WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

OUR VISION

CSC’s vision is of a world where all children in street situations enjoy all their rights.

OUR MISSION

To champion the rights of all street-connected children, building on the shared aspirations and ambitions of Consortium members, leveraging the collective international experience, energy and voice of the network and working collectively to improve understanding and recognition of the issues, ensuring that children’s voices are heard and that their rights are protected, promoted and fully realised.

OUR VALUES

Our values shape the way we work and define our organisational aspirations.

CHALLENGING

We will actively challenge common misconceptions of street-connected children. Where change is necessary, we will challenge the status quo to ensure policies and practices recognise them.

We will challenge our network and each other to strive for the realisation of street-connected children’s rights.

PROGRESSIVE

With our network, we will work hard to identify innovative solutions that address challenges faced by street-connected children.

Through leveraging and building on our knowledge we will progress and improve ways of achieving the realisation of street-connected children’s rights.

COLLABORATIVE

We seek to bring people and organisations together to create a louder collective voice for children in street situations. By working collaboratively, building on strengths and sharing expertise, we will have more impact.

It is vital that street-connected children are able to have their say in order to influence change.

ACCOUNTABLE

We are a trusted partner for our network and are accountable for delivering our strategy. We are accountable to street-connected children and promise to shine a light on the issues that affect them. We believe others should be held accountable for their actions towards children.
In March 2014 I became the Consortium for Street Children’s (CSC) Chairman, having been a Board member since 2001.

During this year, I had the privilege of overseeing important changes in the development of this unique, inspiring organisation and our network of members.

2014 has been a year of invigorating new leadership and valuable achievements. Dr. Sarah Thomas de Benitez was appointed CEO, bringing many years of experience in NGO leadership and research with street-connected children to CSC’s executive team. She led our 2012-2014 Strategy to successful conclusion and worked with the CSC membership to develop an ambitious collective strategy for 2015-2019.

CSC’s advocacy work at the UN came to fruition this year as the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child agreed to develop a General Comment on the Rights of Children in Street Situations. This is an unprecedented success for CSC, our membership and our corporate partner Aviva. Evidence suggests that a well-informed General Comment has enormous potential for powerful, positive impacts on the lives of street-connected children.

We also soft-launched a much-needed Nothing about us without us toolkit developed by CSC and piloted by several CSC members, supported by Tesco. This is the first practical, tested resource for organisations working with adolescent street-connected girls around the world and is now available to our membership through CSC’s digital Global Resource Centre.

On 12th April we hosted our fourth International Day for Street Children, with an innovative #TweetForTheStreet social media campaign mobilising millions of people around the globe to make the voices of street-connected children heard.

CSC’s second Research Conference established the event as a key annual platform for academics to join practitioners in building knowledge and sharing examples of good practice. Meanwhile, the APPG on Street Children continued to raise awareness in Parliament about advances in research and service delivery for children in street situations.

Finally, Minister of State for Crime Prevention at the Home Office, Lynne Featherstone MP, opened CSC’s Annual General Meeting as our keynote speaker, bringing to end a remarkable year of change, reflection and achievement.

I would like to thank CSC members, interns, staff, donors, corporate partners and trustees for all our work together to improve the lives of street children worldwide through realising their rights.

I look forward to helping our network to continue to thrive and make the world a better place for street-connected children in 2015. We are Louder Together.

Max Mongia, Chairman
CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S MESSAGE

Millions of young people face such adversity that they choose the street as their ‘best’ option. Sometimes it is a question of sheer survival. Once on the streets, girls and boys face discrimination, sexual violence, poverty and brutality. Their human rights are ignored and denied in multiple ways, every day. In towns and cities across the world, this is a horrifying reality for children in street situations - one that Consortium for Street Children’s members refuse to accept and are committed to overturning.

We have made important achievements in the past couple of decades, usually by working together and across sectors.

CSC members have:

• Crafted innovative methods, often on a shoe-string, into support services that help street-connected children gain access to their rights and improve their prospects
• Shared good practices, through training and publishing resources and toolkits, often in partnership with businesses and grant-making foundations
• Allied with researchers to produce and learn from better evidence
• Raised the issue of street-connected children’s lack of access to their rights internationally, with support from government representatives and UN bodies.

