19

Days of activism for prevention of abuse and violence against children/youth
Jours d'activisme pour la prévention des abus/violence envers enfants/jeunes
Días de activismo para la prevencíon del abuso/violencia contra los niños/jóvenes
Tage Aktivismus Prävention von Missbrauch/Gewalt gegen Kinder/Jungendliche

WWSF

Prevention is Key



Leading with Compassion

Circles of Compassion
Cercles de Compassion
Kreise des Mitgefühls
Circulos de Compasión

19 Days Activism Prevention Kit - 1-19 November 2026
Prevention of Violence & Abuse against Children & Youth

"Let us develop deep compassion together and not look away from all that is breaking our hearts"



Navjyoti Foundation - India

Women's World Summit Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland
WWSF Children / Youth Section
www.woman.ch

Register your Organization, Group or NGO to become a 19 Days Campaign member here:

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WWSF 19 Days Prevention Kit

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WWSF, a Swiss non-profit Foundation (NGO) and an International empowerment network for women, children and youth, serves with its annual initiatives, campaign kits, World days, Prize awards and our new "Table initiatives", the implementation of women and children's rights and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030.

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History of the WWSF Children / Youth section annual research kit publications

2000 *launch* **World Day for the Preventionof Child Abuse - 19 November** *(annual empowerment campaign)*
2004 *launch WWSF Prize Innovative Prevention Measures to empower active and registered coalition partners*
2008 *launch WWSF Guide "Prevention is Key", a handbook for citizen action to create change*
2010 *launch YouthEngage.com to mobilize young people for prevention & 10th anniversary of World Day 19 Nov.*
2011 *launch* 1st edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit 19 Days Activism 1-19 November
2012 *launch 2nd edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Children involved in armed conflict*
2013 *launch 3rd edition Prevention Kit & main theme: Sale of children, child prostitution & child pornography*
2014 *launch 4th edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Addiction and substance abuse*
2015 *launch 5th edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Bullying*
2016 *launch 6th edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Malnutrition + Link to SDGs*
2017 *launch 7th edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Traditional Practices*
2018 *launch 8th edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Corporal punishment / 19 November WorldDay*
2019 *launch 9th edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Discrimination Based on Health Conditions*
2020 *launch 10th edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Prevention of Child sexual abuse & violence*
2021 *launch 11th edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Prevention of Child sexual abuse & violence*
2022 *launch 12th edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit: Introduction - WWSF 75% campaign Leadership Training*
2023 *launch 13th edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit: 75% Leadership Training 4 Women, Children & Youth*
2024 *launch 14th edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit: Creation of a world free from children living in the street*
2025 *recommended to use Kit version 2024 due to a sabbatical year*
2026 *launch 15th edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit / main theme: Prevention of Harmful Traditional Practices*



Editorial
Message from the WWSF Founder/CEO

Dear Campaign Partners and Friends,

The Women's World Summit Foundation - WWSF 2026 edition of our annual "19 Days Campaign Kit for prevention of violence & abuse against children and youth 1-19 November" which we started in 2021 in International Geneva. Each year, you are invited to choose from our selected 19 themes and ideas for action (not exclusive) proposed to you in our Action Kit.

What is very difficult for me this year is to share with our members & campaign partners Excerpts from the “UN Secretary General 2025 Global Trends Report on Children in Armed Conflict", which includes unacceptable trends & statistics of violence & abuse against children & youth in armed conflicts such as the world has never seen before.

In deep sadness, I share this year's Kit & pray for more compassionate Leadership from World Leaders and from Civil Society. We take this opportunity to inform you that we connect our “WWSF Community Circles of Compassion” with the 19 Days campaign iniatives.

Circles of Compassion Cercles de Compassion Kreise des Mitgefühls Circulos de Compassion ©

It takes compassion to end violence against children & youth

SDG Target 16.2 needs our contributions ! www.woman.ch wwsf@wwsf.ch

"How to create Community Circles of Compassion as a strategy for a better world". see pages 63 - 66

“Where there is a Will, there is a Way” !

Sincerely,
Maria Elfriede (Elly) Pradervand
WWSF Founder/CEO, Geneva, Switzerland

Presentation of our 19 themes for 2026



WWSF - Innovation Prize for prevention of violence against children & youth, awarded during (2004-2021)

List of 61 Recipients - all "WWSF 19 Days Campaign members"

Prize winners are selected from your Activity reports,
WWSF is committed to continuing awarding creative campaign actors with our prize.

2021 - Prize ($US 1'000) for the Hosec Foundation, Ibadan, Nigeria

2020 - Prize ($US 1'000) for the Haven Initiative, Ibadan, Nigeria

2019 - 2 Prizes (US$ 1'000 each) for VILLAGE OF HOPE COMMUNITY, Kendu Bay Town, Kenya and the Child Protection Network, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

2018 - Prize (US$ 2000) for the Amani Initiative, Arua Uganda (for their campaign: "Prevention of teenage pregnancy and early marriage")

2017 - 2 Prizes (US$ 1000 each) Network Movement for Youth and Children's Welfare (NMYCW-SL), Sierra Leone / "Hol dir Hilfe", Switzerland

2016 - 3 19 Days Campaign partner organizations: The Foundation po DRUGIE, Poland (US$ 2000) / Giving Children Hope Initiative (GCHI) Uganda (US$ 1000) /Navjyoti India Foundation, India (US$ 1000)

2015 - No Prizes were awarded

2014 - 5 Laureate organizations: 3 for US$ 1000: Cooperation for Peace and Development Afghanistan / Nuestra Escuela, Puerto Rico / Giving Children Hope Initiative, Uganda.
2 additional awards of (US$ 500): International NGO "Ponimanie", Belarus / Asociatia Buna Ziua, Romania

2013 - Total of 6 Laureate organizations. 2 for (US$1000 each): Union of Crisis Centers, Almaty, Kazakhstan and ONG Samba Mwanas, Libreville, Gabon 4 Additional Awards (US$ 500 each): Humanitarian Organization of Mercy (HOM) Cotonou, Bénin / FICE Romania, Bucarest / Centro Integrado de Apoio Familiar CIAF, Sao Paulo, Brazil / Solidarité pour la Paix et le Développement Communautaire des Hauts Plateaux de Fizi-Minembwe, Masina-Kinshasa, RDC

2012 - 4 Laureate organizations (US$ 1000 each) Xi'an Philanthropic Child Abuse Prevention & Aid Centre, China / Queen Rania Family & Child Center Production, Jordan / The National Family Safety Program, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia / Asociacion Metropoli, Colombia / 1 Additional Award (US$ 500): Action Enfance Sénégal

2011 - First Laureate (US$ 3000): UDISHA - Society for Education, Employment & Sustainable Development, India Second Laureate (US$ 1000): Taia Development Programme, Sierra Leone / 2 Additional Award (US$ 500): Chantier d'appui, de loisirs, de bricolage des Lapinos (CALBRIL) Cameroon / Centre for Human Rights
"AMOS" Bitola, Macedonia

2010 - First Laureate (US$ 3000): Xi'an Philanthropic Child Abuse Prevention and Aid Center PCAN, China
Second Laureate (US$ 1000): KAFA (Enough) Violence and Exploitation, Lebanon
Third Laureate (US$ 500): Somali Society Development Association (SOSDA), Somalia / Honorary Award: Terre des Hommes, Italy

2009 - First Laureate (US$ 3000): Children-Women in Social Services and Human Rights (CWISH) Nepal /
Second Laureate (US$ 1000): BZN Atlas / Movement Without a Name (MWN Atlas), Belgium / 2 Additional Awards (US$ 500 each): Saba Media Organization (SMO) Afghanistan / Laboratório de Análise e Prevenção da Violência (LAPREV), Brazil / Honorary Award: SOS Kinderdorf International, Bosnia & Herzegovina

2008 - First Laureate (US$ 3000): The Office of the Ombudsperson for Children, Croatia
Second Laureate (US$ 1000): Corporación Gestión Ecuador, Ecuador / 3 Additional Awards (US$ 500 each)
Fairland Foundation (FAFO), Uganda / Stairway Foundation Inc. (SFI) Philippines / Community Human Rights and Advocacy Centre (CHRAC), Cameroon

2007 - First Laureate (US$ 3000): Society for Empowering Human Resources (SEHER), Pakistan
Second Laureate (US$ 1000): Ass. Mondiale pour les Orphelins et les Enfants Abandonnés, Togo / 2 Additional Awards (US$ 500 each): Observatorio sobre Infancia de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia / Organisation Nationale des Femmes Rurales "Fleurs de Centrafrique" (ONFR/FC)

2006 - 2 First Laureates (US$ 3000 each): Tulir Centre for the Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse (Tulir CPHCSA), India / Queen Rania Family & Child Center at Jordan River Foundation, Jordan / 2 Awards (US$ 500 each): Association Najdeh, Lebanon / Cercle de Réflexion et d'Action pour Christ (CRAC), Togo

2005 - First Laureate (US$ 3000): International Child Abuse Network Inc (Yes ICAN), USA / Second Laureate (US$ 1000): Asociación Afecto contra el maltrato infantil (AFECTO), Colombia / 2 Additional Awards (US$ 500 each): Muhammadan Women Welfare Society, Pakistan / Youth Net and Counseling (YONECO), Malawi

2004 - First Laureate (US$ 3000): Women Action Coalition Child Abuse (WACCA), Nigeria
Second Laureate (US$ 1000): Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights (PCSW/HR), Pakistan
Additional Awards (US$ 500 each): Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse of East Asia (STA – CPCA), China / and Vienna Network for Prevention of Sexual Abuse against Girls, Boys and Youth, Austria

Reminder of the UN Sustainable Development Goal UN SDG Target #16.2

Among the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, the 19 Days Campaign promotes and supports the urgent realization of **UN SDG Target #16.2.** This Target has become a very challenging prospect to be reached by 2030. For that reason WWSF wishes to propose to its coalition member organizations and civil society in general to introduce and help realize, wherever possible, the **SDG Target #16.2**.



#16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children

"The UN's 2025 Sustainable Development Goals Report estimates that 1.6 billion children about two-thirds of children globally regularly experience violent punishment by caregivers at home. The estimate is based on data from 84 countries covering 2016–2024."

"Sexual violence against children is pervasive. Globally, more than 370 million girls and women (1 in 8) and 240 million to 310 million boys and men (1 in 11) are estimated to have experienced contact sexual violence (i.e. rape or sexual assault) in childhood. In fragile settings, the risk is even higher, with slightly more than 1 in 4 girls affected." [1]

PREVENTION IS KEY



Other relevant UN SDG Targets include:

5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

4.a: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

4.7: Ensure that all learners acquire knowledge…(for) promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence

Reduce the impact of violence in their families and communities

16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

16.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

Link to SDG Goals:
https://sdgs.un.org/goals

1 - https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2025/secretary-general-sdg-report-2025--EN.pdf

Why 19 Days of Activism for prevention?



Because abuse and violence against children and youth continue to be a worldwide phenomenon, which violate children's rights, impair their healthy development and take place in all contexts from the home to justice systems.

The Campaign aims to mobilize and encourage local and national civil society activities for increased prevention measures. By using the 19 Days coalition building process, you participate in increasing solidarity and activism to create a worldwide commitment for the end of violence against children and youth by 2030.

Selected Facts and Figures (2024)

- Every 4 minutes, somewhere in the world, a child is killed by an act of violence.
- About 90 million children alive today have experienced sexual violence.
- 650 million girls and women (1 in 5) alive today were subjected to sexual violence as children, including over 370 million (1 in 8) who experienced rape or sexual assault.
- In fragile settings, girls face an even greater risk, with the prevalence of rape and sexual assault in childhood slightly more than 1 in 4.
- Nearly 50 million adolescent girls aged 15-19 (1 in 6) have been victims of physical or sexual violence by their husbands or partners in the past year.
- The risk of dying from violence rises sharply in late adolescence: 7 in 10 children who died from violence were between the ages of 15 and 19, most of them boys.
- Close to 550 million children (around 1 in 4) live with mothers who are victims of intimate partner violence.

(***Source:*** *https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/fast-facts-violence-against-children-widespread-affecting-millions-globally)*

Other Facts (2025)

- Up to 1 billion children aged 2–17 experience physical, sexual or emotional violence or neglect each year.
- More than 370 million girls and women alive today experienced rape or sexual assault before the age of 18 — approximately 1 in 8. When other forms of sexual violence are included, the estimated number rises substantially.
- Nearly 138 million children were engaged in child labour in 2024, including approximately 54 million children in hazardous work that can endanger their health, safety or development.
- More than 640 million girls and women alive today were married as children. Around 12 million girls become child brides every year, according to UNICEF's latest global estimates.
- More than 230 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM) in the 30 countries where nationally representative data are available. FGM is mostly carried out on girls between infancy and age 15.
- Around 1.6 billion children — about two-thirds of children worldwide — regularly experience violent punishment by caregivers at home. Around 1.2 billion experience corporal punishment.
- Nearly 900 million children worldwide experience multidimensional poverty, meaning they lack essential needs such as adequate food, water, sanitation, housing, education or healthcare.

*(**Sources:** WHO, UNICEF, ILO 2025)*

What is the Campaign "19 Days of Activism for Prevention of Violence & Abuse Against Children & Youth 1-19 November"

What is Activism?
Activism is taking action to affect social change, which can occur in many ways. Most often it entails action to change the world - socially, politically, economically or by addressing human rights and/or environmental issues. Activism can be led by individuals, but is mostly done through social movements, and in the case of the 19 Days campaign, we use coalition building and civil society movements to catalyze activities and generate change in communities and nations.

What is the 19 Days Prevention Campaign?
It is a multi-issue **CALL TO ORGANIZE FOR ACTION** to change social behavior, educate, and mobilize diverse organizations and civil society partners – including young people & children – to become involved in prevention of one or more of the 19 abuse themes listed below. To help create a culture for better prevention, the end of violence against children and youth, support the implementation of the UN Study recommendations, and last but not least to reach the promised 2030 Sustainable Development Goal #16.2, **we must unite in collaborative action.**

What are the 19 Campaign Themes?

Although other forms of abuse and violence exist, WWSF has selected the following 19 themes with our proposal to focus in 2026 on **"Traditional Harmful Practices"** under Theme 12

1. **Prevention** of Children in Armed Conflict
2. **Prevention** of Child Sexual Violence and Abuse
3. **Prevention** of Bullying
4. **Prevention** of Neglect
5. **Prevention** of Child Labor
6. **Prevention** of Corporal punishment
7. **Prevention** of Sale of Children & Missing Children
8. **Prevention** of Child Prostitution / Pornography
9. **Prevention** of Child CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material)
10. **Prevention** of Child Trafficking
11. **Prevention** of Child Sex Tourism
12. **Prevention** of Traditional Harmful Practices **(Main Theme for 2026)**
13. **Prevention** of Street Children
14. **Prevention** of Discrimination Based on Health Conditions
15. **Prevention** of Addiction and Substance abuse
16. **Prevention** of Malnutrition
17. **Prevention** of Dangers of ICTs (Information and communications technology)
18. **Prevention** of Abduction
19. **Prevention** of Juvenile Justice & Children deprived of liberty + sharing the 2026 WWSF World Day on 19 November



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Please note that WWSF cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage resulting from your local or national 19 Days campaign events or from the WWSF World Day initiative. These guidelines apply to both offline and online usage of the 19 Days Campaign information, as well as all social media platforms.
***WWSF Secretariat* - www.woman.ch (2026)**

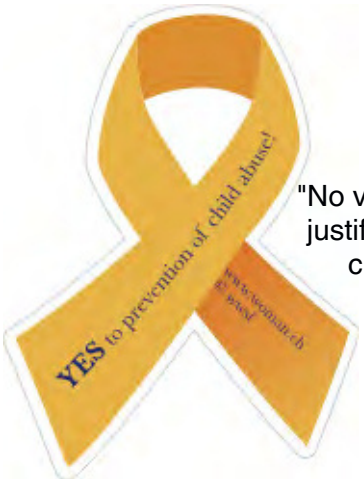
What is Prevention of Violence & Abuse Against Children & Youth

Definition of a child

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, Article 1), a child is "every human being below the age of 18, unless under applicable law majority is attained earlier".

Definition of child abuse

Child abuse includes all types of physical, emotional and sexual abuse and violence, as well as neglect, negligence and commercial or other forms of exploitation, towards children below 18 years of age. It results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. Exposure to intimate partner violence is also sometimes included as a form of child maltreatment (WHO).



"No violence against children is justifiable, all violence against children is preventable"

– Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro

What is prevention?

Prevention is key! It is about setting up guidelines and learned behavior that create obstacles to perpetrators. It is the most effective way to protect children from abuse and greatly contributes to creating a culture of non-violence. Prevention should be implemented through social and general policies, involving organizations, governments, youth and faith-based groups, families, schools and professionals. It is a fact that prevention is better and cheaper than reacting to abuse and violence. The transformation from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention is urgently needed.

"Prevention is not only possible, it is essential. In addition to being a human rights obligation on States, violence carries huge social, economic and health costs, and drains public budgets and it is only by addressing the underlying causes of violence that these costs will be reduced. Prevention is ultimately about creating relationships, communities, and organizations that are equal, non-violent, and respectful of all individuals and where people live free from discrimination, harassment or violence that can block them from reaching their full human potential."
(UN Women interview with Lara Fergus)

While there is no doubt about the need to assist victims (of abuse and violence) and to guarantee their safety, priority should always be given to preventive measures.

Preventive action is often presented in three categories:

- **Primary prevention** targets the general population and is cheaper and more effective in the long run. Activities are focused on healthy child development and programs for Internet prevention of violence.
- **Secondary prevention** targets "at risk" sectors of the population. Activities are focused on "specific sections of th child population considered more at risk of being abused and specific of the adult population considered to be more a risk of abusing." Examples of secondary prevention include young parent support services and respite services
  (Austrian Institute of Criminology Journal 2000).
- **Tertiary prevention** focuses on families and other settings where abuse has already occurred. Activities are focused on seeking to reduce the negative effects of abuse and to prevent its recurrence. These may include mental health services for children and families affected by the abuse and/or parent/mentor programs with non-abusing families
  (Child Welfare Information Gateway).

Reminder of relevant articles in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

(Excerpts)



Article 19

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programs to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.

Article 34

States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

(a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;

(b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;

c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

Article 35

States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.

Article 36

States Parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspect of the child's welfare.

Article 38

States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.



Link to CRC:
http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx

Updates on Universal Ratifications and various Optional Protocols

(as of 2026)

Convention on the Rights of the Child - 1989

- **196** State Parties have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The United States of America is the only UN member-state that has not ratified the CRC

Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC) 2002

- Handbook on the Optional Protocol *(**Link:** https://documentation.lastradainternational.org/lsidocs/optional_protocol_eng.pdf)*
- Status: **121** Signatories and **178** State Parties
- Child-Friendly Version of OPSC

States who are party to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC) have the obligation to prohibit, criminalize, prevent, and ensure accountability for offences of sexual violence and exploitation.

Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (OPCP)

On 14 April 2014, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (OPCP) came into force. The new Protocol enables children and their representatives to submit complaints of specific human rights violations (as outlined in the CRC, OPSC and OPAC) directly to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

- **52** States have ratified/acceded to the OPIC
- **15** States have signed but not yet ratified
- **131** States have taken no action at all (out of 196 CRC parties)
- Last country to accede: **Estonia**, on 27 March 2025 (entered into force for Estonia on 27 June 2025)

Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC) 2002

- **173** countries have ratified the protocol
- **7** countries have signed but not yet ratified
- **17** countries have neither signed nor ratified

The Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC) prohibits children from taking part in hostilities, urges all States to set their minimum age of conscription to 18 years, and prohibits the recruitment under the age of 18 by non-state armed groups.

