

Fourth Edition of

# Leadership Dialogues

**Empower. Strengthen. Innovate.**

*Towards a Safer Future for Our Children*

## SPEAKERS

**Bios**



## Sonykutty George

Child Protection Specialist, Hyderabad Field Office, UNICEF

Sonykutty George, a Child Protection Specialist, has been with UNICEF's Hyderabad Field Office for fifteen years. His career with UNICEF spans over two decades, including five years at the Delhi office, where he played a crucial role in the drafting of the Juvenile Justice Central Model Rules and the Integrated Child Protection Scheme for the Government of India. With a strong commitment to promoting Family-Based Alternative Care, he has been at the forefront of child rights initiatives across the country, actively collaborating with various networks and alliances. His extensive experience includes working closely with the Supreme Court Committee on Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Justice Committees in numerous states.

He holds a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from Rajagiri College of Social Sciences and is a law graduate from AMP Law College, Rajkot. His expertise and contributions have made him a key figure in the field of child protection and rights in India.



## Sr. Lourdes Mary

Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Belgaum, Karnataka

Sr. Lourdes has been the Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee in Belgaum, Karnataka, since 2017. In her previous capacity, she served as a Juvenile Justice Board member in Kalaburgi district for three years. She also worked as a project coordinator in the Vijayanagar district of Andhra Pradesh for seven years with an NGO named Jattu, which focuses on grassroots-level work for children.

She is a firm believer in collaborating with all stakeholders, including the government and NGOs, to ensure that the rights of every child in need of care and protection are upheld.



## Girish Mehta

Director & Co-Founder, Careleavers Inner Circle Forum

Girish Mehta is a care-experienced youth who started his career with Child Helpline. During this period, he came into contact with other care leavers who were facing similar challenges. Moved by their experiences and struggles, Girish initiated the development of a Care Leaver Network called “Care Leavers Inner Circle (CLiC)” with the aim to provide support and creating a platform that is led by care leavers, for care leavers. In June 2024, CLiC was recognized as SDG Entrepreneurs of India by the Atal Innovation Mission in their “Innovation for You” Coffee Table Book.



## Sathish Kumar

District Child Protection Officer, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu

Sathish Kumar has been working as a District Child Protection Officer in Namakkal district in Tamil Nadu since the past 4 years. He has been involved in social work since 18 years and has worked on different themes such as microcredits, the empowerment of HIV-positive individuals, health care specific to TB as well as village adoption programs.

Using his varied experience, he wants to develop educational materials for children and implement innovative programs focused on local issues. Sathish has a master’s degree in social work.



## Yamuna Menon

State Head, Tamil Nadu & Kerala, Miracle Foundation India

Yamuna Menon is a Post Graduate in Sociology from Pondicherry Central University. She brings with her an experience of about 15 years in closely working with rural communities, predominantly in Kerala. Yamuna has engaged in social mobilisation, training; design and implementation of women empowerment programmes in the past.

Before joining Miracle Foundation India, she has worked with National Institute of Speech & Hearing, Kudumbashree, National Mission for Empowerment of Women & M S Swaminathan Research Foundation.