Street-connected children still face huge challenges:

• Often misunderstood, they are seen as an embarrassment to society and a threat to law and order
• They remain largely invisible to policy-makers, and no international body collects data or evidence systematically about them
• Support services they need are severely under-funded.

Working together as Consortium for Street Children, we:

• Confront discrimination: raising the voices of children and their champions and bringing our collective weight to bear to demand respect for children’s rights
• Get street-connected children onto policy agendas: supporting the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to produce guidance to governments and encouraging governments to put that guidance into practice
• Improve practice and evidence: fostering learning and sharing on issues that children, practitioners and researchers struggle with and pressing for systematic collection of data to hold governments to account in fulfilling street-connected children’s rights.

Completion of CSC Strategy 2012-2014

This final year of CSC’s Strategy followed changes to the Board and Executive team. 2014 became a transition year in which a team at full stretch delivered on the key 2012-2014 objectives.
• Our fourth International Day for Street Children in which children were asked “If the whole world was listening, what would you say?”
• Our second Research Conference, which reviewed the theme of counting children in street situations under the title Do I count if you count me?
• Completion of our excellent Nothing about us without us toolkit for adolescent street connected girls
• Agreement by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to produce a General Comment on Children in Street Situations.

We conducted a strategic review of the 2012-2014 period, using a membership survey. Key findings were:

• Our vision of realising street children’s rights has strong member support
• Network expansion has helped achievement of our vision
• Our achievement of strategic objectives was best in Research, then Advocacy and Shared Learning, and finally Capacity Building.
• Our most valued membership benefits were: CSC publications; All Party Parliamentary Group; joint advocacy & policy work; access to research on street children; and CSC’s Global Resource Centre
• Most respondents received ‘good’ to ‘excellent’ value for their membership fee.

A Governance Review, conducted by external consultant Alan Howarth, built on a 2012 Review. Key recommendations were to introduce:
• Strategies for income generation and organisational sustainability

• A strategy / policy to articulate the terms of CSC’s relationship with members
• A policy / procedures to ensure members confirm commitments at annual renewal
• A policy on Board recruitment, training and development
• Periodic Board skills audits and performance reviews
• A Complaints policy.

All six recommendations were accepted by the Board of Trustees and a Board-Executive plan is in place to address them in 2015-2016.

Starting on CSC Strategy 2015-2019

In the second half of 2014 we built, in full consultation with our membership, a five-year Strategy which confirms our vision of a world where all children – including all children in street situations - enjoy all their rights. Our 2015-2019 Strategy sets out in some detail:

• An ambitious agenda built on the foundations and achievements of the 2012-2014 Strategy, driving towards this rights-based vision.
• Delivery of the best possible UN General Comment on Children in Street Situations and pressure for its implementation in all States party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
• Mechanisms to improve the evidence base to hold governments to account.

CSC members’ collective expertise, experiences and evidence are the heart of our Strategy.
CSC advocates for the rights of street-connected children in order to influence policy makers worldwide.

**WE REPRESENT OUR NETWORK MEMBERS AND THE STREET CHILDREN THEY SUPPORT THROUGH:**

- The International Day for Street Children
- UK Parliamentary and Government engagement
- Having a presence on national and international policy forums
- Providing technical support and advice to policy makers

**THROUGH OUR ADVOCACY WORK, WE AIM TO:**

- Raise awareness and knowledge among opinion formers and the public, leading to them taking action to promote the rights of street children
- Increase awareness and knowledge among national and international policy makers of the specific challenges street children face, leading to the introduction and implementation of tailored policies and legislation
**GENERAL COMMENT ON CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS**

Two years after the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights recommended the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child develop a General Comment on street children and twenty-two years after the UN General Assembly first recommended it, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child agreed to develop a General Comment on Children in Street Situations. This is a monumental development at the highest international policy level. The General Comment will provide authoritative guidance to States on how the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child should be implemented specifically in relation to street children.

CSC played a pivotal role in this decision, successfully bringing evidence to persuade the UN Committee. CSC is Chair of the Advisory Group to the UN Committee’s working group for the development of the General Comment. This General Comment will take two years to develop and will involve consultations with street-connected children themselves.