4th Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on Free Public Pre-Primary & Secondary Education

"The **proposed fourth Optional Protocol** to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child aims to recognize early childhood care, guarantee at least one year of free public pre-primary education, and make public secondary education free for all. It addresses gaps in the 1989 treaty, which only mandates free primary school."

*(**Link:**https://www.ejiltalk.org/a-fourth-optional-protocol-to-the-crc-to-strengthen-the-right-to-education-in-international-law/)*

Explanation

The **Optional Protocol** gives children who have exhausted all legal avenues in their own countries the possibility of applying to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. It means children are able to fully exercise their rights and are empowered to have access to international human rights bodies in the same way adults are under several other human rights treaties. It is a major step forward in the implementation of children's rights, but at the same time we urge States to develop their own systems to ensure that children's rights are respected and protected and that their voices can be heard.

CRC-Former Chair Kirsten Sandberg
OHCHR News 2014

Updates on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)



Meet the new Chairperson (2025)
Sopio KILADZE (GEORGIA)
Chair on The Rights of the Child

"Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and Professor of Public Law at Grigol Robakidze University in Georgia, with a background in international law and a career spanning the Parliament of Georgia, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Council of Europe's Commission against Racism and Intolerance. She initiated the Joint Statement on Artificial Intelligence and the Rights of the Child — the first international document by multilateral organizations specifically addressing child rights in the context of AI — developed in collaboration with ITU, UNICEF, UNESCO, and other international bodies." *(Source: ITU)*

"The Committee on the Rights of the Child elected Ms. Sopio Kiladze as its president and adopting its work program and provisional agenda.

"**1. Is there a moment in your work with children that has particularly shaped how you think about justice?**
Several years ago, I stepped out of a taxi in a foreign country when a young girl living and working on the street approached me and asked for money. I gave her money and tried to express warmth through a simple gesture. I did not speak her language.
What happened next stayed with me. She looked at me in a way I will never forget—it was as if she was searching for something beyond material help. Then she hugged me, and she did not want to let go. She called out to another girl in her language, who came running over and also embraced me.

"In that moment, I understood something deeply: for these children, warmth and human connection matter more than money. What they both were seeking was not only survival, but recognition, care, and a sense of being valued. I thought how unfair the world is with them and can imagine how much hate and disrespect they are exposed to from perhaps their own families, people around, state officials and even their peers. Justice in broader sense for me is to ensure that all the rights of all children worldwide are realized."

"3. From your experience, what gives you hope when you look at countries that have made real progress in ensuring access to justice for marginalised children? How has collaboration with civil society contributed to that progress?
What gives me hope is seeing that change is possible and already happening. In several countries, we have seen reforms that decriminalize survival behaviors, expand access to legal aid, and introduce child-friendly justice procedures. These changes show that when there is political will, systems evolve. A common factor in this progress is strong collaboration with civil society. Organizations working directly with children in street situations bring essential knowledge and protection on the ground for the most vulnerable. They help bridge the gap between institutions and children.
Civil society's role is crucial also in amplifying children's voices. When children themselves are involved in shaping policies and reforms, the outcomes are more effective, more inclusive, and more just. This partnership between governments, civil society, and children, is one of the most powerful drivers of meaningful change."
Link:
https://www.streetchildren.org/news-and-updates/access-to-justice-a-conversation-with-sophie-kiladze/

"The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
is the body of **18 independent experts** that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its States parties. It also monitors implementation of the Optional Protocols to the Convention, on involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

"Over the past 30 years, children's lives have been transformed by the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. The Convention on the Rights of the Child has inspired governments to change laws and policies, so more children get the healthcare and nutrition they need. There are better safeguards in place to protect children from violence and exploitation. More children have their voices heard and participate in society. But there is still more work to be done.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) applies for children under 18. It recognises education as a legal right to every child on the basis of equal opportunity."
Link:
https://www.unicef.org/turkiye/en/convention-rights-child

Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children



Hear from
Dr. Najat MAALLA MJ´ID (MOROCCO)
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (SRSG/ VAC), Dr. Maalla M'jid took up her position on 1st July 2019. Dr. M'jid, a medical doctor in pediatrics, has over the last three decades devoted her life to the promotion and protection of children's rights. She was Head of the Pediatric Department and Director of the Hay Hassani Mother-Child hospital in Casablanca.

Annual Report - July 2026

Excerpt:

"I. Introduction

1. Guided by General Assembly resolution 62/141, by which the Assembly established the mandate, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children is a global, independent advocate for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children. In its resolutions 76/147 and 78/187, the Assembly reaffirmed its support for the work of the Special Representative.

"The Assembly has recognized the progress achieved and the role of the mandate in promoting further implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children, and in supporting Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Assembly has also noted with appreciation the Special Representative's leadership in the follow-up to the United Nations global study on children deprived of liberty and has encouraged the Special Representative to continue her work in this area. In its resolution 80/190, the Assembly further renewed the mandate of the Special Representative for the period 2026–2029, also noting the role of the Pathfinding Global Alliance on Ending Violence against Children, under the auspices of her Office, as both a contribution to, and an accelerator of, the prevention and protection of children against violence.

"2. Seizing the opportunity of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations study on violence against children, the present report takes stock of how violence against children has evolved since the study's publication.

"It highlights key trends and the increasing scale and complexity of violence, due to ongoing and overlapping crises and the rapid evolution of technology-facilitated violence and crimes against children. The report also highlights the unprecedented multi-stakeholder mobilization and concrete actions that have been taken to address these complex, cross-sectoral and cross-border challenges, outlining the role and results of the mandate since the current Special Representative took office.

"II. United Nations study on violence against children: 20 years on

A. Rapidly evolving landscape of violence against children

3. The United Nations study on violence against children, published in 2006, was a milestone. It transformed the global understanding of violence against children, highlighting that it is a widespread, preventable and unjustifiable violation of children's rights. Critically, it was the first United Nations study to systematically engage children and young people across the globe as active participants, recognizing their experiences, perspectives and recommendations as essential to understanding and addressing violence. The United Nations study demonstrated that violence against children occurs in every country and across all settings – the home, schools, care and justice institutions, workplaces and communities – and called for a comprehensive approach grounded in prevention, protection, participation and accountability. Its overarching recommendations included the development of national strategies, legal prohibition of all forms of violence, stronger data and research, investment in child protection systems, and the active participation of children in decisions affecting them. The United Nations study also called for the appointment of a UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children."

Link to the Annual Report - 2026:
https://docs.un.org/en/A/81/273

New Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Children & Armed Conflict



Vanessa FRAZIER (MALTA)

New Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

On 3rd October 2025, Vanessa Frazier of Malta was appointed Special Representative for Children & Armed Conflict.

"Ms. Frazier, who recently served as Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations (UN) in New York, USA (2020-2025), brings multilateral diplomatic expertise, crisis management skills, consensus building and dedication to child protection, with ability to navigate complex global negotiations and broker agreements among diverse stakeholders, having played a pivotal role as Chair of the UN Security Council (UNSC) Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

She presided over the UNSC in February 2023 and April 2024, and as UNSC Facilitator of the Iran/Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreement and Chair of the 1267 Sanctions Committee on Al Qaeda/Daesh, advanced human rights, child protection, and humanitarian language. As an advocate for the E10 group of elected UNSC members, she was instrumental in shaping international responses to pressing crises, ensuring that the voices of the most vulnerable, especially children, remained at the forefront with a focus on the protection of children affected by conflict.

During her term representing Malta at the UN she also served as Vice President of the 74th UN General Assembly and Chair of the Second Committee (Economic and Financial), leading the first and only all-women bureau in UN history; co-Chaired the SIDS Pathway, was President of the States Parties to the UN Law of the Sea Convention, and co-facilitated the UN's Anti Microbial Resistance process.

During her diplomatic career, Ms. Frazier was posted to Malta's Embassies in Washington, Rome, London, Brussels and New York. She served as Malta's ambassador to NATO, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, San Marino as well as Malta's Permanent Representative to the Rome-based UN Agencies (FAO/WFP/IFAD) and was Malta's Alternative Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organisation as well as to the International Seabed Authority."

Link:
https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/en/about/the-mandate/special-representative/special-representative-of-the-secretary-general-for-children-and-armed-conflict

Ms. Frazer Highlights the Threat of Explosive Remnants of War to Children

"In conflict and post-conflict settings, children face daily the risk of being killed or maimed from mines and explosive remnants of war. On the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Vanessa Frazier, calls for urgent and renewed attention and resources for the protection of children from these deadly threats.

"Children are particularly vulnerable to mines and explosive remnants of war. During my recent visit to Syria, recording a high number of new casualties, I saw first-hand how these hidden dangers continue to threaten children's lives and futures. This is why strengthening mine action, clearance, and risk education is essential to protect children and allow communities to recover safely.

Landmines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices continue to pose a devastating threat to civilians in conflict-affected areas and post-conflict settings. These weapons do not distinguish between civilians and combatants and remain active long after hostilities end, exposing and threatening children to major risks as they go about their daily activities, such as walking to school, collecting water, or playing outdoors. These weapons also impede income-generating activities, recovery, and access to health and education."

Link to read full article:
https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/en/press-releases/every-step-could-be-threat-children-and-explosive-remnants-war

Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children
(May 2020 - May 2026)



Mama Fatima Singhateh (GAMBIA)
Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children

Mama Fatima Singhateh was appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children by the Human Rights Council in March 2020. She began her mandate on 1 May. A lawyer by training, Ms. Singhateh has nearly 20 years of experience and currently works as an international consultant in the field of human rights and legal and institutional reforms.

Final Report of the Former Special Rapporteur on the Sale, Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children (A/HRC/61/45), January 2026.

Excerpts:
"I. Introduction
1. In the present report, submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 7/13 and 52/26, the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, Mama Fatima Singhateh, reflects on the current state of affairs in relation to the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, new and emerging risks and how these risks manifest and affect the lives of children. The report is also dedicated to taking stock of how her six-year tenure has contributed to preventing and responding to the scourge and to identifying the remaining and new challenges to inform the efforts of her successor.

2. To inform her report, the Special Rapporteur sought input from a wide range of stakeholders, including Member States, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, United Nations entities, and international and regional organizations, for which she received more than 120 submissions. The Special Rapporteur has also drawn on her experience from country visits and information gathered through a review of literature and meetings held with various stakeholders. The Special Rapporteur wishes to thank all stakeholders for their contributions and welcomes the engagement demonstrated through this exercise.

A. Issues and trends relating to the mandate
1. "Existing and emerging risks related to the digital environment
13. As the world rapidly became interconnected through technology, concerns emerged, including in relation to the protection of children in a digital environment, especially with the advent of new technologies that were used as tools to commit the offences of sale and sexual exploitation of children. At the beginning of her term of office, the Special Rapporteur committed to reflect on the trends, challenges and responses to the issues of child abuse and exploitation online. The Special Rapporteur reported on the misuse of existing and emerging technologies and how it exacerbated and amplified children's exposure to risks, harms and various forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

The Special Rapporteur highlighted how existing technologies were misused to sexually harass, take and share non-consensual images and videos, generate child sexual abuse materials, sexually extort children and livestream child sexual abuse.

"V**. Path forward: conclusions and recommendations**
A. Conclusions
52. Over the past six years, the Special Rapporteur has observed persistent and evolving forms of the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. Online child exploitation and abuse have surged, driven by misuse of technology and emerging tools.

"The COVID-19 pandemic and other crises have amplified children's vulnerabilities, increasing their exposure to sexual exploitation and abuse. Challenges in child protection continue to increase in industries such as travel and tourism, as well as entertainment. Some children in vulnerable situations, including boys, gender-diverse children and street-connected children, remain largely invisible in protection efforts, reinforcing cycles of exclusion and rights violations. Addressing the vulnerabilities of children within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals is essential to ensure that no child is left behind and that targeted, inclusive measures reach those most at risk.

53. Throughout her term of office, the Special Rapporteur has advanced global efforts to combat the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. Among others, the Special Rapporteur has promoted child-sensitive terminology, guided States in legislative reforms and child-centred policy designs and amplified the voices of children and young people. The practical tools developed have supported States in translating commitments into action, while advocacy initiatives have spotlighted invisible victims and strengthened inclusive protection."

Link to the full report:
https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/61/45

New UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale & Sexual Exploitation of Children



AI KIHARA-HUNT (JAPAN)

New UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale & Sexual Exploitation of Children

Ai Kihara-Hunt (Japan) was appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, sexual exploitation of children and sexual abuse of children by the Human Rights Council in **March 2026**. She took up her duties on 1 May 2026. She follows Mama Fatima Singhateh, the former UN Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, as she presented her final report to the Human Rights Council on 07 January 2026.

Link to the final report:
https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc6145-protecting-children-sale-sexual-exploitation-and-sexual-abuse

"Ai Kihara-Hunt is an international lawyer with over 25 years of professional experience, specializing in international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and peacekeeping law. She holds a doctorate in law from the University of Essex. Her experience in the protection and promotion of human rights, transitional justice, and effective accountability includes positions with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UN peacekeeping operations.

"Ms. Kihara-Hunt is currently a Professor at the University of Tokyo, where her research and teaching focus on human rights, accountability, and peace and security. She was a member of the Independent Study on Future of Peacekeeping, New Models and Related Capabilities, commissioned by the UN Department of Peace Operations in preparation for the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial 2025. Subsequently she chaired the Japanese Cabinet Office's Study Group on International Cooperation.

"Since 2005, she has worked closely with UN entities to strengthen prevention, accountability and institutional response to sexual exploitation and abuse associated with UN peacekeeping operations, and has authored over ten publications on the issue.

"Prior to joining the University of Tokyo, Ms. Kihara-Hunt served as a member of the UN Police Doctrinal Development Group and worked with OHCHR in Nepal on transitional justice, mapping serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and supporting security sector reform initiatives. She provided assistance to Special Procedures mandates at OHCHR headquarters and to the Independent Special Commission of Inquiry for Timor-Leste.

"She has also worked with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sri Lanka, the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in East Timor (CAVR), and the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)."

Link:
https://www.ohchr.org/fr/special-procedures/sr-sale-of-children

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, Ai Kihara-Hunt
Vision report
7 July 2026

Excerpt:
"IV. Conclusion
61. The present report sets out the Special Rapporteur's initial vision for the implementation of the mandate during her tenure. Guided by the best interests of the child and international human rights law, the Special Rapporteur intends to contribute to strengthening efforts to prevent and combat the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, through independent analysis, constructive dialogue, practical guidance and close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders.

"62. The Special Rapporteur will adopt a child-centred, rights-based and implementation-oriented approach throughout her work. She will seek to strengthen every stage of the child protection continuum, encompassing prevention, protection, responses to disclosure, rehabilitation, justice, reparation and reintegration. Particular attention will be devoted to supporting the operationalization of international human rights standards through effective legislation, practical guidance and locally led action that responds to the realities and needs of children and communities. The Special Rapporteur will continue to promote peer-to-peer learning, the exchange of promising practices and effective coordination among relevant actors in order to strengthen implementation at the national and local levels."

Link to full report:
https://docs.un.org/en/A/81/132

Who is the 19 Days Kit for?



The 19 Days Campaign Kit is intended to help NGOs establish their own coordination processes to complement, not duplicate or replace other coordination mechanisms – such as those set up by governments or UN bodies.

It is intended as a resource Kit for civil society actors, faith-based leaders, local support groups around the world that wish to be changemakers in a world that has lost respect for children's rights and their innocence.

How to Use the Kit?

The Kit can be read in its entirety or looked at the individual section/themes relevant to your work. Most sections have been drafted to stand alone, so that you can quickly access the information or resources that you may need. Users are encouraged to engage with the issues it raises and use the resources and ideas for action listed to develop their own perspectives and responses.

What the Kit is not

The Kit does not provide all the answers to the challenges civil society and NGOs are facing. It tries to provide options, issues and statistics and possible solutions (or where they can find solutions).

A bit of history:

What triggered WWSF to create the 19 November "World Day for Prevention of violence against children and youth 19 November"?

√ **In 2000:** In response to an alarming article in the Geneva daily news "Le Temps" which reported that a group of pedophiles created an International Day for pedophilia on the Internet and claim their right to have sex with children. This alarming news so shocked us that our WWSF staff and partners reacted in response to launch a "World Day for prevention of child abuse" to be commemorated on **19 November** in synergy with the anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (on 20 November).

√ Our first Call to action went to our network partners and a launching event was organized at the Geneva Temple de Fusterie on 19 November 2000, which was well attended and supported. This was the beginning of a long journey.

√ From that day on, the "World Day 19 November went viral, and we continued in developing the Campaign and sent out our annual Campaign posters to registered members of our network.





The World Day serves as a civil society call to action for governmental and non-governmental bodies, institutions, organizations and NGO networks, educators, experts & professionals.

√ **In 2004:** WWSF launched a Prize for prevention of child abuse (61 organizations have since received our prize all published online)

√ **In 2005:** WWSF launched a "Yellow Ribbon" sticker campaign, which could be ordered on line or reproduced locally in local languages.

√ **In 2008:** WWSF published its "Guide for NGOs and citizen action PREVENTION IS Key!" to better prevent violence against children and youth."

√ **By 2010,** the WWSF NGO Guide was our original empowerment program for international coalition members and NGOs that commemorated the annual **WWSF World Day 19 November** and needed more information about "what they can do". The international coalition of active and supporting members grew to over 1000 registrations in 135 countries.

√ **In 2011:** WWSF published the first Prevention Kit:
"19 Days of Activism for the Prevention of violence and abuse against children & youth - 1-19 November"

All selected 19 themes presented in the annual WWSF Kit are proposed to increase action, and members are free to choose any additional themes to their program.

√ **2012 - 2020:** WWSF continued to publish the annual prevention Kit with updated information and statistics and stressed the urgency of the 19 Days Campaign.

We believe that civil society is the prime actor for change and without it we would not move forward as fast as we now need. For us, civil society is the leader and change-maker in their communities and countries. We honor them and are grateful for their courage to stay committed.

√ **In 2022:** After a horrific pandemic, which not only changed millions of lives but also organizations and NGOs, we experienced less participation albeit the problems of child abuse and violence increased during COVID-19 according to UN statistics.

√ **In 2023:** We revived our **"WWSF Walk your Talk Campaign"** to remind World Leaders that the world is waiting for their urgent intervention.

√ **In 2024:** We received information from the Committee of the Ministers of the Council of Europe (46 Member States) that they created a **"European Day on the Protection of children against Sexual Exploitation & Sexual Abuse" on 18 November**.

√ **In 2025:** WWSF took a sabbatical and promoted to its membership to use the 2024 Kit for 2025 activities.

√ **In 2026: This is your Annual Prevention Kit for 2026**

Theme 1

Prevention of Children in Armed Conflict

1 November
This is the first Day of the WWSF 19 Days Campaign 1-19 November 2026
As an advocacy campaign, "WWSF-19 Days Kit for prevention of violence against children and youth 1-19 November" shares with its coalition members and the general public information and ideas for action selected from the UN Secretary General Report 2026, expert groups, UN agencies, UN Special Representatives, and civil society actors to help us to better understand the complexities of the problem and to help end using children in armed conflict, our theme for the first day of the 19 Days Campaign.

