

RESEARCH CONSULTANTS REQUIRED

Research Title: Landscape Analysis on the Participation of Young People in Malaysia

Project Duration: 7 months

Expected Start Date: 11th May 2026

Expected End Date: 11th November 2026

1. Background

The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) is looking for consultants to conduct a study entitled, 'Landscape Analysis on the Participation of Young People in Malaysia'. This study is a collaboration between SUHAKAM and UNICEF Malaysia, and its outcomes are expected to establish the first comprehensive baseline for the participation of children in Malaysia. The research is expected to meet the following objectives:

- a) To provide a comprehensive map and analysis of existing legal and policy frameworks for young people's participation across the national and sub-national landscape.
- b) To map and provide an overview of key platforms for young people's participation including offline and online government platforms (ministries, departments, agencies, and committees) and non-governmental platforms at the national and sub-national level.
- c) Drawing from the map and overviews above, undertake an analysis of:
 - i. The quality of existing participation platforms (online and offline), including challenges and opportunities.
 - ii. The capacities of bodies in implementing meaningful young people's participation.
 - iii. The support required from the MWFC, SUHAKAM UNICEF Malaysia and/or other agencies to enhance the integration of meaningful young people's participation within their institutions and practices.
- d) To make practical legal, policy and other practical recommendations for better integration of inclusive and meaningful systematic young people's participation in Malaysia.

2. Collaboration

This research must be undertaken by a partnership of international and national consultants, led by the national consultants, with substantive technical review and reference provided by the international consultants. The international and national consultants are responsible for forming their own partnerships. Only one proposal can be submitted for each partnership. The full recommended division of roles and responsibilities of the international and national consultants are available in the Terms of Reference.

3. Desired qualifications, specialized knowledge and experience

The consultants must demonstrate the following qualifications, specialized knowledge and experience:

a) National consultant

- Advanced degree in social sciences, law, public policy, human rights, child development, social sciences, or related fields.
- Proficiency in both English and Bahasa Malaysia.
- Minimum 7 years of professional experience in child rights, children and/or young people's participation, civic engagement, or policy analysis.
- Relevant training and demonstrated experience in ensuring child safeguarding
- Demonstrated experience in consulting children and youth to inform decision-making in Malaysia.
- Excellent understanding of meaningful participation and civic engagement of young people in Malaysia and the local and cultural nuances.

b) International consultant

- Advanced degree in social sciences, law, public policy, human rights, child development, social sciences, or related fields.
- A minimum of 8 years of solid professional experience in child rights, children and/or young people's participation, civic engagement, or policy analysis.
- Demonstrated experience and understanding of meaningful child participation, including the standards, approaches, tools, mechanisms and safeguarding protocols.
- Demonstrated experience in conducting multi-stakeholder research, landscape analysis, or policy reviews.
- Good understanding of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its application in national contexts.
- Excellent analytical and writing skills, with a proven ability to synthesize complex information into actionable recommendations.
- Demonstrated capacity for engaging with government agencies, civil society, and/or international organizations on child or youth-related issues, including the facilitation of consultations.
- Capacity handling large quantitative and qualitative data sets.
- Commitment to ethical research practices, including safeguarding and meaningful participation of children and young people.

4. Deliverables

The consultants undertaking this study are required to deliver the following, each aligned as close as possible to the contents anticipated in the Terms of Reference.

- a) **Deliverable 1:** Inception Report
- b) **Deliverable 2:** Interim Report
- c) **Deliverable 3:** Final Report
- d) **Deliverable 4:** Corresponding dissemination materials, inclusive of fully designed report, presentation decks, infographics and an accessible child-friendly version of the report in both English and Malay.

Consultations must ensure that young people are consulted at every stage of the study, by organising and conducting in-person workshops for tool validation, data collection and data validation. The consultants are also expected to consult a broad range of government and non-government stakeholders for both data collection and validation. These activities, including consultation design and facilitation; and managing travel, administrative, safeguarding and logistical arrangements, particularly for participating young people, must be handled by the national consultants, with the international consultants playing an advisory role.

5. Submission of proposal

The proposal must contain:

- a. Technical proposal [10-page maximum]
 - i. Overall understanding of the consultancy
 - ii. Proposed strategy in completing the deliverables, which includes:
 - a. Efficiency, and effectiveness in meeting the objectives.
 - b. Framework of tools, target respondents, safeguarding and feedback mechanisms where this concerns young people.
 - c. Proposed mechanism for analyzing data and ensuring accuracy of information.
- b. Financial quotation [5-page maximum]
 - i. Cost efficiency and avoidance of unnecessary or excessive expenditure.
 - ii. Clarity and completeness of the budget breakdown (e.g. professional fees, days).
 - iii. Alignment between the financial proposal and the technical proposal, including consistency with the proposed workplan, methodology.
- c. A summary profile of international and national consultants [3-page maximum]
 - i. This should include information about the consultants, highlighting their relevant qualifications.
 - ii. Consultants are required to attach their Curriculum Vitae.
 - iii. Where available, consultants must share their child safeguarding information, training or policy.

The evaluation matrix for the proposal can be found in the Terms of Reference.

All proposals must be submitted as a joint document between the national and international consultant, to **Office of the Children's Commissioner, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)** at occ@suhakam.org.my by **24th April 2026, 5.00pm (MYT)**.

Where necessary, kindly submit all clarification requests by **10th April 2026, 5.00pm (MYT)** to the **Office of the Children's Commissioner, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia** at occ@suhakam.org.my.