**APPG ON STREET CHILDREN**

CSC is the secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Street Children. The APPG exists to highlight the reality of the challenges that street children face to Parliamentarians. It also provides a platform for CSC members to share their experiences in Parliament.

In 2014 the APPG on Street Children continued to raise awareness in Parliament, first through a meeting on how children celebrated the International Day for Street Children and the power of partnerships to reach vital new audiences and second in a meeting to share preliminary findings from CSC member StreetInvest’s innovative longitudinal study on street children, Growing Up On The Streets.
Research about street-connected children has, historically, been fragmented, hard to access and underused in the development of policies and programmes.

**RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

In November CSC held its second annual Research Conference entitled, *Do I count if you count me? A critical look at counting street-connected children*. Conference speakers contested the unsubstantiated ‘100 million’ street children figure and explored the far-reaching implications it has had for policy and practice. Keynote speeches critiqued approaches to counting before a lively panel discussed diverse counting methodologies. A range of workshops discussed how to use the different counting techniques in practice.

CSC’s Conference attracted practitioners, researchers and students to share learning and expertise. Space was provided for attendees to showcase posters of their research. In parallel to the Conference, CSC’s Research Expert Forum held its first face-to-face meeting, to contribute to CSC’s 2015-2019 Research Strategy. CSC’s REF brings together 17 of the world’s leading researchers on street children as CSC Associates.

A post-Conference CSC Briefing Paper will be produced in 2015 on counting street-connected children.
GRC LIBRARY AND RESEARCH HUB
Following its launch in 2013, we continued to update and grow our Global Resource Centre this year. CSC’s GRC is the largest online library of literature related to street-connected children, pointing researchers and practitioners to over 1,000 resources.

www.streetchildrenresources.org is aimed at academics, practitioners, journalists and members of the public who want to access relevant and up-to-date information on street children.

Hosted within the site is CSC’s Research Hub - a password protected portal, exclusive to CSC members and Research Forum associates.

The Research Hub enables street children academics, researchers and students across the globe to discuss key issues, peer review documents and collaborate on research.

CSC’s Research Hub is sponsored by Aviva.
CSC brings organisations together so that they can collaboratively identify and meet the needs of street-connected children.

Our network members benefit through sharing knowledge and experiences that can help build their organisational and programme capacity.

THROUGH OUR CAPACITY BUILDING & SHARED LEARNING ACTIVITIES, WE:

- Enhance knowledge across the network of different approaches to working with street children
- Assist members of the network to develop their organisations and programmes
- Ensure network members are better equipped in their work with street children
REALISING RIGHTS - UPDATE
In 2014 two final workshops for the Realising Rights project were held in Delhi (May) and London (November). The workshop in November focussed on the links between street children and child labour with a session from Professor Michael Boudillon, an international expert on child labour, and another by CSC member Bhadte Kadam, a federation of street children who run their own newspaper in Delhi, Balak Nama.

Realising Rights was a 3-year-long Comic Relief-funded project run by CSC members CHETNA and Hope for Children, supported by CSC’s executive team. CSC brought together key stakeholders— including government, NGOs, the police, businesses and street-connected children— to share learning and collaborate on initiatives that will better support children in street situations.

‘NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US’: STREET GIRLS TOOLKIT DEVELOPMENT
After almost two years’ work on Nothing about us without us, CSC’s toolkit for organisations working with or wanting to work with adolescent street girls toolkit was finished in 2014 and soft-launched to members at CSC’s AGM in November.

This important new toolkit, sponsored by Tesco, was developed by CSC with input from street-connected girls and a working group made up of CSC network members and external experts. A number of CSC members and non-CSC organisations working with - or wanting to work with – street-based girls then piloted the toolkit.

This toolkit is currently available only to CSC members on CSC’s Global Resource Centre, and awaits final publication.

SHARED LEARNING HUB
Hosted within CSC’s Global Resource Centre is a Shared Learning Hub – a password protected portal for CSC members around the world to discuss their experiences, share good practices and collaborate on new projects.

CSC’s Shared Learning Hub was launched and is sponsored by HSBC.
The fourth International Day for Street Children took place on Friday 12th April.

This year we launched the #TweetForTheStreet social media campaign to help make street children’s voices heard worldwide and raise awareness of their rights.