"For the first time soldiers & Government forces were held responsible for more grave violations against children in armed conflict than non-state armed groups - & 2025 set a grim new record for the total number of child victims."
Link:
https://www.globalissues.org/amp/news/2026/06/17/43330

Definition of a child soldier

"Any person below 18 years of age who is, or who has been recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including, but not limited to, children, boys and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, spies, or for sexual purposes." [1]

Definition of Recruitment

"Recruitment refers to compulsory, forced or voluntary conscription or enlistment of children into any kind of armed force or armed group(s) under the age stipulated in the international treaties applicable to the armed force or armed group in question."

"Children are affected by armed conflict in many ways. The United Nations Security Council has identified six grave violations in connection to children in armed conflict" [2]

The six grave violations serve as the basis to gather information and report on violations affecting children, and include :

- Killing and maiming of children;
- Recruitment or use of children as soldiers;
- Sexual violence against children;
- Abduction of children;
- Attacks against schools or hospitals;
- Denial of humanitarian access for children.

Ending and preventing these six grave violations is the focus of the Special Representative's work and advocacy.

Report of the UN Secretary - General (2026) on Children in Armed conflict

Excerpts:
"I. **Global Trends in 2025**

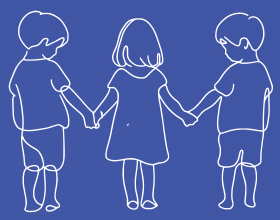
- **38,558** grave violations were verified, affecting **24,174** children (**15,493** boys, **7,990** girls, **691** of unknown sex) — the highest total since the mandate began.
- **3,176** children suffered multiple grave violations (up from **3,137** in **2024**).
- Killing and maiming: **14,224** children (**6,266** killed, **7,958** maimed) — killings up **34%** and maiming up **10%** year-on-year.
- Denial of humanitarian access: **8,322** incidents; recruitment and use: **6,607** children; abduction: **5,129** children.
- **1,667** children were detained for actual or alleged association with armed groups or on national-security grounds.
- Government forces were the leading perpetrator category overall, particularly for killing/maiming, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of access.
- The highest numbers of grave violations were verified in Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory (**12,445**), Democratic Republic of the Congo (**4,114**), Nigeria (**2,560**), Myanmar (**2,203**), Somalia (**2,195**).

The report highlights growing use of explosive-armed drones and AI-assisted targeting with reduced human oversight as an emerging and serious risk to children, and calls for these technologies to remain under meaningful human control and full compliance with international humanitarian law."

To read the full Report :
https://www.un.org/unispal/document/children-and-armed-conflict-report-of-the-secretary-general-a-80-723-s-2026-357/

1 - Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups, 2007
2 - https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/en/six-grave-violations
3 - https://www.warchild.org.uk/our-work/what-we-do/innovative-programmes/reintegration/children-associated-armed-groups
4 - https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/en/six-grave-violations/attacks-against-schools

Updated version 2026



"Standing up for children in war is more urgent than ever (...) Children pay the highest price in wars they never chose. This immense suffering of children is our collective failure."
Dr. Najat Maalla SRSG on VAC and Acting SRSG on CAAC

Not all children in armed groups are soldiers. Boys and girls as young as eight may be recruited to fight on the front line, participate in suicide missions and act as spies, messengers and lookouts. Many are lured in many promises of education, security and money, and others are indoctrinated or forced.

"The recruitment and use of boys and girls in armed conflict is one of the most horrific violations of children's rights." [3]

"The notion of schools as zones of peace is challenged in many conflicts. Schools are used for military purposes and students, teachers and schools are targeted."

"Conflict and insecurity can result in the closure or disrupted functioning of schools and hospitals, preventing access to education and health care for boys and girls." [4]

Theme 1

Prevention of Children in Armed Conflict

Ideas for Action!



Lobby the government
if your country is involved in armed conflict, to develop or implement an Action Plan to ensure child protection

Develop
a legal framework ensuring that children formerly associated with armed groups/forces are considered not as criminals but as victims and have access to recovery and rehabilitation

Improve
birth registration and census systems, facilitate family tracing, and help assess the number of children recruited ***or*** vulnerable to recruitment

Ensure
that training is provided for all professionals working with children affected by armed conflict

Support
Children to be Human Rights Defenders and support organizations that provide help to victims of grave violations

Create
awareness about the countries that still allow the recruitement of children in armed forces

Demand
from your government to respect and uphold the UN Secretary-General's call for a ceasefire, as well as putting an immediate end to the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts, as well as the release of all children, while prioritizing reintegration assistance

Organize
walks, marches or any other public action showing your solidarity with the children even if your own country / region is not itself at war

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and solutions to end using children in armed conflict.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- **Understand** and share that the battlefield is not a place for young people and do not think of war as a game
- **Empower** youth leaders and create "The Youth Table" idea in your communities to change regulations and help to end and drive social innovation in communities
- **Learn** about your rights and about this topic and become a Human Rights Defender
- **Get** to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **Promote** a culture of peace and support initiatives that help to create communities that are more secure for children and youth

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

Your duty is "to criminalize recruitment and use of children in armed conflict".

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

WWSF is pleased to invite civil society actors and NGOs around the world to join the WWSF movement for creating "Community Circles of Compassion" - safe and empowering spaces where people gather to foster healing, dialogue and collective action for a more just future. Tell us about your Compassion Circle which WWSF will feature in its global network of activities.

Check out the page no. 63 which gives you the information on how to create your Community Circle on Compassion.

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Woman's Table"** to unite for the building of a compassionate society and a new era for the common Good for all.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #Childrennotsoldiers #TheWoman'sTable #TheYouthTable

2026 Call to the WWSF Action Kit: 19 Days of Activism for prevention of violence against children and youth 1-19 November

Convener: Women's World Summit Foundation / Children - Youth Section - wwsf@wwsf.ch - **www.woman.ch**

Theme 2

Prevention of Child Sexual Violence & Abuse

"No violence against children is justifiable and that all violence against children is preventable"

Updated version 2026

The **Kit for the Prevention of Violence Against Children and Youth, 1–19 November** is designed to inspire more women, children, youth, and men to join as changemakers for a better world and work together to prevent violence and abuse against children and young people of today.

The **UN SDG Target #16.2**. is our main message to ensure that humanity decides to **"end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children"**

Definition

"Child sexual abuse is the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give **informed consent** to, for which the child is not mentally prepared, or that violates the laws or norms of society.

"Child sexual abuse consists of the activity between a child and an adult or between a child and another child, who by age or development is in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power, with the activity being intended to gratify or satisfy the needs of the other person." [1]

Context/situations where sexual abuse can occur. Family, schools (including journey to and from school), medical sector, judicial facilities and institutions, in the context of an armed conflict, on the Internet and via social media, etc.

Consequences of sexual abuse

Psychological and physical effects such as unwanted pregnancies, gynaecological complications, sexually transmitted diseases, mental health problems, suicidal behavior, social exclusion, stigma, etc.

"Too many children continue to be sold, trafficked, sexually exploited and abused globally - often in ways that remain **invisible**, **normalised** or **unaddressed**",
said Mama Fatima Singhateh, Former UN Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children."

Today, we propose to you to write to your country Leaders or Ministers and remind them; That their duty is to protect children from all forms of violence and abuse, including sexual exploitation.



WWSF is happy to promote the annual "European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse" on 18 November.

Objectives of the Day are to:

- **Raise** awareness about child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including ways to prevent such crimes;
- **Facilitate** open discussion on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in order to prevent and eliminate the stigmatisation of victims and survivors;
- **Promote** the ratification and implementation of the **Lanzarote Convention** – a unique legally-binding international treaty that requires states to criminalise all forms of sexual abuse of children and take holistic action to prevent and combat these crimes." [2]

Message to WWSF from the Council of Europe (2011) :
"On behalf of the team in the Council of Europe Programme "Building a Europe for and with Children" we would like to congratulate you for the great and thoughful campaign you have come up with and you will be promoting from 1-19 November. It is a great pleasure to know that global & regional initiatives like these are promoted. (...)
We would like to express our support and congragulate the campaign team for it's effort to develop a coherent and high-impact campaign.(...)"

"We are the first generation to fully grasp the prevalence, causes, and costs of violence against children – and the first to know the solutions that work,"
said UNICEF Director of Child Protection Sheema Sen Gupta (2024).

"By investing in prevention, education, and support services, we can break the cycle of violence and build a world where children are safe."

SDG #16.2 by 2030
"End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children"

A global problem in scope:

"What was once measured in the millions has now grown far beyond that: in 2025 alone, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) received 21.3 million CyberTipline reports containing more than 61.8 million files related to suspected child sexual exploitation, while AI-generated abuse material surged at unprecedented speed." [3]

1 - WHO, Report on the Consultation of Child Abuse Prevention, 1999
2 - https://rm.coe.int/18-november-european-day-on-the-protection-of-children-against-sexual-/168074c398
3 - https://www.missingkids.org/blog/2026/ncmec-and-the-tech-coalition-turning-commitment-into-action-for-child-safety

Theme 2

Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse & Violence

Ideas for Action!



Remind
that your government is implementing SDG target #16.2: "to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against children"

Training
children in schools and communities on the prevention of abuse and violence against children

Promote
the establishment of comprehensive sexuality education in schools

Initiate
programs that help break the prevailing collective silence on issues on child sexual abuse

Support
networking and alliance building between children- and civil society organizations / local authorities/ governments to strengthen prevention measures of abuse and violence

Ensure
that measures are in place to prevent, protect and mitigate the consequences of all forms of violence, stigma and discrimination against adolescents and youth - especially girls and young women

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and solutions to end child sexual abuse and violence.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- **Promote** a culture of safety online and offline, and support initiatives that make communities more secure for children and youth
- **Empower** youth leaders and create Youth Tables in communities to shape policies, push for reforms, and drive social innovation in child protection
- **Learn** about your rights and about this topic, and become a defender of children's rights
- **Understand** and share that grooming, exploitation, and abuse are never a child's fault, and challenge language or jokes that normalize them
- Get to know the "**Convention on the Rights of the Child**" and **the work of the UN Special Rapporteur** on the **sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children**

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

Your duty is to **protect** children from all forms of violence and abuse including sexual violence. The children are waiting.

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

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#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventChildSexualAbuse

Theme 3

Prevention of Bullying

Updated version 2026

Definition
Bullying is a form of aggressive behavior that occurs in an intentional and repeated manner causing another child to feel hurt. Bullying can take multiple forms, including spreading rumors, threatening, physical or verbal assault, engaging in insidious practices such as excluding a child from a group to hurt him/her, or any other gestures or actions that occur in a less visible manner.

What are the types of bullying ?

- **Physical:** such as hitting, punching, kicking, or stealing or damaging property or belongings of someone else.
- **Verbal:** Such as name-calling, putdowns, mocking, labelling and threatening.
- **Social:** such as ignoring or leaving someone outintentionally, excluding from a group, or spreading rumors about him/her.
- **Psychological:** nasty looks, stalking, manipulating someone to think bullying is a figment of his / her own imagination.
- "**Cyberbullying** is another violation of the rights of children. UNICEF defines "cyberbullying as using electronic messages to harass, threaten, or target another person. Often adults are unaware that it is happening, and so they cannot help. Because of connectivity, environments that might once have been a sanctuary for the child, in particular his or her home, are turned into an arena of secret torment." [1]

"Consequences of bullying:
There are many negative long-term effects for children who have been bullied including psychological outcomes such as depression, anxiety, and low life satisfaction.

Other consequences include a heightened risk of eating disorders and social and relationship difficulties, like loneliness and social withdrawal.

"What are signs that a child is being bullied:

- Unexplainable injuries
- Lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics, or jewelry
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches, feeling sick or faking illness
- Changes in eating habits, like suddenly skipping meals or binge-eating. Kids may come home from school hungry because they did not eat lunch.
- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to school
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- Feelings of helplessness or decreased self esteem
- Self-destructive behaviors such as running away from home, harming themselves, or talking about suicide.

"What are signs that a child is bullying others?

- Get into physical or verbal fights
- Have friends who bully others
- Are increasingly aggressive
- Get sent to the principal's office or to detention frequently
- Have unexplained extra money or new belongings
- Blame others for their problems
- Don't accept responsibility for their actions
- Are competitive and worry about their reputation or popularity." [2]

Bullying in childhood and adolescence is a major public health problem that has affected one in three children across countries of all incomes in the preceding month.

The increased risk of poor health, educational, and social outcomes associated with bullying are well recognised in childhood, and are now known to extend into adult life.

Link to article:
https://bjgp.org/content/71/704/122



"Globally it was estimated that less than 30% of secondary school pupils will experience cyberbullying." [4]

SINCE 1993, DENMARK HAS REQUIRED EVERY CHILD AGED 6-16 TO TAKE A WEEKLY EMPATHY CLASS. THE RESULT? WORLD'S LOWEST BULLYING RATES. WORLD'S HIGHEST KINDNESS SCORES. [5]

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



"An estimated 1 in 3 students worldwide (approximately 246 million children and adolescents) experience bullying or school violence each year." — UNESCO & UNICEF 2026



1 - https://www.unicef.org/egypt/bullying
2 - https://www.stopbullying.gov/bullying/warning-signs
3 - https://www.pacer.org/bullying/
4 - https://cyberbullying.org/2019-cyberbullying-data
5 - https://www.linkedin.com/posts/emotional-intelligence-smiles_what-if-the-most-important-subject-in-school-activity-7504841370235219968-9ofB

"Engage a nation to prevent bullying through kindness, acceptance and inclusion".[3]

Theme 3

Prevention of Bullying

Ideas for Action!



- **Facilitate** and encourage youth participation in politics and civil societies at both local community and national levels
- **Make** youth participation a priority in public policies
- **Ensure** that schools have mechanisms for safe and confidential student reporting, intervention, and recovery of victims, as well as rehabilitation of those who have been bullied
- **Establish** and promote a violence-free environment and raise awareness against bullying at schools and public spaces.
  http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002469/246970e.pdf
- **Create** a reliable and trustful student reporting systems and helplines so that children feel safe to report bullying in confidentiality
- **Set up** toll free child helplines and/or work with existing ones to ensure services are accessible
- **Involve** children and youth in advocating for prevention of bullying through interactive theatre, art projects, and the production of guidelines, manuals, and videos
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oKjW1Oljuw
- **Limit** screen time, and monitor their children's access online, while also ensuring that children are safe online

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and solutions to prevent and end bullying.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- **Debate** and brainstorm practical ways to prevent and stop bullying
- **Build** a support network that provides a safe and welcoming space for children and young people who are being bullied
- **Share** bullying prevention ideas with your local community and media to raise awareness and encourage action
- **Learn** how to recognize bullying in all its forms, how to respond effectively, and how to speak up when others are targeted
- Be an **advocate** for those who are being bullied, and be open to learning from others as well as supporting them

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

- **Teach** children the weight of words, to be mindful of others and demonstrate gentle kindness.
- **Young People** should be recognized as equal partners in decision-making processes and their engagement should be facilitated.

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

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#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventBullying

Theme **4** # Prevention of Neglect

Updated version 2026

Definition

"According to the General Comment No. 13 by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, neglect is "the failure to meet children's physical and psychological needs, protect them from danger, or obtain medical birth registration or other services when those responsible for children's care have the means, knowledge and access to services to do so." [1]

"What are the types of Child Neglect ?

Physical neglect includes failure to protect a child from harm or to provide the child with basic necessities, including adequate food, shelter, clothing and basic medical care.

- **Psychological or emotional neglect** can mean lack of any emotional support and love, chronic inattention to the child, and exposure to intimate partner violence, drug or alcohol abuse.
- **Educational neglect** is failure to comply with laws requiring caregivers to secure their children's education through attendance at school or otherwise. Moreover, abandonment is another form of neglect.
- **Medical neglect** is the intentional deprivation of the child from healthcare, denying or delaying necessary treatment even though the parents or the care- giver could afford it.

What are signs of child neglect?

- Clothes are ill-fitting, filthy,or inappropriate for the weather
- Hygiene is consistently bad (unbathed, and unwashed hair, noticeable body odor)
- Untreated illnesses and physical injuries
- Is frequently unsupervised or left alone or allowed to play in unsafe situations
- Is frequently late or missing from school." [3]

"Any child can suffer neglect, but some are more at risk such as children who:

- are in care
- seeking asylum
- live with a parent who has problems with drugs or alcohol
- suffers from mental health problems
- is in a domestically abusive relationship
- living in poverty, unsuitable housing or a deprived area
- having parents who were abused or neglected themselves." [2]

Article 19 - Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. **States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, socialand educational measuresto protect the child from all forms of physical or mentalviolence, injury or abuse,neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other personwho has the care of the child.**
2. **Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.**

Source:
https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child



"Governments must protect children from violence, abuse & being neglected by anyone who looks after them."
CRC

Child Helpline Network International



"Nearly 400 million young children worldwide regularly experience violent discipline at home." [4]

"A child who is abused is more likely to abuse others as an adult so that violence is passed down from one generation to the next. It is therefore critical to break this cycle of violence, and in so doing create positive multi - generational impacts." [5]



1 - Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No.13 – the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, 2011
2 - https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/types-of-abuse/neglect/
3 - https://www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect.htm/
4 - https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/nearly-400-million-young-children-worldwide-regularly-experience-violent-discipline
5 - https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-maltreatment
6 - https://childhelplineinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Global-Voices-of-Children-and-Young-People-2024-Factsheet_Final.pdf

"Children with disabilities are four times more likely to suffer from abuse or neglect." [5]

"Boys are more likely than girls to contact child helplines about neglect, while girls and non binary children more frequently report sexual violence." [6]

Theme **4**

Prevention of Neglect

Ideas for Action!



Establish
child-friendly information services to identify children at risk

Increase
public awareness to educate the community about neglect

Suggest
home visiting programs as part of the child protection policy. Home visiting programs involve visits by nurses to parents and infants in their homes to provide support, education, and information

Organize
social support groups, such as a "circle of parents": self-help groups to share ideas, information and resources, or "Parents Anonymous": led by parents and professionally trained facilitators to strengthen families, build caring communities, reduce social isolation and develop coping strategies.

Explore the possibility
of community-based alternatives for children to be placed in institutions

Regularly monitor
and review the placement of children in institutions or alternative care and conduct regular check-ups

Parental support and stress release measures:
Civil society and organisations supporting children and adolescents can facilitate healthy parenting. In the long-run, resources are needed to support basic mental health and psychosocial services

Use
this challenging time to build stronger connections with your children by doing day-to-day activities together at home, speaking with them, and fostering children's ethical reflections and response to care for others. Let us foster children's understanding of their own significance as part of the social fabric and how their actions impact upon others. Our example is the best teacher for our children

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and solutions to promote prevention of neglect.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- **Find** the counsellors and child care services closest to you
- If you suspect someone is being neglected, offer support and a listening ear. They may feel alone and helpless, and your presence could give them the strength to seek help and find a solution
- **Understand** your rights as a child or young adult so you can speak up, ask for help, and protect yourself
- **Empower** youth leaders to drive social innovation, strengthen communities, influence policy, and help end violence against children and young people

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

Help Families in Crisis:

- Children living in homes with substance abuse issues are at greater risk for child abuse and neglect.
- Building clear referral pathways between child protection, addiction services, and family courts.

