NETWORKS: Wanted, Needed, Used, and Seduced

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INTRODUCTION

About me
About ChildPact
About networks

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10 countries / 650 NGOs / +500000 vulnerable children

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NETWORKS / FEDERATIONS / COALITIONS

ARE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES
- voluntary
- transparent
- independent
- self-governing
- non-profit distributing
- private & non-governmental

PERFORM FUNCTIONS
- value guardian
- social innovation
- community building
- social capital development
- expressive & leadership role
- advocacy & problem identification

FUNCTION ON PREMISES
- mobilize time & resources
- fulfill quasi-public functions
- operate in the public interest
- deal with vulnerable populations
- enjoy special tax & other benefits

BECAUSE THEY ENJOY
LEGITIMACY & PUBLIC TRUST
- should not be taken for granted
- enabled by GOOD GOVERNANCE
- has to be earned from the beginning & safeguarded permanently

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WHY do organizations WANT to build networks

For MORE

Power
Legitimacy
Representativeness
Reach out

Impact
Capacity
Expertise
WHY do organizations NEED to build networks

To BE

Stronger

Heard

Listened to

Consulted

Considered

Sharing & Learning

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WHY are networks **USED**

For representation of interests
For expertise
For legitimacy
For advancing agendas
For wider reach out
WHY are networks SEDUCED

BECAUSE

They depend on too many factors
They have too little control
They are judged by too many standards

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PITFALLS of NETWORKS

- Failure to manage differences of views & opinions internally
- Disengaged membership
- Limited or no transparency
- Real or perceived political affiliation of associated individuals
- Real or perceived lack of participatory mechanisms for membership engagement
- Disproportionate egos of member organizations and/or associated individuals
- Unbalanced investment in advocacy & policy work vs. membership services & development

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The MUST HAVE ingredient for NETWORKS

- Transparency & Legal Compliance
- Sustainable & Ethical Funding
- Strong & Committed Members
- Visionary Leadership
- Sustained Advocacy & Policy Work
- Documented Impact
- Effective & Creative Use of Limited Resources
- Relevant Alliances & Partnerships

Good Governance

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