CSC network members asked street children “If the whole world was listening, what would you say?” and we shared their answers through social media.

Our #TweetForTheStreet campaign generated 13.6 million impressions of the hashtag on Twitter and 3,962 total mentions across 76 different countries. We increased our Twitter followers by almost 12%.
We received support from a wide range of high profile, influential supporters, including Bianca Jagger, Alastair Campbell, Derren Brown, Caroline Lucas MP and the NSPCC.

The campaign generated wide-ranging media coverage from the Huffington Post, Thomson Reuters, MTV EXIT and Al Jazeera.

#TweetForTheStreet was also supported by members of parliament in the UK with 30 MPs retweeting or replying to our social media content.

An additional 1,584 people signed the Demand a Day petition as a result of the focus put on street-connected children through the International Day. The petition calls on the United Nations to recognise the Day to give the issue greater global exposure and put pressure on governments to act.

Our long-term partners Aviva, HSBC & Tesco supported and helped us celebrate the Day.
CSC’s network comprises a wide-range of organisations, including small NGOs delivering grassroots work in-country, large international NGOs, individuals, and a federation of street children.

We invite applications from organisations and individuals whose works impacts – whole, or in part – street-connected children. By becoming part of the CSC network, you will join forces with other individuals and organisations who believe in realising the rights of street children. We believe that collectively we can achieve maximum impact through being Louder Together.

### OUR MEMBERS IN 2014

In 2014 we received significant income from corporate partnerships, fundraising events and donations. Aviva continued to fund our Advocacy work as well as supporting the International Day for Street Children and the Global Resource Centre. HSBC funded our Global Resource Centre and the International Day, with Hope for Children funding our November Child Labour workshop.

In 2014 CSC Staff changed to part-time working which resulted in significantly reduced costs. This approach, together with renewed funding from Aviva and HSBC until 2017 meant that CSC has been able to meet its reserve requirement and recruit staff to deliver the 2015–2019 strategy.

**BREAKDOWN OF INCOME**

**Total £325,560**

- Grants: 63%
- Donations: 10%
- Fundraising events: 9%
- Membership: 4%
- Other: 1%
- Donated services: 13%

**BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE**

**Total £348,898**

- Advocacy 29%
- Communications & Research 29%
- Network Services 28%
- Governance 8%
- Generating Voluntary Income 7%
**AVIVA**: Aviva is the UK’s largest insurer. Aviva became a corporate partner of CSC in 2010 as part of Street to School, the company’s global flagship community programme.

Aviva believes that each and every child should have access to education, because education is insurance for a better life. Through Street to School programmes, Aviva has reached over 640,000 street-connected children or those at risk of becoming street-connected.

Aviva has supported the International Day for Street Children since 2011 and continues to support CSC’s Research and Advocacy work, including our Global Resource Centre and Shared Learning Hub. Aviva will continue to fund CSC into 2015 and 2016.

**TESCO**: Tesco is one of the world largest retailers dedicated to providing the most compelling offer to their customers. Tesco became a partner of CSC in 2006. Tesco has supported the development of the CSC website, www.streetchildren.org, and the development and publication of CSC toolkits, including in 2014 Nothing about us without us, CSC’s toolkit for organisations working with or wanting to work with adolescent street girls.

**HSBC**: HSBC is one of the world’s largest banking and financial services organisations. In 2014 as part of their flagship global education programme ‘Future First’, HSBC provided support to CSC’s Global Resource Centre and International Day.

**Pro-Bono**

In 2014 CSC benefitted from the pro-bono support of a number of organisations for which it is extremely grateful:

**BRITISH AIRWAYS**: provided CSC with complimentary flights to enable CSC to visit projects and develop its work

**HOWARD ROTH**: Provided payroll and accountancy services

**CHANGE MANAGEMENT GROUP**: Provided legal support

**PORTLAND**: Provided social media support for the International Day.
To find out more on how to get involved in the work of the Consortium for Street Children or to make a donation visit www.streetchildren.org or email us at info@streetchildren.org.

Follow us on Twitter @streetchildren or Facebook /consortiumforstreetchildren

For more information about our International Day For Street Children visit http://www.streetchildrenday.org

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