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

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#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventChildNeglect

Theme 5

Prevention of Child Labor

Updated version 2026

Today, we propose to you to write to your country Leaders or Ministers and remind them of their obligation to commit to prioritze investment in programs that can get children out of the workforce and back into school where they belong.

SDG Target 8.7 asks Member States to take immediate & effective measures to eradicate forced labour.

Definition

"The term child labor is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity. Not all work done by children should be classified as child labor (i.e. activities such as helping parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours)." [1]

Child labor refers to work that:

- Is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children and interferes with their education.
- Deprives them of the opportunity to attend school.
- Forces them to leave school prematurely, or
- Requires them to attempt to combine school attendance with heavy work and long hours.

"In its most extreme forms, child labor involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets often at a very early age. Whether or not particular forms of "work" can be called "child labor" depends on the child's age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed and the laws within individual countries. The answer varies from country to country as well as among sectors within each country." [2]

How many Child Labors are there in India?

"The latest nationwide estimate indicates that 10.1 million children aged 5 –14 were engaged in child labour in India. Despite significant progress, child labour remains a persistent challenge, and updated national prevalence data have not yet been released."
Source: *Census of India (2011); UNICEF (2024)*

12 June 2026, marks World Day against Child Labour, established in 2002 by the International Labor Organization (ILO) – the United Nations agency promoting social justice and labor rights – to draw the attention of civil society, in particular of governments, employers, and workers' organizations, to the situation of children at work and to the urgent need to take measures to end forms of exploitation.[8]

"Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest number of child labourers in the world - 59 million children between the ages of five and 17 are in the worst forms of hazardous work."
Source:
Asante Africa Foundation

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030

"Nearly 138 million children were engaged in child labour in 2024, including around 54 million performing hazardous work."
Source:
https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/despite-progress-child-labour-still-affects-138-million-children-globally

1 Agriculture
2 Services
3 Industry

Child labor is concentrated primarily in agriculture (70%), 20% in Services; and 10% in the Industrial sector, including mining. [3]

No child under the age of 18 should perform hazardous work as stipulated in the ILO's Conventions on child labour, namely the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No 138).[4]



countries have ratified the ILO Minimum Age Convention, specifying the minimum age between 14 and 16 years depending on the State's choice. [5]



Girls and women in Malawi on the long haul back home from the water hole. (Photograph: Helen H Richardson/Denver Post/Getty Images)

Child labour is more prevalent among boys than girls at every age but when 21 hours per week of household chores are taken into account, the gender gap in child labour narrows.[6]

1 - https://www.ilo.org/topics/child-labour/what-child-labour
2 - https://www.ilo.org/resource/brief/what-child-labour
3 - https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/child-labour-rises-160-million-first-increase-two-decades-1
4 - https://www.ilo.org/international-programme-elimination-child-labour-ipec/what-child-labour/ilo-conventions-child-labour
5 - https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C138
6 - https://www.ilo.org/projects-and-partnerships/projects/child-labour-facts-and-figures-world
7 - https://www.iuf.org/news/world-day-against-child-labour-2022-169-million-children-denied-their-right-to-childhood/
8 - https://www.cgfmanet.org/en/infosphere/world-day-against-child-labour-2026/

Theme **5**

Prevention of Child Labor

Ideas for Action!



- **Lobby your government** to mainstream child labor concerns into child-sensitive social security policies (education, healthcare, nutrition)
- **Demand** that employers respect labor standards and that companies commit to a comprehensive code of principles, such as the Ethical Trade Initiative: *http://www.ethicaltrade.org*
- **Stop** children from working in dangerous places. We share with you ten tips for helping end child labor *https://humaneeducation.org/10-tips-for-helping-end-child-labor/*
- **Provide** education and training on safe and healthy work practices, free provision of personal protective equipment and access to public health services. *https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@ipec/documents/publication/wcms_745287.pdf*
- **Develop** a regional roadmap to end child labour, with timebound achievable milestones and suggested resource allocations
- **Cooperate** with local initiatives that aim to stop children from working in dangerous places

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

The Youth TABLE by WWSF / FSMF - GENEVA INTL.

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and solutions to end child labor.
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- **Equal representation** of children from different workplaces (formal / informal / paid / unpaid/, self-employed / contract-based, rural /urban, organised / non-organised etc.)
- **Equal involvement** of the most vulnerable groups, including: stateless, refugee, migrant and displaced children, children in street situations, children with disabilities and children from indigeneous communities
- **Empower** youth leaders to drive social innovation, communities, to change regulations and help to end child labor
- **Commemorate** the **World Day Against Child Labor on June 12**
- **Understand** and help other children understand their rights (in particular their right to peace and education) and the importance of education

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

Ensure:

1. Access to free and compulsory education
2. That short- and medium-term responses are strengthened in the context of the prolonged effects of the crisis towards the attainment of the SDGs and in compliance with international labour standards.

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Circles of Compassion / Cercles de Compassion / Kreise des Mitgefühls / Círculos de Compasión

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#ENDviolence #NoChildLabor #Education is the way out and the way up

Theme

6 Prevention of Corporal Punishment

(4 Pages) (Page 1)

Updated version 2026

Definition
"The right of children to be protected from corporal punishment is outlined in **Article 19 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child** and in the CRC General Comment N° 8, which **defines corporal or physical punishment as "any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light."**
Link to the CRC:
https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx

Physical forms:
"Most involve hitting (smacking, slapping, spanking) children with the hand or with an implement – whip, stick, belt, shoe, wooden spoon, etc. It can also involve kicking, shaking, throwing, scratching, pinching, biting, pulling hair or boxing ears, forcing children to stay in uncomfortable positions or forced ingestion.

Non-physical forms:
"In addition to physical punishment, there are other non-physical forms of punishment that are also cruel and degrading and thus incompatible with the CR Convention. These include, for example, punishment, which belittles, humiliates, denigrates, scapegoats, threatens, scares or ridicules the child." [1]

Enormous numbers of children experience corporal punishment in their homes, schools, care & work settings & the penal system in all regions of the world.
"Around the world, 1.6 billion children – or 2 in 3 – regularly endure violent punishment by caregivers at home. Around 1.2 billion are subjected to corporal punishment at home." [2]

"Corporal punishment affects children regardless of their age, race, sex and social background. But it is often the most vulnerable, disabled, young and socially marginalised children who experience higher levels of violent punishment.

Violent forms of discipline may also be experienced differently by boys and girls and may be used to reinforce gender norms."
(*several combined sources*)

Preventing corporal punishment is key to ending violence against children (SDG target #16.2) and reducing violence across the whole of society in the longer term.

#SDG Target 16.2:
"End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children."



It is also essential in working towards other SDG targets, including those related to health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), violence against women and girls (SDG 5 and 16), equality (SDG 5 and 10) and economic stability and growth (SDG 8).

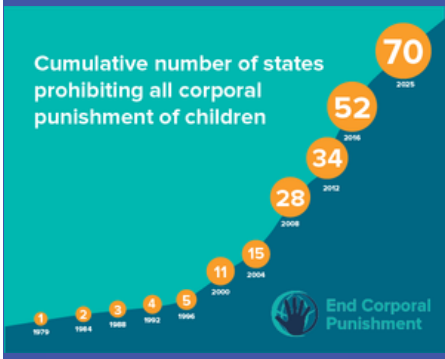
Excerpt:
The World Health Organization (2025)
"Corporal punishment of children: The public health impact"

"Harm to mental health: Research has demonstrated strong associations between corporal punishment and negative impacts on mental health in childhood and adulthood. Children experience fear, pain and sadness when physically punished and are more likely to suffer from anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, hopelessness, hostility and emotional instability. Large nationally representative studies have confirmed that associations with mental health problems – including depression, low self-esteem, anxiety disorder, self-harm, alcohol and drug abuse, and suicidal tendencies – continue into adulthood." [3]

30 April

The International Day #EndCorporalPunishment on 30 April is an important, global moment to advocate for protecting children from violent punishment – in all settings. Children deserve and need non-violent childhoods now in all schools. [4]

70
States worldwide have fully prohibited all corporal punishment of children



25
more states have committed to reforming their laws to achieve a complete legal ban. [5]



1 - http://www.refworld.org/docid/460bc7772.html
2 - https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence/violent-discipline/
3 - https://iris.who.int/server/api/core/bitstreams/01d2e03b-f891-44f2-9272-144508effaef/content
4 - https://endcorporalpunishment.org/
5 - https://endcorporalpunishment.org/countdown/

"In a majority of countries, more than 2 in 3 children experience violent discipline by caregivers"

Theme

6 Prevention of Corporal Punishment (Page 2)



1. Legal prohibition (End Corporal Punishment, 2025)
"According to End Corporal Punishment, the global tracker recognized by WHO and UNICEF:

- 70 States have fully prohibited corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home.
- 25 additional States have formally committed to law reform to achieve full prohibition.
- 105 States have not yet made a formal commitment to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings.
- 62 States have not yet fully prohibited corporal punishment in schools.
- More than 500 million children under age 5 still lack full legal protection from corporal punishment in the home."

Source:
End Corporal Punishment. Countdown to Universal Prohibition of Corporal Punishment of Children (updated 2025). https://endcorporalpunishment.org/countdown/

2. Prevalence of violent discipline (UNICEF, latest)
"Nearly 400 million children under the age of 5 (about 6 in 10) regularly experience psychological aggression or physical punishment by parents or caregivers.

Around 330 million of these children experience physical punishment. Around half a billion children under age 5 still lack adequate legal protection from corporal punishment in the home.

3. Global burden (UNICEF Data)
"Around 1.6 billion children (approximately 2 in 3 globally) experience violent punishment by caregivers at home during childhood. About 1.2 billion children experience physical punishment.

- 70 countries have banned corporal punishment of children in all settings.
- 25 countries have committed to introducing a full legal ban.
- Nearly 400 million children under five experience violent discipline at home.
- Around 330 million are subjected to physical punishment.
- Over 500 million children under five still lack full legal protection from corporal punishment in the home."

Source:
https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence/violent-discipline/

First-ever joint statement on ending corporal punishment presented at the Human Rights Council
"12 March 2025, during the 58th session of the Human Rights Council, 40 countries made a first-ever joint statement addressing children's fundamental right to protection from all corporal punishment.

"The statement made during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children notes the wide-ranging harmful impacts of corporal punishment of children, and its ongoing high prevalence and legality around the world, despite over 20 years of international commitments and human rights recommendations calling for action to end the practice. The statement encourages all remaining states to prohibit and eliminate all corporal punishment of children in all settings.

The statement notes:
Almost twenty years ago, the UN Secretary General called for the universal prohibition of all corporal punishment. Multiple treaty bodies and regional mechanisms have also condemned it, recognizing it as a clear violation of children's human rights. Yet, in over 125 States, corporal punishment remains legally permissible continuing to undermine the human rights, dignity and wellbeing of children.

And encourages States to take action:
"In light of this overwhelming evidence, we wish to draw attention of this human rights issue and encourage States to take appropriate legislative reforms accompanied by other measures such as awareness-raising and educational initiatives to prohibit and eliminate all corporal punishment of children in all settings.
'We call upon States to also promote non-violent forms of discipline that will uphold children's dignity, physical integrity, and equal protection under the law.

This joint statement follows the first ever statement on corporal punishment presented to the World Health Assembly Executive Board by the Government of Kenya and eleven other States on 7 February 2025."

Source:
https://endcorporalpunishment.org/first-hrc-joint-statement/

Theme 6

Prevention of Corporal Punishment (Page 2)



A Landmark Win for Children
Thailand Prohibits All Corporal Punishment of Children
"Thailand has achieved full prohibition of corporal punishment of children with the amendment of Section 1567 (2) of the Civil and Commercial Code. The House of Representatives approved the landmark legislation in October 2024, with the Senate giving its approval in December 2024. The amendment received Royal Assent on March 20, 2025, and was published in the Official Gazette on March 24, 2025, coming into force the following day.

"With this law reform, Thailand becomes the 68th state worldwide to realise children's rights to protection from all violent punishment, and the second in the ASEAN region.

Putting the Law into Effect
"Upon passage of the amendment, Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister issued a directive designating the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security as the main agency to evaluate the implementation of recommendations made by the Parliament's special subcommittee and the Cabinet Secretariat.

"The directive also empowers the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to work alongside various government entities, including the Ministries of Finance, Interior, Justice, Education, Public Health, and Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, as well as the Royal Thai Police and other pertinent agencies to implement this amendment and provide support for parents in promoting positive discipline.

National Child Protection Action Plan 2023-2027 and Positive Parenting
"This Plan prioritises the prevention of violence against children and support for families. The first two strategies of the Plan are key to preventing violent punishment of children:

Strategy 1. Supporting families

- Provide counselling and establish family networks (peer groups) to learn and exchange childcare knowledge. These networks can serve as platforms for sharing positive parenting techniques and support.
- Ensure access to social welfare services for children and families through awareness campaigns and accessible service delivery. Connect parents with resources, parenting programs, and financial support if needed, reducing stress factors that might lead to harsh discipline.
- Facilitate access to social welfare services such as mental health, legal, or language interpretation services. Access to mental health support and counselling can help parents manage stress and adopt more positive parenting approaches, aligning with the emphasis on emotional safety for children."

Accompanying Justification Provides Further Clarity
"The explanatory notes accompanying the amendment help provide full clarity about the intention of the law, and address the following points:

- The amended law aligns with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, emphasising the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment.
- General Comment No. 8 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is directly related to the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment, is mentioned as a key document informing the amendment to Article 1567.
- Prohibition of corporal punishment is framed within the context of Thailand's most recent Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which recommended that Thailand prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings.
- The amendment signifies a commitment to align national legislation with international human rights standards for children, as articulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Corporal punishment is rejected as an acceptable method of discipline, moving away from the traditional view that physical punishment is necessary or effective.
- Children have a right to protection from violence, implying that parenting should be rooted in respect for the child's fundamental rights, including physical and emotional safety.
- All actions concerning children should be guided by their best interests, aiming to foster a child's well-being and healthy development, which is incompatible with physical or degrading forms of punishment.
- The amendment implicitly suggests the need for parents to adopt positive disciplinary strategies, teaching children through understanding, communication, and guidance rather than fear and pain. Parents have a responsibility to create a safe, nurturing, and violence-free environment for their children, actively safeguarding their rights and well-being."

Link to read the full article:
https://endcorporalpunishment.org/thailandprohibitscorporalpunishment/ (2025)

Theme 6

Prevention of Corporal Punishment

Ideas for Action!



- **Identify and analyze** the factors that contribute to the use of corporal punishment and the obstacles that need to be overcome to prohibit and eliminate it
- **Distribute, teach, and create** awareness about key documents, recommendations, and human rights treaties highlighting the rights of the child to be protected from corporal punishment, and translate them into local languages
- **Expose** Raise awareness of the real, lasting harm corporal punishment causes children — because change starts with people understanding what's at stake
- **Teach** Embed children's rights and conflict resolution skills into the school curriculum, so the next generation grows up knowing another way is possible
- **Advocate** Push your government toward a rights-based approach: full legal prohibition of corporal punishment at home, in schools, in penal institutions — everywhere. And where laws already exist, demand they're actually enforced
- **Place** children at the heart of the community. Enable the meaningful participation of children and make provision for their voices and opinions to be heard

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and solutions to help prevent and end corporal punishment.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- **Read Article 19** of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**, which protects children from all forms of physical or mental violence, and General Comment No. 8, which explains exactly what counts as corporal punishment and why it violates children's rights (https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text)
- **Reach** out to your local helpline if you know a friend, sibling, or classmate facing corporal punishment — find one near you at Child Helpline International
- **Speak** up when you see or hear about violence at school, and push for every incident to be reported and addressed, not brushed aside
- **Share** what you learn with younger siblings, cousins, or classmates — many children don't know this is a right they have, and that alone can change how they respond when it happens to them

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

- Promote the meaning of "discipline" as guidance, not as physical punishment; offer support and resources for parents.
- "Duty bearers must ensure that measures, including referral systems, to protect youth from threats and attacks are established and strengthened."
  Source:
  UN Policy Brief 3 (2023)

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

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#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventCorporalPunishment

Theme 7

Prevention of the Sale of Children

Updated version 2026

Today, we propose to you to write to your country Leaders and Ministers.

The Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Pornography (OPSC) requires"States to criminalize the sale of children, in particular, the offering, delivering or acceptingof a child for the purpose of sexual exploitation, transfer of organs or the engagement of a child in forced labor, and improperly inducing consent for the illegal adoption of a child." (Article 3.1 (a))
https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/CoreTreatiesen.pdf



Definition

"This is when a child is given or sold for money or for some other form of profit (like goods, gifts or some form of assistance). When the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC) discusses the sale of children, it includes the sale of children for many different purposes, including: for forced work, for dangerous work, for illegal work, to become a child soldier, for an arranged or temporary marriage, for sexual abuse, for sexual exploitation and for illegal adoption. The OPSC also covers the trading of children's organs for money or for some other form of profit." [1]

Article 3 – Forms of violence

"1. Each State Party shall ensure that, as a minimum, the following acts and activities are fully covered under its criminal or penal law, whether such offences are committed domestically or transnationally or on an individual or organized basis:
(a) In the context of sale of children as defined in article 2:
(i) Offering, delivering or accepting, by whatever means, a child for the purpose of:
a. Sexual exploitation of the child;
b. Transfer of organs of the child for profit;
c. Engagement of the child in forced labour."

Link to read full article:
https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/optional-protocol-convention-rights-child-sale-children-child

The Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography (OPSC) asks governments to make sure these acts are considered serious crimes and that anyone who commits these acts is punished, including people who try to commit them or help to commit them. Sometimes, a private company (for instance, a hotel, a club, a bar) is involved in these crimes. For this reason, the OPSC asks countries to make sure private companies can also be made responsible.

"Child marriage can be regarded as a form of the sale of children. The dowry requirement can provide an incentive for parents to arrange their daughters to marry, and child marriage can be used to settle debts and provide economic security to families. Globally, 1 in 5 girls is married or in union before age 18. In the least developed countries, that figure doubles: 40% of girls are married before age 18, and 12% before age 15. " [4]

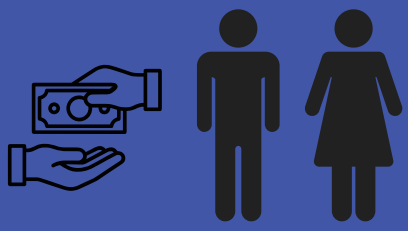
Key Takeaways

- Least-developed countries (LDCs) are underdeveloped with structural challenges to sustainable development.
- The UN's list of LDCs includes 46 nations worldwide.
- LDCs often face high poverty levels, weak human assets, and economic vulnerability.

Source:
https://www.investopedia.com/terms/l/ldc.asp

Definition of Surrogacy
Refers to a form of « third party » reproductive practice in which the intending parent(s) and the surrogate mother agree that the surrogate mother will become pregnant, gestate, and give birth to a child… » [3]

Illegal adoptions violate multiple child rights norms and principles, including the best interests of the child, the principle of subsidiarity and the prohibition of improper financial gain. These principles are breached when the purpose of an adoption is to find a child for adoptive parents rather than a family for the child.[2]



States who are party to the Optional Protocol on the sale children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC) have the obligation to prohibit, criminalize, prevent, and ensure accountability for offences of sexual violence and exploitation. [5]



1 - Raising Understanding among Children and Young People on the OPSC, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, November 2013, p. 6-7.)
2 - https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-sale-of-children/illegal-adoptions
3 - https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/Surrogacy.aspx
4 - https://seoul.unfpa.org/en/topics/child-marriage-8
5 - https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/en/article/un-experts-urge-states-protect-children-sale-sexual-exploitation-and-recruitment-and-use

Although many States have laws prohibiting the trafficking of children, very few have laws regarding the sale of children. The two abuses are distinct, and according to the CRC, States should implement measures to prevent both.

