

ANNEX B: Principles for Young People’s Participation

This is a tool referenced in the [Participation Tools](#) section of Chapter 3: Meaningful Participation. This resource supports humanitarian implementers in planning for adolescent participation and outlines key principles to guide adolescent engagement.

PRINCIPLES	MEANING
Transparent and informative	Young people must be informed of their right to freely express their views with the expectation that those views will be given due consideration. The form their participation will take, along with its scope, purpose and potential impact, should be provided in full, using accessible, diversity-sensitive and age-appropriate language.
Voluntary	Young people should never be coerced into expressing views against their wishes, and they should be informed that they can cease involvement at any stage.
Respectful	Young people’s views have to be treated with respect, and they should be provided with opportunities to initiate ideas and activities.
Relevant	Opportunities must be available for young people to express their views on issues of real importance to their lives and enable them to draw on their knowledge, skills and abilities.
Young people-friendly environments and working methods	Adequate time and resources should be made available to ensure that young people are adequately prepared and have the confidence and opportunity to contribute their views. Those working with young people should be mindful of their age and evolving capacities.
Inclusive	Engagement and participation must avoid existing patterns of discrimination, model cultural sensitivity to young people from all communities and background, and encourage opportunities for particularly vulnerable young people of all genders to be involved.
Supported by training	Adults need preparation, skills and support in areas such as listening, collaborating with young people, and engaging young people according to their evolving capacities so they will be equipped to effectively facilitate young people’s engagement
Safe and sensitive to risk	Expression of views may involve risks. Adults have a responsibility to the young people they are working with, and must take every precaution to minimize the risk to young people of violence, exploitation or any other negative consequence of their participation. Working with families and communities can build understanding of the value of engagement and minimize risks to which young people may otherwise be exposed.
Accountable	A commitment to follow-up and evaluation is essential. Young people are entitled to clear feedback on how their participation has influenced any outcomes. Wherever appropriate, they should be given the opportunity to participate in follow-up processes or activities. Whenever possible, monitoring and evaluation of adolescents’ participation needs to include, adolescents themselves.

Source: [Adolescent and Youth Engagement Toolkit](#) (No Lost Generation, 2018).