

**Meeting Date: 29th July 2023**

**Meeting Mode: Online (Zoom Call)**

**Meeting Timings: 10:00 am - 11:00 am**

**Meeting Context:**

First meeting of NCLN core members was kept on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Few of the decisions during that meeting were:

- Redrafting statement of purpose. Instead of the term “collectivisation”, they would want to use terms like “bring together” or “reach out” or “advocate for” in the Statement of Purpose.
- The group agreed that they wanted to cater to ALL care leavers in all parts of the Indian subcontinent. How the marginalized groups amongst these care leavers will be addressed, will be outlined in the preamble of the Network manifesto. For example, the network would like to lay focus on care leavers with special abilities, or care leavers outside the gender binary.
- It was decided that the Network would meet virtually every month on the weekend. The next virtual meeting is scheduled on the third Saturday of July.
- Each leader of the Network was expected to educate and sensitize at least 20 other members about the NCLN. These numbers will be reviewed next month in the virtual monthly catch-up call.

Keeping up with these above decisions, a meeting was held in month of July’23. All the care-leavers were very busy to hold meeting on third Saturday, a new date was suggested but it also could not happen. Nupur then floated 29th July 10:00 hrs and stated it as an optional meeting.

The focus of this meeting was to make sure that everybody is on the same page regarding formation of Working Committee meeting, orient new members, and to delegate the responsibility of lining up and scheduling a formal collaborative meeting between NCLN core group members and Working Committee members.

**Attendees:**

- Pooja
- Mausami Das,
- Rakesha Guha
- Amit
- Karim
- Sonali Mahakud
- Manoj Udayan
- Narmdi Mehra
- Surja Chauhan
- Akshita
- Alisha (communication consultant)
- Nupur (Aide et Action)

### Meeting Minutes & Discussion Points:

Nupur from team Aide et Action welcomed everybody on the call. Before we went ahead with the agenda straight up, she went on and gave everybody a quick recap of the main points and takeaways from the last meeting. She reminded everyone that NCLN is now discussing the expansion into more states, with the idea of managing and delegating responsibilities gradually. She also shared update on formative meeting of NCLN Working Committee and its key decision points. After this floor was left open for all. Pooja shared that she'd like to understand NCLN properly.

*"What I understand is that it's about care leavers coming from all over the country, forming NCLN. But what will the monthly catchups entail? Even at the Care Leaver Cafe, we have monthly catch-ups, with different agendas or sessions every month", she added.*

Nupur clarified the idea of NCLN and informed that the idea is to have NCLN as an independent self-sustained body her. Ideally it is NCLN that should ask for support and Working Committee will be too glad to extend the same.

Pooja further enquired if, in this forum/group, we talk about the best practices, the challenges, and the measures from the government. It was clarified to her that the group will hold those conversations, but not have any state-level groups or services, especially because the national group will not be able to give any state services.

*"But, what we can and must do is form links with other organizations, federations, etc in terms of how we can form state-specific associations and streamline our discussions more. While, everything from the meeting points to discussions, to workshops, will all be led by us, we can have the best resources once we've locked the agendas.", Nupur added.*

Moving ahead, Nupur asked everyone about who from the group present was able to go back and discussed the meeting outputs with their states.

Amit shared that they went back and discussed it with their care leavers and are looking at their involvement and insights soon. He also shared that they held a meeting with Tarpan, a non-profit organization in Maharashtra. He further shared how he and Akshata have held state meetings, talking about the national program that we are leading, why it is important and what it is that we're planning to jointly work on with the state networks.

Nupur asked them if they faced any challenges while discussing the NCLN idea. To which Amit responded saying they mostly *had questions from the care leavers about how this group is going to bring something new. Rakesh added, "Whatever we're planning and laying down, can we all have it in writing, documented somewhere? To avoid any mismatches and have everybody use the same language and be on the same page."*

Everybody thought it was a valid suggestion. *“We will try our best to do this. Let’s take this up in the next meeting with everyone!”*, Nupur added.

Surja also had a quick question about why we’re filling the surveys, to which Nupur responded by saying, *“Because we want to understand the way care leavers connect and how do they understand the concept of network. The responses will provide us a clue on how and where to start awareness building.”*

As found out, few of them were right while few weren’t even sure of what a network is. It is through the surveys that we’ll know the kind of understanding everybody is and where to begin our work from. For eg, in terms of Housing, how do they get access, how do they reach other people, etc. could be a valid question and understanding!

Pooja shared that she also often gets similar questions as to why we’re repeating this. But she and everyone also understood that it’s important to renew the information since the batches and sets of care leavers are also changing every year.

Nupur further reiterated that we have to be inclusive and only once we’re inclusive, will we be able to reach out to children from the CCIs and reflect the values as it is.

Pooja further shared that if this network can help us bring some changes to the care leavers cause on a national level, why not? India has a grand population and hence it takes time for any change to move on the ground, but if we can be patient, and form strong connections and try our best to standardize good practices to systemize things a bit more for our care leavers, why not?

Before we closed the meeting, Narmadi had a question about why we don’t have the survey in UP, since there are about 14-20 care leavers there as well. To which Nupur responded sharing that she’ll check this and get back in the next meeting.

#### **Concluding Points:**

- The next meeting will happen sometime around the 3rd or 4th week of August. It will be a joint meeting between working committee volunteers and NCLN core group members.
- The group will discuss the Statement of Purpose, especially for more clarity for the internal and external stakeholders. And a flyer will also be presented with common objective and goals of NCLN so that all members speak same language.
- Rakesh took charge of finalizing the date of next meeting.