Theme 7

Prevention of the Sale of Children

Ideas for Action!

Intervene
in schools to explain and circulate the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC)

Train
disaster response personnel and aid agencies to take care of children and minimize the risk of children being separated from their families

Lobby your government to:
Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography if it has not already done so. If your government is Party to the Protocol, lobby for full implementation

Create
Awareness campaigns on the risks of child trafficking and sale, particularly targeting families and communities in situations of poverty, displacement, or crisis, where children are most vulnerable to exploitation

Strengthen
Birth registration systems, since unregistered children are far easier to sell, traffic, or exploit without a legal identity to protect them

Support
survivor-centred reintegration programmes that help children who have been sold or trafficked rebuild their lives with dignity, rather than facing stigma or repeat victimization

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and solutions to prevent the sale of children.
- **How to Join?**
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- **Adolescents** have a powerful role to play in engendering the spirit as many are already demonstrating throughout the world — whether through volunteering their help within communities, or combating stigma, xenophobia and discrimination online
- **Explore** the way how the problem of the sale of children manifests in your local community
- **Learn** about your rights and about this theme and become a Human Rights Defender
  http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/Defender.aspx
- **Use** your voice and platforms to challenge the normalization of practices that lead to the sale of children, such as child marriage, unregulated informal adoption, or exploitative labor recruitment

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

The Handbook on the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography aims to promote understanding and effective implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
Link:
https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/674644

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

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#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #NotForSale

Theme 8

Prevention of Child Prostitution / Pornography

Today, we propose to you to write to your country Leaders and Ministers.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (OPSC) requires that "States criminalize the offering, obtaining, procuring or providing a child for child prostitution, which covers most of the supply aspects of child prostitution."
https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/optional-protocol-convention-rights-child-sale-children-child
Civil society will need to enforce the unacceptability of such buisness and strongly reclaim the right to dignity for all children and youth.

Definition
"Child prostitution happens when children are sexually abused in exchange for money, food, clothes, shelter or protection. These payments are sometimes made directly to the child, but other times to someone else who has control over the child.
Adults can trick, pressure, threaten or force children into prostitution. The exploitation of children in prostitution may happen in various places, including: on the street, in clubs, bars, brothels, hotels, private houses or schools." [1]

Excerpts from the Human Rights Council Sixty-first session 23 February–2 April 2026 - Agenda item 3 "Protecting children from sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse: progress, new frontiers and the path forward"

"Report of the former Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, Mama Fatima Singhateh
I. Introduction
1. "In the present report, submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 7/13 and 52/26, the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, Mama Fatima Singhateh, reflects on the current state of affairs in relation to the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, new and emerging risks and how these risks manifest and affect the lives of children. The report is also dedicated to taking stock of how her six-year tenure has contributed to preventing and responding to the scourge and to identifying the remaining and new challenges to inform the efforts of her successor.

"III. Progress during the six-year tenure of the Special Rapporteur

A. Issues and trends relating to the mandate
13. As the world rapidly became interconnected through technology, concerns emerged, including in relation to the protection of children in a digital environment, especially with the advent of new technologies that were used as tools to commit the offences of sale and sexual exploitation of children. At the beginning of her term of office, the Special Rapporteur Mama Fatima Singhateh committed to reflect on the trends, challenges and responses to the issues of child abuse and exploitation online.

"The Special Rapporteur reported on the misuse of existing and emerging technologies and how it exacerbated and amplified children's exposure to risks, harms and various forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

"The Special Rapporteur highlighted how existing technologies were misused to sexually harass, take and share non-consensual images and videos, generate child sexual abuse materials, sexually extort children and livestream on internet child sexual abuse.

"Moreover, emerging technologies such as deepfakes, "nudifying" and de-aging applications, artificial intelligence embedded peer-to-peer file sharing and voice cloning, exacerbate those crimes by amplifying and extending existing methods that exploit children and produce child sexual abuse materials."

To read the full report:
https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/61/45



1 - https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/raisingunderstanding_opsc.pdf
2 - https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2024/December/unodc-global-human-trafficking-report_-detected-victims-up-25-per-cent-as-more-children-are-exploited-and-forced-labour-cases-spike.html
3 - https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/optional-protocol-convention-rights-child-sale-children-child

Updated version 2026

Child sex tourism is a critical part of child prostitution, and the demand side must be addressed at all levels.

"Women and girls continue to account for the majority of victims detected worldwide (61 per cent in 2022). The majority of girl victims (60 per cent) detected continue to be trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation." [2]

It is important to be clear that children are not prostitutes, but victims of crime and victims of sexual abuse. [3]

States who are party to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC) have the obligation to prohibit, criminalize, prevent, and ensure accountability for offences of sexual violence and exploitation.[3]

"Poverty is a contributing factor, not a cause. Most poor people do not sell their children."

Theme 8

Prevention of Child Prostitution / Pornography

Ideas for Action!



Lobby
your government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography if it has not already done so. If it has, lobby for full implementation

Initiate
multi-stakeholder dialogues to assess the status of child prostitution in your country and devise multisectorial prevention plans

Intervene
in schools to explain and circulate the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography - create a debate among children, parents and teachers

Partner
with public agencies to provide support and services to survivors

Create
a comprehensive, locally based, multidisciplinary anti-trafficking task force in your community, including schools, service providers, health care sector, juvenile justice, law enforcement etc. Good practice guidance

Involve
children & youth in advocating for their rights and protection (theater, art, child-friendly media, production of manuals, guidelines, etc.)

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and solutions to prevent child prostitution and pornography.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- "Young people must not be coerced into participating in actions or expressing views against their beliefs and wishes.They should have the right to cease involvement in any process at any stage." **UN Policy Brief 3 (2023)**
- **Speak** out and reach out to your community in case anyone approached you to take part in any form of child prostitution
- **Understand** and learn about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- **Start** a debate about the demand side of child prostitution, and explore the way the problem manifests itself in your local and national context

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

- The **SDG target #16.2** reminds all duty bearers that all governments have agreed in 2015 "to End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children by 2030" *https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16*
- Encourage congregations to use innovative approaches, which help children to share their views, ideas and concerns *(www.oikoumene.org/resources-children)*

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

WWSF is pleased to invite civil society actors and NGOs around the world to join the WWSF movement for creating "Community Circles of Compassion" - safe and empowering spaces where people gather to foster healing, dialogue and collective action for a more just future. Tell us about your Compassion Circle which WWSF will feature in its global network of activities.

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#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #EndChildProstitution

Theme **9**

Prevention of CSAM

(Child Sexual Abuse Material)

Today, we propose to you to write to your country Leaders and Ministers.
"The Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography (OPSC) *requires States to criminalize producing, distributing, disseminating, importing, exporting, offering, selling or possessing child pornography. The prevention of child pornography involves both strong legislation, full implementation by governments at all levels, coordinated community action, a locally contextualized plan of action based on facts on the ground, and a concerted focus on the demand side. Civil society has a key role to play in demanding that child pornography be prosecuted. (Article 3.1(c))"https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/crc-sale.pdf*

Definition of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)
INTERPOL / ICMEC definition:
"Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) refers to any material that visually depicts a child engaged in real or simulated sexually explicit conduct, or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes." [1]

Common broader working definition:
CSAM is any content that depicts sexually explicit conduct involving a child, including images, videos, and increasingly AI-generated or "synthetic" content that realistically depicts a child in sexual contexts — regardless of whether an identifiable real child is shown.

Statement by UNICEF on AI-generated sexualised images of children.
"4 February 2026 – UNICEF is increasingly alarmed by reports of a rapid rise in the volume of AI-generated sexualised images circulating, including cases where photographs of children have been manipulated and sexualised.

"Deepfakes – images, videos, or audio generated or manipulated with Artificial Intelligence (AI) designed to look real – are increasingly being used to produce sexualised content involving children, including through "nudification," where AI tools are used to strip or alter clothing in photos to create fabricated nude or sexualised images.

"New evidence confirms the scale of this fast-growing threat: In a UNICEF, ECPAT and INTERPOL study* across 11 countries, at least 1.2 million children disclosed having had their images manipulated into sexually explicit deepfakes in the past year. In some countries, this represents 1 in 25 children – the equivalent of one child in a typical classroom.

"Children themselves are deeply aware of this risk. In some of the study countries, up to two thirds of children said they worry that AI could be used to create fake sexual images or videos. Levels of concern vary widely between countries, underscoring the urgent need for stronger awareness, prevention, and protection measures.

"We must be clear. Sexualised images of children generated or manipulated using AI tools are child sexual abuse material (CSAM). Deepfake abuse is abuse, and there is nothing fake about the harm it causes.

"When a child's image or identity is used, that child is directly victimised. Even without an identifiable victim, AI-generated child sexual abuse material normalises the sexual exploitation of children, fuels demand for abusive content and presents significant challenges for law enforcement in identifying and protecting children that need help.

"UNICEF strongly welcomes the efforts of those AI developers that are implementing safety-by-design approaches and robust guardrails to prevent misuse of their systems. However, the landscape remains uneven, and too many AI models are not being developed with adequate safeguards. The risks can be compounded when generative AI tools are embedded directly into social media platforms where manipulated images spread rapidly."

To read more:
https://www.unicef.org.nz/media-releases/deepfake-abuse-is-abuse-unicef-statement

1 - https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Crimes-against-children
2 - https://www.thorn.org/research/child-sexual-abuse-material-csam/
3 - https://www.ncmec.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline/cybertiplinedata
4 - https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/transparency-reporting-on-child-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-online-2025_a89e3f08-en.html
5 - https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/en/news/joint-statement-international-policy-and-practice-exchange-child-protection-digital

Updated version 2026

While "child pornography" remains the legal term for this material, the subject matter is one of the most violent, horrific forms of child abuse possible. For this reason, those working to combat this type of abuse have begun using the term "child sexual abuse material" (CSAM), which more accurately conveys the content and is explicitly tied to the source of the problem.[2]

In 2024, reports submitted to NCMEC's CyberTipline contained more than 63 million images, videos and other files related to suspected online child sexual exploitation, highlighting the growing scale of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online.[3]

"Despite progress in regulation, there remains a continued lack of standardisation in how online services define, detect and report child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA), making cross-platform comparison and effective policy analysis difficult." [4]



"The threats to children online are increasing in both scale and complexity. Rapid advances in artificial intelligence are reshaping online harms, while many crimes remain unreported and many victims unidentified." [5]

Theme 9

Prevention of CSAM

(Child Sexual Abuse Material)

Ideas for Action!



Encourage
schools to explain and circulate the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography CSAM; create a debate among children, parents and teachers

Conduct
awareness-raising sessions with teachers, parents, NGOs, and government representatives to discuss risks for child pornography CSAM and protective factors such as installing filtering tools, etc.

Educate
children about the risks associated with the Internet and other technology to prevent and combat CSAM

Lobby
your government to criminalize all aspects of child pornography and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography if it has not already done so. If your government has ratified, lobby for full implementation of the plan of action

Set up
toll free helplines providing children with information and confidential support

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and solutions to eliminate the creation of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).
- **How to Join?**
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- **Speak** out and reach out to your community in case anyone approached you to take part in any form of child pornography
- **Learn** about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- **Help** spread awareness on this topic by sharingour hashtags below on social media
- **Discuss** with your parents and/or teacher how to write a letter about the problem of CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) addressed to your Local Leader(s) to help speedup implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

- The **SDG target #16.2** could be used to remind your members that all governments have agreed in 2015 *"to End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children by 2030"*
  Link: *https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16*
- Religious leaders have a unique opportunity to firmly condemn all forms of child pornography
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

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#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #EndCSAM

Theme 10 Prevention of Child Trafficking

Updated version 2026

Today, we propose to you to write to your country Leaders and Ministers.

Article 9 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) calls on State Parties "to ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will."

In many countries, child abduction rings are in operation, and children are abducted to be sold into forced labor or forced begging, to be recruited into armed forces or drug smuggling gangs, to be sold into illegal adoption, to be trafficked for sexual exploitation, or to be forced into marriage.

Definition

"Child trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation. According to international law, consent is irrelevant where a child is concerned." (Palermo Protocol) [1]

The International Labor Organization (ILO) notes that trafficking children is closely related to the demand for cheap labor to work in conditions and with treatment that violates human rights.

"The ILO reports that girls are trafficked in particular for sexual exploitation and domestic labor, while boys are often trafficked for agricultural work, mining, and armed conflict." [2]

"Child trafficking can occur when children are abducted, or kidnapped, from the streets, sold into sexual slavery and forced into marriage by relatives, or in any place where traffickers, pimps and recruiters prey upon a child's vulnerabilities.

"Children are often trafficked, employed and exploited because compared with adults they are more vulnerable, cheaper to hire and are less likely to demand higher wages or better working conditions. Refugee, migrant and displaced children are especially vulnerable to trafficking. Whether they are escaping war and violence or in search of opportunities, many children lack pathways to move regularly and safely.

Human Rights Council Sixty-second session 15 June –10 July 2026 - Agenda item 3

"Child trafficking in the context of statelessness, migration and forced displacement Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Siobhán Mullally

Summary

"In the present report, submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 26/8 and 53/9, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Siobhán Mullally, examines the heightened risks of trafficking faced by migrant, forcibly displaced and stateless children due to structural discrimination, racial injustice, policy failures, including restrictions on effective access to international protection, and the absence of safe, regular migration pathways.

I. Introduction

"1. Globally, one in three trafficked persons is a child. Child trafficking is a serious crime and a serious human rights violation. Impunity is widespread, however, reflecting yet again the relative invisibility of child rights in international law and in anti-trafficking law, policy and practice. For migrants, forcibly displaced and stateless children, the risks of trafficking are significantly increased. The causes are multiple and structural. Child trafficking risks are present at all stages of the migration journey and in situations of forced displacement.

"For unaccompanied and separated children, the risks are greater, particularly given weaknesses in child protection services and the prevalence of racialized discrimination in the policing of borders and migration governance. The process of transit is perhaps the most dangerous for children. Such risks are not inevitable. Rather, they result from the policy failures and the failures of political will that have limited the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, including, in particular, the commitment to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons."

To read more:
https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/62/41

We recongnize that adults and children who have been trafficked or sexually exploited should be treated as victims of a crime, not as criminals themselves. [3]

"More than 125,000 trafficking victims have been officially identified worldwide." [4]

"Around 30,000 of these victims are children, meaning about one in four detected trafficking victims globally is a child." [4]

"Trafficking in children for sexual exploitation is sustained by demand. Effective prevention requires criminal accountability, international cooperation and stronger protection systems for children." [5]



1 - *https://www.ohchr.org/fr/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-prevent-suppress-and-punish-trafficking-persons*
2 - *ILO, Combatting trafficking in children for labor exploitation*
3 - *https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/iscm/materials/traffickingvictimidentification.pdf*
4 - *https://www.iom.int/news/125000-trafficking-victims-worldwide-30000-children-iom-chief-calls-global-action*
5 - *https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/glotip.html*
6 - https://mena.iom.int/news/safeguarding-next-generations-call-end-child-trafficking

"Over the past 15 years, the proportion of identified child trafficking victims has tripled, and the number of boys among child victims has increased fivefold." [6]

Theme **10**

Prevention of Child Trafficking



Ideas for Action!

Create
a local coalition with various stakeholders to devise strategies to prevent child trafficking

Research
where the source and destination points for trafficking are in your region, and empower local communities at source and destination points to understand what creates vulnerability to trafficking and determine context specific action

Ensure
that adequate services are available for children that suffer abuse at home and raise awareness about such services. Children experiencing violence at home are more likely to run away and at a higher risk of being trafficked

Provide
recovery and rehabilitation programs and offer emergency and long-term support for all children who have been trafficked and/or subject to commercial sexual abuse. www.savethechildren.net

Lobby your government to:
Ensure access to basic social services, such as education, vocational and life-skills training, health care, and birth registration. These are all key elements to preventing trafficking

Take steps to address child trafficking both nationally and globally and penalize adults responsible for it with prison sentences

Encourage
schools to create thoughtful, well-informed campaigns to inform youth about sex and labor trafficking

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

The Youth TABLE by WWSF / FSMF - GENEVA INTL.

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and solutions to prevent and end child trafficking.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- **Find** an anti-trafficking organization and volunteer or donate to it
- **Grass-roots YOUTH action** can make a difference in helping to change many of the abuse situations described in the Kit
- **Engage** in a public campaign to inform about the root causes, different methods of traffickers and available resources and hotlines
- **Mark** the **International Missing Children Day 25 May** with public events, activities and projects aiming at raising awareness among your peers
- **Understand** how traffickers use social media. Teach others, and pledge to share credible information on your social media channels

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

Those responsible for children's well-being which include the governments, institutions, schools, services, and caregivers carry a clear duty to ensure that every child is safe, protected, and treated with dignity. Their role is not only to avoid harm, but to actively prevent violence, exploitation, and neglect, and to make sure that children and young people can access help when they need it.

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Circles of Compassion / Cercles de Compassion / Kreise des Mitgefühls / Círculos de Compasión

WWSF is pleased to invite civil society actors and NGOs around the world to join the WWSF movement for creating "Community Circles of Compassion" - safe and empowering spaces where people gather to foster healing, dialogue and collective action for a more just future. Tell us about your Compassion Circle which WWSF will feature in its global network of activities.

Check out the page no. 63 which gives you the information on how to create your Community Circle on Compassion.

The Woman's TABLE by WWSF / FSMF - GENEVA INTL.

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Woman's Table"** to unite for the building of a compassionate society and a new era for the common Good for all.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #StopChildTrafficking

Theme 11

Prevention of Child Sex Tourism

Updated version 2026



Definition
"Child Sex Tourism (CST) is "the sexual exploitation of children by a person or persons who travel from their home district, home geographical region, or home country in order to have sexual contact with children." Child sex tourists can be both domestic travellers and international tourists. Child sex tourism involves the exchange of cash, clothes, food or some other form of consideration to a child or to a third party for sexual contact." [1]

Victims of CST are often:
- Caught in poverty, from minority groups, dependent on seasonal economies
- Working children
- Children living on the street
- Children abused or neglected in the home
- AIDS orphans

The Code
"(short for "The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism")
is a multi-stakeholder initiative with the mission to provide awareness, tools and support to the tourism industry to prevent the sexual exploitation of children."

"The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism encompasses a broad spectrum of exploitation of children; including in prostitution and pornography; for the production of online child abuse material; and in the sale and trafficking of children in all its forms. Voluntourism, orphanage tourism and mega sporting events are all examples where offenders can easily access and exploit children."

"Many offenders take advantage of hotel and other tourism facilities and services to commit their crimes. That's why working with the travel and tourism industry is essential to keeping children safe and ending the impunity of offenders."

