Human Rights Law Expert, Trainer/ Consultant at OSCE/ a...  
1w · Edited · 🗨️

One of my latest passions as a human rights lawyer and mother is to advocate for the full realization of the participation rights of children. To be able to do a better job in that I decided to utilize the opportunity offered by the [Global Campus of Human Rights](#) and participated in its course on [#childparticipation](#) and the right to a [#sustainabledevelopment](#) It was fabulous and I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate to the course developers and thank for the wonderful lectures, extensive reading materials as well as for the engaging conversations and excellent contributions from the participants. Please stay tuned for some visual summaries of some of my key learning points from the course. :- ) [#humanrights](#) [#childrights](#) [#childrensrights](#) [#climatejustice](#)

MOOC certificate · 1 page



Rebecka Ambjörnsson · 2°

Human Rights activist and optimist.  
2 giorni · 🗨️

The past weeks, I have with people from all over the world discussed how attitudes, laws and frameworks must change in order to fulfill children's right to participation and their right to a sustainable environment. After completing the [Global Campus of Human Rights](#) MOOC, I'm more sure than ever that change is possible thanks to individuals who care or have a passion. Together we can make sure that children can enjoy their rights. Together we can push for radical actions that save our planet. It's not too late, but it's urgent. [#climatejustice](#) [#childrensrights](#)

Vedi traduzione



This is to certify that  
Rebecka Ambjörnsson

has successfully completed  
the Global Campus MOOC on  
[Child Participation and the Right to a Sustainable Environment](#)

12/07/2021 11:48:15



sangeetha sivadasini · 2nd

Climate Reality Leader, Member of Association of Social Workers...  
2w · Edited · 🗨️

A by chance pop up in [Instagram](#), led me to choose this course. Glad I joined [@GlobalCampusofHumanrights](#). It is an eye opener course with great insights into basic children rights and youth activism. A Well curated course with excellent course coordinators. Distinguished speakers like [Aoife Daly](#) from [University College Cork](#), [Laura Lundy](#) ("The Lundy Model"), [Victor Karunan](#) (ex-UNICEF), UN's first Special Rapporteur John Knox, Leo Ratledge from [#CRIN](#), [@JonasSchubert](#) from [Terre des Hommes Netherlands](#) & many more, shared their vast expertise on children's rights, representations, litigations and the need for more dialogues. [Kehkashan Basu](#), [Luisa-Marie Neubauer](#) shared her experience of becoming & being a young climate activist

Thank you [Angela Melchiorre](#) for conducting the online program seamlessly and making sure all the participants get their queries answered.

It is the need of the hour course, climate change is real and the more we understand it the more we can act on it!

[#GCHumanrights](#) [#climatechange](#) [#climateeducation](#) [#childrensrights](#)



This is to certify that  
A SANGEETHA SIVADASINI

has successfully completed  
the Global Campus MOOC on  
[Child Participation and the Right to a Sustainable Environment](#)

06/07/2021 07:55:55



Kani Lam (She/Her) · 3° e oltre

Digital Content | International Development  
5 ore · 🗨️

Happy to have completed the Child Participation and the Right to a Sustainable Environment MOOC offered by the [Global Campus of Human Rights](#)! I have been learning about child and youth participation for my current role, and this course is definitely inspiring and helpful for upcoming projects. I especially love how the course has managed to highlight positive progress in recent years that gave a sense of hope, which is very much needed in the current world.

Thanks a lot to [Angela Melchiorre](#) and her colleagues for the amazing facilitation and also to all the aspiring speakers.

Vedi traduzione



This is to certify that  
Kani Ming Chu Lam

has successfully completed  
the Global Campus MOOC on  
[Child Participation and the Right to a Sustainable Environment](#)

16 July 2021