



**Advancing Equity for Children:
Perspectives from the “Young Lives Study”
on the 25th Anniversary of the
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

Wednesday, November 5th, 2014

6pm – 8pm

Registration at 5.45 pm

The New School, Orozco Room, 66 West 12th Street, New York City

Background

On November 5, Equity for Children will host the U.S. launch of the latest findings from Young Lives, the University of Oxford program’s longitudinal study of childhood poverty, which will be followed by an active panel discussion with top speakers from UNICEF, UNDP and the NYC housing and community project, Comunilife. The Young Lives team will share their perspectives on how best to strengthen policies that help children living in poverty based on the evidence from four stages of the Young Lives study and in view of socio-political trends and challenges.

This year’s 25th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child sets the stage for celebration and critical reflection: What does it mean for children to grow up in unequal societies and poverty? How are children’s lives changing at the beginning of the 21st century? And what interventions and policies have the potential to fulfill their rights and to leave no child behind? The lives of 12,000 children in four countries – Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam – are being followed in an exceptional endeavor over 15 years to find answers to these questions. Oxford’s international “Young Lives” study on childhood poverty is uniquely positioned to contribute to a stronger understanding of contemporary inequalities and their impact on children.

Despite progress in child survival and nutrition, children worldwide are still disproportionately affected by poverty and inequality. This has lifelong consequences for children, families, communities and countries. To break national and global patterns that transmit inequality and poverty, the “Young Lives” study shows that childhood is the place to start and that investments and equity-focused policies for children can positively impact children’s wellbeing.

The objective

The objective of the November 5 event is to advocate for putting children and their best interests at the center of local, national and global policies, and to do so with partners from academia, international organizations, NGO’s and government. This advocacy takes place with an equity lens that reaches out to the most disadvantaged children, who have been left most behind.

Audience

The event will be attended by policy makers, UN organizations, media, local and international NGOs, foundations and other donors, academic scholars and students from The New School and other universities and research centers. Seating is limited to 50.

The event will be streamed live via www.equityforchildren.org and excerpts will be posted in an online video afterwards.

Partners in the event:

Equity for Children
UNICEF
Oxford University/Young Lives
UNDP
Comunilife NYC

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- 5.45 pm Registration
- 6.15 pm Opening by Michelle Depass, Dean of the Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy of The New School
- 6.20 pm Introduction of panelists by Alberto Minujin, Executive Director of Equity for Children
- 6:25 pm Young Lives’ International Study of Childhood Poverty
- “Poverty, Inequality and Social Change in Children’s Lives” by Ginny Morrow, Senior Researcher of Young Lives, University of Oxford
- “Inequality over the Life-course: Evidence for Policy Intervention,” by Paul Dornan, Senior Policy officer of Young Lives, University of Oxford
- 7:05 pm Moderated Panel discussion with
Nick Alipui, Senior Advisor on Post 2015 Millennium Development Goals UNICEF
Selim Jahan, Director of Human Development Report, UNDP
Rosa Gil, President and CEO of Comunilife
- 7:30 pm Open Discussion
- 7:55 pm Closing Remarks by Michael Cohen, Director of the International Affairs Program and the Observatory on Latin America of The New School
- 8:00 pm Cocktail reception