Link to the code:
https://ecpat.org/the-code/

EXPANDING GLOBAL MOMENTUM FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM (ECPAT INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025)
Excerpt:
"As global travel and tourism rapidly expand, ECPAT International is building on a worldwide commitment to protect children. While this industry is a powerful engine for economic growth and cultural exchange, it also presents significant risks, underscoring the critical role every sector must play in preventing and responding to the sexual exploitation and abuse of children. Building on a growing global movement to embed child protection at the heart of sustainable development, ECPAT launched an innovative model to create truly child-safe tourism destinations. Successfully piloted in southern Thailand, this initiative brought together tourism authorities, businesses, local communities, and, crucially, empowered children and youth as changemakers. The result is a scalable, collaborative framework, ready for replication across diverse countries and regions, demonstrating our commitment to tangible, replicable impact.

"A significant focus of ECPAT's work has been to translate policy into practice by directly addressing the risks posed by unregulated voluntourism, where well-intentioned travel programs can inadvertently place children in harm's way. Our Global Case Study on Voluntourism with Children provides governments, businesses, and organisations in origin and destination countries with concrete examples and actionable entry points. This ensures that all forms of volunteering in tourism adhere to the highest child protection standards.

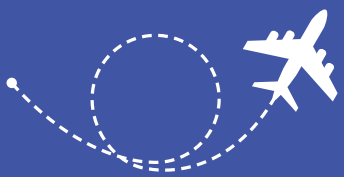
"As we look ahead to the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development in 2026, this work is particularly timely, ensuring that programs designed to help do not unintentionally create risks but offer genuine opportunities for children in local communities."

To read more:
https://ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Annual-Report_2024-2025_v9.pdf

"Child Sex Tourism destinations evolve quickly and frequently, as a result of the development of new tourism destinations and economic, social and political developments." [2]



"The number of people in modern slavery has risen significantly in the last five years. 10 million more people were in modern slavery in 2021 compared to 2016 global estimates. Women and children remain disproportionately vulnerable." [3]



"Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism is not another form of tourism but is a crime – and should be named as such. Offenders who abuse and exploit children are not 'sex tourists' – they are criminals." [4]

1 - https://ecpat.lu/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/CST-Code-Toolkit-Manual_Web.pdf
2 - Thematic Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, A/HRC/22/54
3 - https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/50-million-people-worldwide-modern-slavery-0
4 - https://ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ECPAT-Summary-paper-on-Sexual-Exploitation-of-Children-in-Travel-and-Tourism-2020.pdf

Theme **11**

Prevention of Child Sex Tourism

Ideas for Action!



- **Stay** informed and support the efforts of authorities and the tourism industry to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children
- **Support** organizations that work to protect and end commercial sex tourism and exploitation
- **Promote** awareness raising and sensitization to ensure that both travellers and tourism professionals are aware of the issue and are able to formulate a response when they encounter the problem
- **Lobby** the business community to sign the Code of conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism www.thecode.org
- **Lobby your government** to enforce legislation to prosecute tourists and travellers for sexual crime
- **Encourage** travel agencies, airlines and other travel and tourism compa- nies to hand out information on CST such as brochures, ticket folders, luggage tags, video spots, public service announcements, etc. www.ecpat.net

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and solutions to end Child Sex Tourism.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- **Learn** about safety and protection skills via workshops, school lessons, puppet shows, role playing, films and videos, storybooks and comics, etc
- **Help** spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- **Speak up** if you see, hear, or experience something that makes you uncomfortable
- If you **notice** an adult behaving suspiciously toward children in hotels, resorts, or tourist areas, tell a trusted adult or report it through the venue's child protection channel — most hotels and airlines now have one
- **Talk** to your friends and peers about what child sex tourism actually looks like — it's often hidden behind seemingly normal tourism, hospitality, or "voluntourism" activities

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

The **SDG target #16.2** can be used to remind your governments that they have agreed in 2015 *"to End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children by 2030."*

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

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  Visit our website- www.woman.ch

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #EndCST

Theme 12

Prevention of Harmful Traditional Practices

(WWSF 2026 Main Theme / 4 Pages)

Updated version 2026

Definition
"Harmful traditional practices stem from social convictions or deeply rooted traditions, culture, religion or superstition.

Below you find explanations for the first 5 selected themes for more information in the kit. These practices include:

1) Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

2) Early, Child and Forced Marriage

3) Child Widows

4) Son preference and female infanticide

5) Honor killings

Other additional harmful traditional practices include the following for you to look up:

- Acid violence
- Initiation rites
- Ritual killings
- Witchcraft
- Breast flattening
- Binding of newborns and infants
- Birth superstitions
- Dowry systems

These practices have severe consequences for the child's physical, emotional and psychological development. [1]

Article 24.3
of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child

Faith Leaders Unite in Nairobi to End FGM and Child Marriage Across Eastern and Southern Africa
Nairobi, 17 June 2025

New Regional Interfaith & Multisectoral Declaration denounces harmful practices and calls for urgent action.
"The African Council of Religious Leaders – Religions for Peace (ACRL-RfP), in collaboration with UNICEF, this week convened an Interfaith conference to advocate for increased and continued action to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage across the Eastern and Southern African region.

"A milestone outcome of the event was the endorsement of the Regional Interfaith & Multisectoral Declaration, which outlines a united commitment by faith leaders, civil society, and development partners to end FGM and child marriage across the region.

"The Declaration, titled "Faith in Action: United for the Dignity, Rights and Protection of Girls," unequivocally denounces these practices as grave violations of children's rights and calls for urgent action from governments, religious institutions, and communities."

Find more here :
https://www.unicef.org/esa/press-releases/faith-leaders-unite-nairobi-end-fgm-and-child-marriage-across-eastern-and-southern

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



Child marriage still occurs around the world and cuts across countries, cultures, religions and ethnicities.

"Culture of acceptance is the main cause of FGM. In some communities, FGM has become a cultural practice. It is thought of as a way to make girls "clean" and "beautiful" in preparation for marriage and it is a result of social norms which consider this act a necessary part of raising a girl properly." [3]

"20 countries with the highest prevalence rates of child marriage:
76% – Niger
68% – Central African Republic
67% – Chad
54% – Mali
53% – Mozambique
52% – Burkina Faso
52% – South Sudan
51% – Bangladesh
47% – Guinea
42% – Malawi
41% – Madagascar
41% – Eritrea
40% – Ethiopia
37% – Mauritania
36% – Somalia
35% – Nicaragua
34% – Sudan
34% – Uganda
34% – Honduras
23% – India" [2]



1 - Intl. NGO Council on Violence Against Children, Violating Children's Rights: Harmful Practices Based on Tradition, Culture, Religion or Superstition, 2012.
2 - https://childmarriagedata.org/global-trends/
3 - FGM Factsheet, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
4 - UNFPA, Child Marriage, 2018 https://www.unfpa.org/child-marriage-frequently-asked-questions
5 - https://data.unicef.org/resources/ending-child-marriage-a-profile-of-progress-in-india-2023/

In India, one in five young women aged 20–24 today were still married before 18, but this is down from nearly one in two in 2005/06 and India remains home to about 223 million child brides, one-third of the global total.[5]

Child marriage takes place all over the world. It even happens in developed countries – including the United States and United Kingdom. [4]

Theme 12

Prevention of Harmful Traditional Practices

(cont'd) Page 2

WWSF presents below the 5 selected harmful traditional practices

Updated version 2026

1 - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) / *Definition*

"Female genital mutilation (FGM) encompasses all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or any other injury to the female genital organs performed for non-medical reasons. These practices offer no health benefits to girls and women and can cause severe bleeding and urinary problems, subsequently leading to cysts, menstrual difficulties, infections, and complications during childbirth, as well as increasing the risk of neonatal death.

"FGM is almost always performed on minors and constitutes a violation of children's rights. These practices are also contrary to the rights to health, safety, and physical integrity; the right not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; and the right to life when they have fatal consequences.

"Female genital mutilation is a social convention (norm), the social pressure to conform to what others do or have always done, as well as the need for social recognition and the fear of rejection by the community, constitute a strong motivation to perpetuate this practice. It is often considered part of a girl's necessary education and preparation for adulthood and marriage. It can thus aim to control her sexuality in order to promote premarital virginity and marital fidelity." [1]

Female genital mutilation/cutting in Africa: A complex legal and ethical landscape
Abstract:
"While international and regional human rights instruments have recognized female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) as one of the most prevalent forms of violence against women and girls, in many African states, FGM/C is a deeply entrenched cultural practice. There is a consensus against FGM, as evidenced by its criminalization in several African countries. The mere fact that the practice continues despite legislative measures to protect women and girls against FGM raises the question of whether change can be legislated. The present article summarizes the trends and effectiveness of FGM criminalization in Africa, including prohibition of medicalization of FGM. Against the backdrop of emerging debate on medicalization of FGM as a harm reduction strategy, we also examine its complex legal and ethical implications. The article argues that while criminalization may not be the best means of stopping FGM, it creates an enabling environment to facilitate the overall strategy of African governments in eradication of the practice."
To read full report: *https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ijgo.12792*

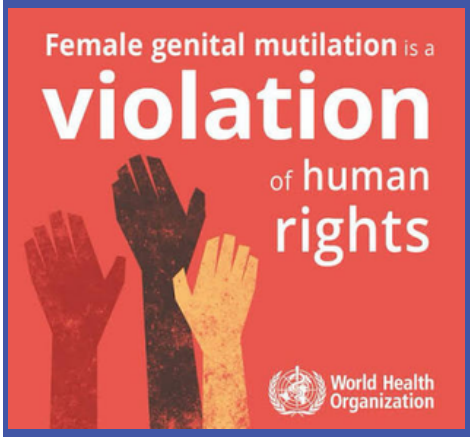
2 - Early Child, and Forced Marriage / *Definition*

"Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) is a harmful gender-based practice and a serious human rights violation that disproportionately affects girls and women. It encompasses both marriages where at least one party is under 18 and unions entered into without full, free, and informed consent." *https://www.ohchr.org/en/women/harmful-practices*

Causes and Consequences of Child Marriage
A Study of Milannagar Shantipur Village in Goalpara District in Assam, India

Abstract: "The problem of child marriage is very complex in nature. Its complexity lies in the historical moorings, traditional religious practices and some other social problems like dowry and child widowhood. . It not only affects the persons involved in it, but also affects the society and nation as a whole. Goalpara District is one of the highest child marriage prevalence districts of Assam. Child marriage affects both girls and boys and deprives children of their childhood. It also violates many of the basic rights of children."

To read the full study:
https://www.academia.edu/71414590/Causes_and_Consequences_of_Child_Marriage_A_Study_of_Milannagar_Shantipur_Village_in_Goalpara_District



"Each year, on 6 February, the world recognizes the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation" [2]

There are far-reaching consequences to the continuing practice of child marriage. Girls are often stripped of educational opportunities and subjugated to lives of chores, childbearing, and domestic violence, UNICEF says. The World Health Organisation also says the leading causes of death for girls ages 15 to 19 are complications from pre from pregnancy or childbirth. [3]

"More than 21 million adolescent girls become pregnant each year in low and middle-income countries, around half of which are unintended." [4]

WHO, UNFPA and others recommend that in formal debate FGM be described as what it is: an act that harms and damages the female genital organs, i.e. genital mutilation [5]

1 - *https://www.who.int/fr/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation*
2 - *https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2026/02/06/default-calendar/international-day-of-zero-tolerance-for-female-genital-mutilation-2026*
3 - *UNICEF https://data.unicef.org/resources/child-marriage-and-education-data-brief/*
4 - *https://www.who.int/news/item/23-04-2025-who-releases-new-guideline-to-prevent-adolescent-pregnancies-and-improve-girls--health*
5 - *UNFPA, ~~State of the World Population, 2022, https://~~www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/EN_SWP22%20report_0.pdf*

Updated version 2026

3 - Child Marriage and Child Widows

"Child widows – young girls who have suffered both child marriage and widowhood before the age of eighteen – are a neglected group of vulnerable children. They have experienced multiple violations of their human rights from their premature and unlawful marriage to the compounded effects of widowhood, poverty, illiteracy, youth and lack of education. Mostly they lack access to justice and are unable to claim their inheritance as they are unknowledgable about the law or manipulated by others. Upon the death of their husbands, many are evicted from their homes and left destitute, some bound by cultural traditions never to remarry." [1]

4 - Son Preference and Female Infanticide / *Definition*

"Son preference refers to a whole range of values and attitudes which are manifested in many different practices, the common feature of which is a preference for the male child, often with concomitant daughter neglect. It may mean that a female child is disadvantaged from birth; it may determine the quality and quantity of parental care and the extent of investment in her development; and it may lead to acute discrimination, particularly in settings where resources are scarce. Although neglect is the rule, in extreme cases son preference may lead to selective abortion or female infanticide.

"The psychological effect of son preference on women and the girl child is the internalization of the low value accorded to them by society. Scientific evidence of the deleterious effect of son preference on the health of female children is scarce, but abnormal sex ratios in infant and young child mortality rates, in nutritional status indicators and even in population figures show that discriminatory practices are widespread and have serious repercussions." [2]

5 - Honor Killings / *Definition*

"In many societies, rape victims, women suspected of engaging in premarital sex, and women accused of adultery have been murdered by their male relatives because the violation of a woman's chastity is viewed as an affront to the family's honor. It's difficult to get precise numbers on the phenomenon of honor killing; the murders frequently go unreported, the perpetrators unpunished, and the concept of family honor justifies the act in the eyes of some societies. Most honor killings occur in countries where the concept of women as a vessel of the family reputation predominates."

"So-called "honor" crime is rooted in a global culture of discrimination against women, and the deeply rooted belief that women are objects and commodities, not human beings entitled to dignity and rights equal to those of men. Women's bodies, particularly, are considered the repositories of family honor, and under the control and responsibility of her family (especially her male relatives). And large sections of society share traditional conceptions of family honor and approve of "honor" killings to preserve that honor." That's the narrative that is used to justify these brutal attacks on women and girls. The murder of women in the name of "honor" is a gender-specific form of discrimination and violence and should be regarded as part of a larger spectrum of violence against women, as well as a serious human rights violation. Violence against women in a global epidemic, and it effects women in every country, at every level of society."

Link to Amnesty International:
https://www.amnestyusa.org/the-horror-of-honor-killings-even-in-us/

"Across the globe, levels of child marriage are highest in West and Central Africa, where 1 in 3 young women were married before age 18. Lower levels of child marriage are found in Eastern and Southern Africa (29 per cent), South Asia (26 per cent), and Latin America and Caribbean (21 per cent)." [3]

"Practices of son preference, expressed in manifestations such as female infanticide, prenatal sex selection and systematic neglect of girls, have resulted in adverse female-male sex ratios and high rates of female infant mortality in South and East Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East." [4]

"In 2024, 60% of all women and girls intentionally killed worldwide were murdered by an intimate partner or other family member. Nearly 50,000 women and girls lost their lives in these killings—equivalent to one woman or girl every 10 minutes." [5]



1 - https://womenalliance.org/child-widows/
2 - https://wunrn.com/2008/03/harmful-traditional-practices-women-children-un-fact-sheet/
3 - https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage/
4 - https://lpr.adb.org/resource/depth-study-all-forms-violence-against-women-report-secretary-general-a61122add1
5 - https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2025-11/femicides-in-2024-global-estimates-of-intimate-partner-family-member-femicides-en.pdf
6 - https://www.unicef.org/about2025ARR-GPECM

An estimated 650 million girls and women alive today were married before the age of 18. Each year, 12 million girls are married before they turn 18—about one girl every three seconds. [6]

Theme **12**

Prevention of Harmful Traditional Practices

Ideas for Action!



Lobby your government to:
- Implement the CEDAW and CRC Conventions, set up the legal minimum age for marriage and require birth and marriage registrations
- Enact, strengthen and enforce laws prohibiting FGM and child marriage

Organize
educational campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the risks and consequences of harmful traditional practices and stimulating public discussion and debate. Use of mass media (TV, radio, community theatre, newspapers), individual and group consultations, information sessions, and training sessions

Promote
access to primary and secondary education to help delay child marriage

Develop
alternative coming-of-age rituals to celebrate a young girl's entry into womanhood that do not involve physically harming them

Ensure
policies and interventions around response, speak to everyone's needs, which is a fundamental step to understanding the primary and secondary effects of a health emergency on different individuals and communities. At the same time the protection needs of women and girls must be at the center of response efforts

Empower
African youth leading the way on ending harmful practices, and organize civil society discussions based on this topic

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and solutions to prevent and end harmful traditional practices.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- "We call upon all young people, activists, students and the public to advocate for change that protects girls and enforces their rights. We must speak, act and stand together, as youth, as allies, as a movement."
- "We call for courage, action, and solidarity, because change is not possible alone, but it is possible together" **(PLAN International)**
- **Raise** awareness in your community about what constitutes harmful traditional practices
- **Mark** the **International Day for Zero tolerence for FGM on 6 February**
- **Learn** about the harmful traditional practices prevailing in your community

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

"Make no mistake: there is no honor in violence against children, youth and women, and no cultural, social, or religious belief is ever a valid reason to commit violence against them, or deprive anyone of their fundamental human right to dignity."
https://www.amnestyusa.org/the-horror-of-honor-killings-even-in-us/

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

WWSF is pleased to invite civil society actors and NGOs around the world to join the WWSF movement for creating "Community Circles of Compassion" - safe and empowering spaces where people gather to foster healing, dialogue and collective action for a more just future. Tell us about your Compassion Circle which WWSF will feature in its global network of activities.

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- **How to Join?**
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#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #FGM #EndChildMarriage #EndHarmfulPractices

Theme

13 Street Children

Today, we propose to you to write to your country Leaders and Ministers.

To prepare a future where children living in the streets and extreme poverty have an opportunity to arrest living in the streets and enter public homes for children without a family. The World's billionaires are invited to provide basic funding to create cities where no longer to live in the street.

Definition

"Street Child", which was used by the Commission on Human Rights in 1994, was developed in the 1980s to describe "any girl or boy [...] for whom the street (in the broadest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults.

At that time, "street children" were

- **categorized** as either children on the street, who worked on the street and went home to their families at night;
- children of the street, who lived on the street, were functionally without family support but maintained family links;
- or abandoned children who lived completely on their own." [1]

"Street children face extreme risks and vulnerabilities, including violence, sexual exploitation, forced labor, health problems and substance abuse, to name only a few. Children living and working on the streets are among the most excluded and at-risk persons in the world and are found in almost every major city or large town."

Link:
https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/en/children-street-situations-0

"There are health issues for children who live and work on the streets. The lack of medical care and inadequate living conditions mean they are more susceptible to chronic illnesses. They may also be at greater risk of sexual and other violence, exploitation, drug use, etc." [2]

"There are many factors that contribute to children living and working on the streets. Such risk factors include poverty, urban migration, the breakdown of the family and community structure, abuse and neglect in the home, trafficking, lack of access to basic services including education, and discrimination.

