

CHILDWATCH MEMBERSHIP:

The Childwatch International Research Network is an international network of institutions involved in interdisciplinary research on issues relating to children's rights, their development and well-being.

The Key Institutions of Childwatch International (CWI) are research institutions:

- Carrying out research about and with children, in a manner that is ethically consistent with children's rights and interests.
- Committed to contributing to the global efforts to secure peace, security, development, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.
- Committed to a common agenda for the promotion of children's rights, development and well-being.
- Actively pursuing the application of research to policy and practice in order to improve the quality of children's lives, particularly children living in difficult or challenging circumstances.

Childwatch International is currently seeking to expand its membership base in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Child research institutions in these regions are encouraged to apply for membership, especially those that can play an active role in promoting child research in their own countries and regions.

University-based research centers are particularly encouraged to join to help the CWI network in building the capacity of their own and other research centers.

In Western Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand additional Key Institutions may be considered for membership when a child/youth/family research institution complies with one or more of the following criteria:

- Recognized internationally as a leading research institute in the areas prioritised by the CWI
- Facilitate access to resources of crucial importance for realising the CWI objectives as stated in the Network's Aims & Ethos. (People, networks, research agenda, publications etc.)
- Undertake a research policy and programme that includes work with institutions and researchers in the Middle- and low income countries

While Childwatch International is committed to the steady growth of the Network in line with the framework set out above, the size of the network and its ability to keep expanding may ultimately be subject to resource and other constraints.

Expectations of Childwatch Key Institutions:

Key Institutions of Childwatch International are expected, as CWI members, to actively engage in collaboration that adds value to the Network and to the work of other Key Institutions through mutual capacity building, research collaboration and further strengthening of the Network.

Capacity Building:

Membership in Childwatch International is based on a commitment to further build the capacity of research institutions to work in useful ways to improve the lives of children. Important components of the capacity-building that the Key Institutions are expected to contribute to are:

- Sharing experiences on the development of collaborative projects and academic institutions that merge theory, research, policy and advocacy to improve children's lives.
- Forging partnerships between experienced researchers and young scholars, or between established Key Institutions and those in the South, on the design of ethical research projects, methodologies, and training programmes related to the key areas of research and policy for the improvement of the quality of children's lives.
- Promoting training opportunities and the exchange of young scholars who are in the early stages of developing research programmes on children's rights, development and well-being.

Research Collaboration:

The Key Institutions are expected to:

- Play an active role in Childwatch International; in the relevant regional network; and to contribute to the work being undertaken in study groups and research activities prioritised by the Network.
- Facilitate staff in initiating and participating in international workshops and study groups on child research with the aim of contributing to a global body of child research relevant for implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Engage in collaborative international research project on children's rights and actively seek to engage other Key Institutions in such projects.
- Keep the Network informed about their child research activities and publications.

Strengthening Childwatch International:

In order to maintain membership, all Key Institutions are expected to:

- Send a representative to attend the Childwatch Key Institutions Assembly.
- Make their membership in the Childwatch International Research Network visible through their promotional literature, website and CWI-related publications.
- Mobilize their contacts and networks to contribute to expanding the CWI funding base and the scope and diversity of its activities.