"Some children are homeless with their families. They may be displaced due to poverty or natural disasters or are refugees from areas of conflict. The family will move around frequently, taking their possessions with them. Others may be children with disabilities who have been abandoned by their families, children separated from their families for long periods of time, or children affected by or orphaned due to HIV/ AIDs." [3]

What is needed:

- Stronger collaboration and networking between NGO's and governments to adrress child homelessness more effectively
- Involvement of all stakeholders including governments agencies, NGO's, community groups, youth and children themselves in planning and decision-making
- Creation of public awarness campaigns such as "Community circles of Compassion" to advance the end of children living in the street
- Education is key. UNESCO promotes universal access to quality education, aiming to ensure that all children, including those living in the streets, have access to schooling. [6]

1 - https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/Study/OHCHRBrochureStreetChildren.pdf
2 - https://theirworld.org/explai-ners/street-children
3 - https://theirworld.org/explainers/street-children
4 - http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/Study/OHCHRBrochureStreetChildren.pdf
5 - http://streetchildren.org
6 - https://www.unesco.org/en/search?category=UNESCO&text=street+children
7 - https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/international-day-for-street-children-1681215877-1

Updated version 2026

Although girls living in street situations tend to make up the minority of street children (approximately 30%), they are extremely vulnerable to abuse and violence, such as propositions from police, who ask for sexual favors in exchange for their release, or hazing initiations by or servitude for older street boys, in which physical and sexual abuse have been reported.[4]

CONSORTIUM FOR STREET CHILDREN

"The Consortium for Street Children advocates for local, regional and national policy agendas. Their network of grassroots practitioners, civil society organisations and expert researchers bring together a wealth of expertise on the most effective ways of supporting street children." [5]

International Day for Street Children - April 12, The day is marked to raise awareness for kids who are frequently left out of statistics. This day strives to provide them with medical care, education, and skills training for a better quality of life.[7]

Theme **13**

Street Children
Ideas for Action!



Use
the WHO Training Package to inform efforts working directly with street children and make sure social workers are trainedin child-centered approaches

Raise
awareness about the of the Child and work with local partners to ensure that street children have their rights respected

Support
organization/NGOs, like the Consortium for Street Children
https://www.streetchildren.org/
"We are a global alliance who act as the voice of street children to promote good practice, challenge and change the systems that cause harm"

Integrate
the voices of street-connected children into NGO planning, monitoring and evaluation

Ensure
that appropriate, child-sensitive counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms are in place so that street-connected children can report incidents of violence

Train
law-enforcement officers on child rights and child protection

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and solutions to end children living in the street.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- **Engage** with the public discourse about how to help street children — follow, share, and contribute to conversations that shift how communities see and support them
- **Learn** about how to become a Children's Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- **Mark** the International Day for Street Children on 12 April with community awareness raising events
- **Dedicate** yourself to service of young people and children, in particular the poorest and those living in difficult situations. This is the best you can give to humanity
- **Challenge** stereotypes about street-connected children in your own community — they are not "delinquents" or a public nuisance; they are children whose rights are being denied

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

- Encourage duty bearers and civil society actors to create a strategy for a new era where no child has to live on the street, an idea whose time has come.
- The time has come to make the world a better place for our children and youth who are the future changemakers.

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

WWSF is pleased to invite civil society actors and NGOs around the world to join the WWSF movement for creating "Community Circles of Compassion" - safe and empowering spaces where people gather to foster healing, dialogue and collective action for a more just future. Tell us about your Compassion Circle which WWSF will feature in its global network of activities.

Check out the page no. 63 which gives you the information on how to create your Community Circle on Compassion.

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Woman's Table"** to unite for the building of a compassionate society and a new era for the common Good for all.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #StreetChildren

Theme

14 Discrimination based on health conditions

(4 Pages: Page 1)

Updated version 2026

Definition
Health-based discrimination affects children with mental and/or physical disabilities, health conditions, mental illness, malnutrition, as well as children infected with sexually transmitted diseases. This theme addresses many different situations in which children may be discriminated against based on health conditions.

"Discrimination on the basis of disability means "any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation." [1]

In addition to discrimination, children with disabilities are at a high risk of experiencing violence.
"Children with disabilities have low level of enrollment in school, and even if they do attend, they are more likely to drop out early. Even in school, the quality and form of education received, often through separate schools, can increase exclusion and reinforce discriminatory social norms. This deprives children of their right to education and often limits their employment opportunities, participation in society, and a chance to escape poverty throughout the life cycle." [2]

"Over a billion people, or 16% of the world's population, are estimated to have a disability, and disability prevalence is higher in developing countries.
Persons with disabilities are more likely to experience adverse socioeconomic outcomes such as less education, poorer health outcomes, lower levels of employment, and higher poverty rates. Poverty may increase the risk of disability through malnutrition, inadequate access to education and health care, unsafe working conditions, a polluted environment, and lack of access to safe water and sanitation." [3]

Resolution Rights of the Child: Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education

Excerpt:
"Recognizing that global estimates for the number of children with disabilities range from 93 million to 150 million, and deeply concerned about barriers that impede access to inclusive education for children with disabilities and that a significant percentage are either out of school or in school but not learning properly owing to a lack of access to accessible learning materials, inclusive curricula, teacher support and assistive devices, making children with disabilities, especially girls with disabilities, one of the most marginalized and excluded groups with regard to education." [4]

"Children with disabilities
"Children with disabilities face poorer health outcomes, can have a delayed developmental process, are at higher risk of communicable diseases and have lower chances to benefit from life-saving measures. The available evidence points to the fact that children with disabilities are more likely to report serious illnesses than children without disabilities."

Link:
https://www.unicef.org/media/128976/file/UNICEF%20Fact

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



1/10
Worldwide, one in every 10 children has a disability – and the proportion is even higher in areas with armed conflict or disasters.[5]

When a disabled child does get the opportunity to receive a quality education, doors are opened. This enables them to secure other rights throughout their lifetime, fostering better access to jobs, health and other services.[6]

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.[7]



1 - https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-persons-disabilities
2 - https://www.right-to-education.org/issue-page/marginalised-groups/persons-disabilities
3- https://www.worldbank.org/ext/en/topic/social-development/disability-inclusion
4 - https://www.right-docs.org/doc/a-hrc-res-40-14/
5 - https://www.unicef.org/disabilities/inclusive-humanitarian-action-guidance
6 - https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/children_disability_rights.pdf
7 - https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-persons-disabilities
8 - https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-comment-no3-article-6-women-and-girls

Link to the UN-General Comment No. 3 on Women and Girls with Disabilities. [8]

Theme

14 Discrimination based on health conditions

(Page 2) (cont'd)

"According to **Article 23 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**, there is the obligation of States to ensure the assistance required by children with disabilities for achieving their fullest possible social integration and individual development." [1]

Although the right to participation is exactly the same for all children, there are additional barriers children with disabilities face. Children with disabilities are not a homogenous group. Different impairments and abilities, as well as factors such as gender, age, culture, language and access to education will all impact the support needed to achieve inclusive participation.

It is quite effective to engage adults with disabilities in helping to create inclusive participation.They have the greatest expertise in understanding the barriers that exist and how to overcome them.



International Day of Persons with Disabilities – IDPS
"The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992, by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. It aims to promote the rights and well- being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006, has further advanced the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international development frameworks." [2]

"On 3 December 2025, the United Nations commemorated the **International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)** under the theme **"Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress."**
This year's observance builds on the momentum of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2), held in Doha from 4–6 November 2025, where world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to building a just, inclusive, and equitable world. The Doha Political Declaration reminds us that advancing social development is impossible without the full inclusion of all segments of society. [3]

"There are 6 General Types of Disabilities for Children

1 - Physical Disability
Includes physiological, functional and/or mobility impairments. Can be fluctuating or intermittent, chronic, progressive or stable, visible or invisible. Some involve extreme pain, some less, some none at all

2 - Visual Disability
"Legally Blind" describes an individual who has 10% or less of normal vision. Only 10% of people with a visual disability are actually totally blind. The other 90% are described as having a "Visual Impairment."

3 - Hearing Disability
"Deaf" describes an individual who has severe to profound hearing loss.

"Deafened" describes an individual who has acquired a hearing loss in adulthood.

"DeafBlind" describes an individual who has both a sight and hearing loss.

"Hard of Hearing" describes an individual who uses their residual hearing and speech to communicate.

4 - Intellectual Disability
Characterized by intellectual development and capacity that is significantly below average. Involves a permanent limitation in a person's ability to learn.

5 - Learning Disabilities
A learning disability is essentially a specific and persistent disorder of a person's central nervous system affecting the learning process. This impacts a person's ability to either interpret what they see and hear, or to link information from different parts of the brain.

6 - Mental Health Disability
Mental health disabilities can take many forms, just as physical disabilities do. Unlike many physical illnesses though, all mental illnesses can be treated." [4]

1 - Convention on the Rights of the Child www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx
2 - www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/news/dspd/idpd. html
3 - https://globaldisabilityfund.org/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities-2025/
4 - changingpaces.com/6-general-types-of-disabilities/

Theme 14

Discrimination based on health conditions

(Page 3) (cont'd)



How to talk and inform children about disabilities?

• "Some children are born with disabilities. Make it clear that sometimes, babies are born with disabilities. But at other times, people develop disabilities later in life.

• Children with disabilities aren't sick. Explain that a child with cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy isn't sick. You don't want the child to think he might catch a disability.

• There's nothing wrong with people with disabilities. A child may ask questions like, "What's wrong with that girl?" Explain that a child may have trouble talking or difficulty walking but that doesn't mean there's something "wrong" with her.

• A physical disability doesn't mean someone has a cognitive disability. Sometimes, children assume someone with a physical disability may also struggle to communicate or may not be smart. Make it clear that just because someone's body doesn't work the same doesn't mean their brain is impaired.

• Prepare for tough questions that children ask. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know," if you don't have the answer. Or, try saying, "I'll have to think about that and get back to you," if you need some time to gather your thoughts before giving an answer." [1]

Equal Opportunities for every child

- "Recognise that every child has a contribution to make to the group or activity – but that they will make their contributions in different ways.
- Encourage the children to understand and value each other's differences.
- Encourage children with disabilities to contribute equally and to share the same obligations – for example, volunteering to be involved in specific activities, asking for feedback from the group, speaking to the media, meetings with policy-makers.
- Allow children with disabilities to take the same risks as other children in order to help them gain confidence. Over-protection denies them the chance to explore, discover what is possible, and learn how to keep themselves safe.
- Do not help children with disabilities unless they need it. Too much support denies them the chance to become independent and can feel patronising." [2]

"Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities to eliminate discrimination based on health

Inclusive Education is the implementation of the "policy and process" that allows all children to participate in all programmes. "Policy" means that disabled children should be accepted without any restrictions in all the educational programmes meant for other children. It denotes equality, and accepts every child with his own unique capabilities. T-his principle must be accepted by all the international, national and local programmes. The "process" of inclusion denotes the ways in which the system makes itself welcoming to all.

In terms of inclusion of disabled children, it means the shift in services from "care of the disabled child" to his "education and personal development". Inclusive education goes one step further by defining these children as "children with special needs" who need special attention, rather than children who are"` impaired" or "handicapped". Inclusive education
is nothing but "Making the programme for disabled children as an integral part of the general educational system rather than a system within general education." [3]

"Children with disabilities and their families require different types of support services, especially in the education and health sectors.

They include assistive technology, communication support and individualized education plans, and information and assistance to families of children with disabilities in need. For too long, children and adolescents with disabilities have been mere recipients of "special care", when this is available at all, which resulted in widespread segregation, institutionalization and neglect. Families need help to understand disability in a positive way and to know how to help support their children to be autonomous and independent. Limited understanding of care can hinder their right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity, and to be provided with disability- and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right." [4]

1 - https://www.verywellfamily.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-disabilities-4142349
2 - https://www.childtochild.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2015/04/Toolkit_for_monitoring_and_evaluating_childrens_participation_book_4_en.pdf
3 - http://www.dinf.ne.jp/doc/english/asia/resource/apdrj/z13fm0300/z13fm0309.html
4 - https://www.refworld.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/en/2017-2/58b009cd4.pd

Theme

14 Discrimination based on health conditions



Ideas for Action!

Educate
students on the problem of media messages that portray discriminatory representations, and stigmatize disability, health conditions, and mental illness

Lobby your government
to take the costs associated with children with disability into account in the creation of social policies through social grants, transportation subsidies, etc. (UNICEF)

Take action
to help end overreliance on institutionalization for children with disabilities, and support the development of family-based and community-based rehabilitation

Dismantle barriers
to exclusion, and promote the need to ensure that schools, health facilities, and public spaces are built to facilitate access and the participation of all children

Be sure
that children with disabilities are at the center of efforts to build inclusive societies, and consulted to hear their needs and whether or not they are being met, both through NGO work and creation of government policies

Support
meaningful engagement of women and girls at the community level, including their networks and organizations, to ensure efforts and response are not further discriminating and excluding those most at risk

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and find solutions to end discrimination based on health conditions.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- **Learn** how discrimination based on health condition, disability or stigma shows up in your school, community, and online spaces, and talk about it openly with peers and trusted adults
- **Mark** the International **Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December)** by organizing youth-led activities that promote accessibility, inclusion, and respect for people with disabilities
- **Don't** stigmatize your peers or tease anyone about being sick; remember that the virus doesn't follow geographical boundaries, ethnicities, age or ability or gender (UNICEF)
- **Young people** should be recognized as equal in decison-making processes and their engagement should be facilitated. UN Policy Brief 3 (2023)

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

• Objectives of policies on inclusive education
Governments have to give the highest policy and budgetary priority to improve their education systems to enable them to include all children regardless of individual differences or difficulties.
Link:
https://www.dinf.ne.jp/english/

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

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#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #EndDiscriminationHealth

Theme 15

Prevention of Addiction & Substance Abuse

Definition of Addiction & Substance Abuse

"Addiction is a treatable, chronic medical disease involving complex interactions among brain circuits, genetics, the environment, and an individual's life experiences. People with addiction use substances or engage in behaviors that become compulsive and often continue despite harmful consequences.

Prevention efforts and treatment approaches for addiction are generally as successful as those for other chronic diseases." [1]

"Substance abuse refers to the use of substances, including alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs, pharmaceutical drugs, and other harmful substances used for non-medical purposes in a way that is harmful or hazardous. Substance abuse often leads to addiction, but can also pose a problem without the physical dependence of addiction." [2]

"The term "drug" includes any natural or synthetic substance listed in the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. Psychoactive substances are substances that affect mental processes when ingested and include both illicit and licit substances. In conflict regions, drugs are often used to retain children and youth as child soldiers, and children are also abducted to become traffickers in the drug trade." [3]

"There is a strong link between substance abuse and youth engagement in criminal activities. An emerging challenge is "new psychoactive substances" (NPS), which mimic effects of controlled substances, but are not currently regulated by International drug treaties." [4]

"Addiction and Substance Abuse is a global problem that causes a disproportionate amount of harm to children and young people. The problem spans all regions of the world, manifests in different forms, and relates to both illicit and licit drugs and substances. There is a strong correlation between children and youth exposed to drugs on one hand, and an increased risk of physical and sexual abuse, neglect, anxiety, depression, delinquency, and educational problems, on the other." [5]

Introduction:

"For this important subject, we wish to suggest that you look up the MENTOR Foundation, the leading international NGO working globally to prevent drug abuse. **Mission: To empower young people and prevent drug abuse.**

Good communication is key between you and your child. It is very important that children feel that they can speak to you and other family members about drugs and alcohol and about the possible risks of using them.There are a range of good resources that support families in improving their communication."

"The Australian Drug Foundation outlines key steps to help start the conversation on substance abuse with a child.

Get the facts. There are many myths about alcohol and other drugs. It is better to use evidence-based sources such as those listed in the 'Know the Facts around Drugs and Alcohol' section below, rather than to rely on clichés such as "you will become an addict.

Be clear in your beliefs. Based on the evidence, clarify your view of alcohol and other drugs. For example, it's up to you whether your child drinks at home or not, but when making your decision consider the national laws around drinking.

Look for opportunities to start the conversation. Use relevant topics on the TV and radio or people you see who might be affected by alcohol and drugs as an opportunity to talk about these issues. It's best to start talking about alcohol and drugs early.

Ask questions. Find out your child's views about alcohol and other drugs. Talk about what they would do in different situations."

Link to full article:
http://mentorinternational.org

1 - https://www.asam.org/quality-care/definition-of-addiction
2 - https://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/substance-abuse
3 - https://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1988_en.pdf
4 - https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/NPS_Report.pdf
5 - https://www.incb.org/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR2013/English/AR_2013_E.pdf
6 - https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/06/1167817
7 - https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12230417/
8 - https://www.unodc.org/unodc/frontpage/2025/June/wdr25.html
9 - https://data.unodc.org/wdr2026

Updated version 2026

An estimated 331 million people used drugs in 2024, equivalent to 6.2 per cent of the world's population aged 15 to 64, up from 5.2 per cent a decade ago. [6]

"Adolescents who experience cyberbullying are about twice as likely to start using substances such as alcohol, nicotine and cannabis within a year compared with those who are not cyberbullied."[7]

118 new psychoactive substances appeared on the market for the first time in 2024.[9]

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030





Commonly used psychoactive substances include alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, cannabis, opioids, amphetamines, cocaine and other stimulants, sedatives and hypnotics, hallucinogens, and inhalants.[8]

Theme **15**

Prevention of Addiction and Substance Abuse

Ideas for Action!



Create
a platform to publicly highlight innovative and effective drug and substance abuse prevention programs for children and youth

Involve
children and youth in advocating for their own needs with regard to substance abuse prevention (interactive theater, art projects, child-friendly media, opportunities to address needs to government representatives, etc.)

Learn and integrate
parenting techniques to help prevent substance abuse of your children

Develop
national standards for schools, employers and healthcare professionals to implement substance abuse prevention and education policies into their programming

Lobby
local authorities to ensure the youth voice is heard, and use social media, TV, and press to inform adults about how drugs and substance abuse affect children and youth

Ensure
that juvenile justice for substance abuse upholds the rights of the child

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and find solutions to end addiction and substance abuse.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- **Learn** the risks and understand how substance abuse affects health, relationships, and future opportunities, and share this knowledge to raise awareness in your community
- **Create** safe, regular meet-ups for people in recovery to reduce isolation and help prevent relapse
- **Encourage** open, non-judgmental conversations about substance use and let people know where to find help
- **Visit and learn** from the Mentor program for classmates suffering from addiction and substance abuse *http://preventionhub.org/en*
- **Work** with schools, clinics, and community groups to spread information about treatment and prevention resources

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

"Develop national drug prevention systems that reach children as early as possible in their development and focus on building resilience in accordance with the UNODC/WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, helping the children of today grow into the healthy adolescents of tomorrow."

Link:
https://www.unodc.org/res/wdr2022/MS/WDR22_Booklet_1.pdf

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

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#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventAddiction

Theme

16 Prevention of Malnutrition

Definition

"Malnutrition refers to deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and/ or nutrients. The term malnutrition addresses 3 broad groups of conditions:

- undernutrition, which includes wasting (low weight-for-height), stunting (low height-for-age) and underweight (low weight-for-age);
- micronutrient-related malnutrition, which includes micronutrient deficiencies (a lack of important vitamins and minerals) or micronutrient excess; and
- overweight, obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some cancers)." [1]

"**Malnutrition during childhood** can lead not only to long-term health problems but also to educational challenges and limited work opportunities in the future. Malnourished children often have smaller babies when they grow up.It can also slow recovery from wounds and illnesses, and it can complicate diseases such as measles, pneumonia, malaria, and diarrhoea. It can leave the body more susceptible to disease." [2]

World hunger is classified as the want or scarcity of food in a country. Hunger is also referred to as malnutrition, including under-nutrition and over-nutrition. There are three forms of undernutrition: underweight, stunting, and wasting. Being underweight, or having a low weight for a child's age, can imply both stunting and wasting.

"Studies show that decreased malnutrition leads to higher school completion rates. Providing nutritious food at school is an effective way to improve literacy rates and help children break out of this cycle of poverty. One hundred and seventy one million people could be lifted out of poverty if all students in low-income countries acquired basic reading skills." [3]

The right to food is protected under international humanitarian law. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Art. 25) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (Art. 11) ensure that the right to food is a human right.

However, in much of the world, hunger and malnutrition are not being treated as a human rights issue. Data shows that there is enough food produced annually to feed the entire global population, yet hundreds of millions of people still go to bed hungry each night.

SDG Target 2.2



"Nutrition is a critical part of health and development. Better nutrition is related to improved infant, child and maternal health, stronger immune systems, safer pregnancy and childbirth, lower risk of non-communicable diseases (such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease), and longevity."

"Healthy children learn better. People with adequate nutrition are more productive and can create opportunities to gradually break the cycles of poverty and hunger."

"Malnutrition, in every form, presents significant threats to human health. Today the world faces a double burden of malnutrition that includes both undernutrition and overweight, especially in low-and middle-income countries."

Link:
https://www.who.int/health-topics/nutrition/publications

Updated version 2026

8.2%

An estimated 8.2 percent of the global population, or about 673 million people, experienced hunger in 2024, down from 8.5 percent in 2023 and 8.7 percent in 2022. [4]

In 2024, an estimated 150.2 million children under 5 were stunted, 42.8 million were wasted, 12.2 million were severely wasted, and 35.5 million were overweight.[7]



Child malnutrition remains a major concern in West and Central Africa. In 2025, an estimated 5.8 million children were in need of treatment for severe acute malnutrition. Conflict, displacement, food insecurity, economic pressures and climate-related shocks continue to put children at heightened risk of malnutrition. [8]



1 - https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition
2 - https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/179316.php
3 - https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutritional-status-and-food-safety-and-events/joint-child-malnutrition-estimates/latest-estimates
4 - https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/global-hunger-declines--but-rises-in-africa-and-western-asia--un-report/en
5 - https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutritional-status-and-food-safety-and-events/joint-child-malnutrition-estimates/latest-estimates
6 - hhttps://data.unicef.org/resources/levels-and-trends-in-child-mortality-2025
7 - https://iris.who.int/server/api/core/bitstreams/a0aad785-4ff8-43d7-bdf9-be6c9a221e8e/content
8 - https://www.unicef.org/media/179691/file/WCAR-Child-Rights-and-Humanitarian-Dashboard%28January-December-2025%29.pdf.pd

35.5 million children under 5 years of age were overweight worldwide in 2024.[5]

More than 100,000 children aged 1–59 months died directly from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2024. [6]

Theme **16**

Prevention of Malnutrition

Ideas for Action!



- **Monitor**
  children's growth by regularly weighing a child to identify growth faltering before it becomes a serious issue
- **Offer**
  a nutritious meal at school to improve attendance and literacy rates and help poor children break out of poverty
- **Promote**
  the use of breastfeeding (unless a mother is HIV infected), especially since breast milk protects babies from illness and ensures healthy physical and psychological development
- **Introduce**
  diet and exercise-related programs in schools to discourage over-nutrition
- **Uphold**
  the importance of maternal nutrition before and during pregnancy to prevent low birth weight
- **Promote**
  sustainable food production and consumption, as well as good hygiene practices and access to clean drinking water

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

The Youth TABLE by WWSF / FSMF - GENEVA INTL.

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and find solutions to prevent and end malnutrition.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- **Learn** about your right to dignity, health and adequate food under the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **Advocate** for targeted nutrition actions such as micronutrient supplements, deworming and school-based screening for undernutrition and obesity, especially for adolescents and vulnerable groups
- **Promote** healthy food environments by campaigning for nutritious school meals, safe drinking water and limits on marketing of unhealthy foods and sugary drinks around schools
- **Engage** families and communities by involving parents, local farmers and health workers in school gardens, nutrition workshops and community campaigns so changes last beyond the classroom

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

Duty bearers must urgently scale up and protect nutrition services, expand school meals and regulate unhealthy food environments, because in 2025 at least 14 million children faced disruptions to critical nutrition support and obesity has now overtaken underweight as the main form of malnutrition among school-aged children.
https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/least-14-million-children-face-disruptions-critical-nutrition-services-2025-unicef

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Circles of Compassion / Cercles de Compassion / Kreise des Mitgefühls / Círculos de Compasión

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#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventMalnutrition

Theme 17

Prevention of ICTs Dangers

Updated version 2026

Definition

"**Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** refers to a broader term for **Information Technology (IT)**, which refers to all communication technologies, including the Internet, wireless networks, cell phones, computers, software, middleware, video-conferencing, social networking, and other media applications and services enabling users to access, retrieve, store, transmit, and manipulate information in a digital form." [1]

"The Internet and ICTs heighten the potential impact of existing forms of violence, abuse and exploitation in, among others, the following ways:

- **Children's exposure** to disturbing or potentially harmful content on websites, online forums and blogs
- **Sale and sexual exploitation of children**, which is committed or facilitated through new technologies
- **Proliferation of child sexual abuse images** and materials and with this, increased levels of harm for the victims and increased levels of profits for criminal enterprises
- **Development of virtual networks of individuals** whose principal interest lies in child sexual abuse or child trafficking and other forms of exploitation
- **Inappropriate contact with children** and 'grooming' by unknown adult(s)
- **Exposure to violent video games** is linked to delinquency, fighting at school and during their free time as well as violent criminal behavior
- **Online pressure to make purchases** or pay for services
- **Overuse of ICTs and Internet 'addiction'**
- **Generating and broadcasting** of sexual content involving children
- **Children's own involvement** in cybercrime and online scams." [2]

Your child might be addicted to video games if they exhibit the following signs:

- Talk about their game(s) incessantly
- Play for hours on end I played for up to 14 hours a day when possible
- Get defensive when told about their excessive gaming habit
- Get angry or explosive when made to stop
- Sacrifice basic needs (e.g., sleep) in order to game
- Hide or downplay time spent gaming
- Seem preoccupied, depressed, or lonely. [3]

The Impact of Digital Technology on a Child's Cognitive and Social Development: Implications for Education

Introduction

"Nowadays, children are introduced to digital technologies before they learn to talk or crawl. Chances are that their birth was recorded using a smartphone, and their developmental milestones were captured using digital technologies. Almost every child in the United States has access to the internet in their homes.[1] Traditional media, like television and radio, are gradually getting replaced by interactive digital technologies that offer instant access to information and entertainment."

"New applications, platforms, and technologies are emerging at a pace researchers and tech-savvy individuals find difficult to keep up with.[2] As much as the current digital technologies offer opportunities for personalized learning and global connection, they also present challenges such as excessive screen time, questionable content quality, and unequal access across socioeconomic classes. These downsides have sparked ongoing debates and research regarding the impact of digital technology on children's development, particularly given their rapid growth and limited ability to make well-informed decisions."

To read full report:
https://premierscience.com/pjp-25-808/

What is sexting?

Sexting means using your phone, computer, or camera to take or send sexy messages or images — usually selfies. You might think that sexting is just a harmless way to flirt or show your boyfriend or girlfriend that you're into them. But sexts can outlast your crush or even your relationship. Once you click send, there's no way to get your pictures and messages back. Maybe your ex or friend will delete them after the relationship ends or you have a fight, but what if they don't?

Sexting can cause serious problems whether you send them or share them. Thepics might get sent around or posted online, where people like your family, teachers, and friends could see them. Sharing these pictures or messages without permission is a serious violation of privacy and isn't ok. And if the pictures you send or share are of someone under 18 (even if that's you), you could even be arrested for child pornography, which is a serious crime. [4]

"82% of young people aged 15–24 used the Internet globally in 2025, compared with 72% of the rest of the population." [5]

1 - https://aims.fao.org/information-and-communication-technologies-ict
2 - https://www.unodc.org/documents/Cybercrime/Study_on_the_Effects.pdf
3 - https://www.parent.com/how-to-tell-if-your-child-is-addicted-to-video-games-and-how-to-help/
4 - https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/teens/bullying-safety-privacy/all-about-sexting
5 - https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/PR-2025-11-17-Facts-and-Figures.aspx
6 - https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/un_documents
7 - https://docs.un.org/en/A/78/214

"An adequate response to the full range of risks that children face online requires more leadership, commitment, and accountability from every component of the ecosystem." [7]

Guidelines for parents and educators on Child Online Protection. [6]

Theme **17**

Prevention of ICTs Dangers

Ideas for Action!



- **Teach**
  your children about basic internet safety, including never sharing your password or address, never arranging to meet someone without telling a parent, how to report hateful content, etc.
- **Encourage**
  the development of effective policy responses, appropriate monitoring tools, counseling and complaint mechanisms
- **Promote**
  training of law enforcement officials, teachers, child protection officers and other professionals working with children
- **Highlight**
  the role of the corporate sector to introduce measures to enhance online safety
  http://www.itu.int/en
- **Involve and empower**
  children and youth through the use of new technologies and social media, encouraging them to share ideas and knowledge of exploitative behaviors and ways to stop them, and to report suspicious behavior
- **Limit**
  screen time, and monitor their children's access online, while also ensuring that children are safe online

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and find solutions to prevent ICT Dangers.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- **Speak** out about harmful content you see online by reporting it to the platform, blocking the source and telling a trusted adult, teacher or helpline so action can be taken
- **Learn** and practice basic internet safety, such as using strong passwords, checking privacy settings, avoiding unknown links and downloads, and logging out of shared devices
- **Mark Safer Internet Day (10 February)** with school assemblies, online challenges, poster campaigns and peer-led workshops that promote digital rights, responsible behaviour and reporting mechanisms
- **Use** digital tools to help young people with disabilities learn about their rights, run online and offline campaigns, and increase their visibility as leaders in preventing ICT dangers
- **Co-create** youth-friendly guidelines, manuals and videos on safe internet use in your own languages and formats, and share them through schools, clubs and community centres

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

Why is combating online child abuse important?
More than 30% of all internet users are children and with the expansion of the broadband it will radically increase. Child safety is everyone's business!

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

WWSF is pleased to invite civil society actors and NGOs around the world to join the WWSF movement for creating "Community Circles of Compassion" - safe and empowering spaces where people gather to foster healing, dialogue and collective action for a more just future. Tell us about your Compassion Circle which WWSF will feature in its global network of activities.

Check out the page no. 63 which gives you the information on how to create your Community Circle on Compassion.

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Woman's Table"** to unite for the building of a compassionate society and a new era for the common Good for all.
- **How to Join?**
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#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventDangersICTs

Theme

18 Prevention of Abduction

Updated version 2026

Definition

"**Abduction (or kidnapping)** refers to the unlawful removal, seizure, capture, apprehension, or enforced disappearance of a child either temporarily or permanently. Whether it's an intentional act of violence or retaliation, to instill fear among populations, or to forcibly recruit and/or sexually abuse children, abduction is one of the most pervasive violations committed against children in situations of armed conflict." [1]

Child abduction can take various forms:

- Abduction by strangers or people outside the family, for criminal purposes (ransom, rape, torture, murder, etc.)
- Abduction by strangers wishing to rear the child as their own (mostly the case of persons with psychological problems)
- Abduction by a family member or relative, usually parents (assisted or not by accomplices)

"**Article 9 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** calls on State Parties to "ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will." In many countries, child abduction rings are in operation, and children are abducted to be sold into forced labor or forced begging, to be recruited into armed forces or drug smuggling gangs, to be sold into illegal adoption, to be trafficked for sexual exploitation, or to be forced into marriage." [2]

"In almost all armed conflicts, mass population displacements, natural disasters and other crises, a number of children become separated from their families or from other adults responsible for them. These children form one of the most vulnerable groups in these situations, often deprived of care and protection." [3]

"**Yet, in most cases children are abducted by close relatives.** If a child is taken or held hostage abroad by one parent, against the will of the other parent and without being entitled to determine the child's place of residence alone, the child has been abducted. This act has harmful effects on the child, who is suddenly taken out of his familiar surroundings and held hostage to a parental conflict." [4]

The NGO **"Internation Centre for Missing and Exlpoited Children" (ICMEC)**, trained over 20,000+ child-protection specialists on how to respond to and investigate child abduction, sexual abuse and exploitation.
https://www.icmec.org/

Report of the UN Secretary-General (2025) Children and armed conflict
Excerpt of statistics:

Example of Nigeria
(abductions and recruitments)

306. "The United Nations verified 2,436 grave violations against 1,037 children (386 boys, 651 girls) and 269 grave violations that occurred in previous years."

307. "Some 974 children (345 boys, 629 girls) were recruited and used, mostly following abduction (966), by Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'Awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) (682), Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) (282), Bakura (7) and the Nigerian Security Forces (3)."

308. "Some 732 children (421 boys, 311 girls) were detained by the Nigerian Security Forces for their or their parents' alleged association with armed groups. All were released."

309. "The killing (29) and maiming (20) of 49 children (34 boys, 15 girls) was attributed to JAS (19), ISWAP (19), unidentified perpetrators (10) and the Nigerian Security Forces (1), including caused by explosive ordnance (33)."

310. "Cases of sexual violence, all of which involved forced marriage, against 419 children (7 boys, 412 girls) by JAS (304), ISWAP (114) and Bakura (1) were verified. 311. Three attacks on schools (1) and hospitals (2) by ISWAP (2) and JAS (1) were verified."

Link:
https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/sites/default/files/2025/06/Secretary-General-Annual-Report-on-Children-and-Armed-Conflict-Covering-2024.pdf

103
countries are signatories to the Hague International Child Abduction Convention.[5]

"In 2024, the United Nations verified the abduction of 4,573 children in situations of armed conflict. Abduction was one of the six grave violations against children monitored by the United Nations" [6]

"Mass abduction of children have been on the rise for recent years as a tactic to terrorize or target political, ethnic and religious goups." [7]



1 - *https://www.unicef.org/children-under-attack/six-grave-violations-against-children*
2 - *https://assets.hcch.net/docs/e86d9f72-dc8d-46f3-b3bf-e102911c8532.pdf*
3 - *https://www.unicef.org/turkiye/en/reports/inter-agency-guiding-principles-unaccompanied-and-separated-children*
4 - *https://www.ssi-suisse.org/en/international-child-abduction/353*
5 - *https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/status-table/?cid=24*
6 - *https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/sites/default/files/2025/06/Secretary-General-Annual-Report-on-Children-and-Armed-Conflict-Covering-2024.pdf*
7 - *https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/six-grave-violations/abduction-of-children/*
8 - *https://assets.hcch.net/docs/e86d9f72-dc8d-46f3-b3bf-e102911c8532.pdf*

CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION.[8]

Theme **18**

Prevention of Abduction



Ideas for Action!

- **Set up and/or support**
  family mediation systems helping adults to peacefully resolve conflicts related to divorce, child custody. For example, create spaces allowing people to share their concerns in the presence of a third party

- **Share**
  the Hague Convention Guide to Good Practice with local and national policy makers https://www.hcch.net/en/ publications-and-studies/publications2/guides-to-good-practice

- **Use**
  the Hague Convention Guide to Good Practice Part III: Prevention Measures to inform the basis for the creation of a child abduction prevention plan and strategy
  http://www.hcch.net/upload/abdguideiii_e.pdf

- **Create**
  school programs to sensitize children, youth, parents and teachers on issues related to the prevention of abduction. Such issues may include the risks of the Internet, sexual abuse, and the protection of vulnerable groups

- **Circulate**
  the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the other international or regional treaties protecting the right of children to live with their families

- **Contribute**
  to the diffusion of emergency helplines among children as well as adults

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

The Youth TABLE by WWSF / FSMF - GENEVA INTL.

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and find solutions to end abductions.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- **Learn and promote** local safety rules in your school and neighbourhood, such as safe routes, emergency contacts and where to go for help, and share this information with friends and family
- **Create** youth trust circles or clubs where young people can talk openly about safety concerns, online and offline, and decide together how to respond to suspicious behaviour
- **Never** go anywhere with someone you or your parents do not know and trust; if you feel pressured, say no, move to a safe place and contact a trusted adult immediately
- **Mark International Missing Children's Day (25 May)** with youth-led public events, social media campaigns and community projects that raise awareness about abduction risks and promote prevention and support for affected families

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

Leaders need to be aware and need to create professional surveillance teams that help to regulate / end in many countries child abduction rings which are in operation and involved in abducting children to be sold into forced labor or forced begging.

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Circles of Compassion / Cercles de Compassion / Kreise des Mitgefühls / Círculos de Compasión

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#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #StopAbduction

Theme 19

Juvenile Justice & Children deprived of liberty

Definition

“Deprivation of liberty means any form of detention or imprisonment or the placement of a person under the age of 18 in a public or private custodial setting, from which this person is not permitted to leave at will, by order of any judicial, adminisitrative or other public authority.”

Source:

UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty 1990 (Havana Rules)

Background Information

UN Study on violence against Children

"The Global Study was carried out in close cooperation with Governments, civil society organisations and various UN agencies, including OHCHR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNHCR, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children in armed conflict, and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The UN Global Study will take into account views from around the world through national and regional consultations in order to realize the endeavor of drastically changing the lives of all children deprived of liberty.”

"What are the core objectives of the UN Global Study?

1. To bridge the data gap on the unknown number of children deprived of liberty worldwide.
2. To raise awareness about the risks of deprivation of liberty for children and society as a whole and promote a change in stigmatizing attitudes and behavior towards children concerned.
3. To collect best practices and develop recommendations for law, policy, and practice to safeguard the rights of children concerned, and prevent as well as significantly reduce the number of children deprived of liberty through effective non-custodial alternatives

What are the key focus areas?

I. Children deprived of liberty within the administration of justice
II.Children deprived of liberty for migration-related reasons
III. Children living in places of detention with their parents
IV. Children deprived of liberty in institutions
V. Children deprived of liberty in the context of armed conflict
VI. Children deprived of liberty on national security grounds."[1]

"Children around the world who are arrested and detained for alleged wrongdoing are often not given the protection they are entitled under international law.

In many countries, children are charged and sentenced for acts that should not be crimes such as skipping school, running away from home, having consensual sex, and seeking or having an abortion. Some states also treat certain children as if they were adults during their trial and sentencing.

Sentences of death, life without parole, and corporal punishment are still handed down in some countries, in violation of international law."

UN Convention of the Rights of the Child Article 37 - Torture and deprivation of liberty

"States Parties shall ensure that:

(a) No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below 18 years of age;

(b) No child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily. The arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time;

(c) Every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age. In particular every child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interest not to do so and shall have the right to maintain contact with his or her family through correspondence and visits, save in exceptional circumstances (...)."

Link:

https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child

Updated version 2026

The UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (2019) estimates that every year, 410,000 are de jure deprived of liberty, while 1.41 million are de facto deprived of liberty in the administration of justice, including remand centers and prisons or in police custody. Globally, an estimated 259,000 children were in detention on any given day in 2024. This is only the tip of the iceberg, as data on children in the administration of the justice system is not available from all countries.[3]

Worldwide, 15 per 100,000 children in conflict with the law were deprived of their liberty in 2024. North America had the highest rate of children in detention, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean.
(UNICEF 2025)



1 - https://childrendeprivedofliberty.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Questionnaire_EN.pdf
2 - https://www.hrw.org/topic/childrens-rights/juvenile-justice#
3 - https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/en/media/586

Theme **19**

Juvenile Justice & Children deprived of liberty

Ideas for Action!



Promote
legislation that includes legal safeguards to protect the child's best interests; the child's right to freedom from violence and discrimination; to free and safe participation in proceedings, and to legal and other relevant assistance

Emphasize
the necessity to improve prevention of offenses and contribute to the creation of structures, tools and projects helping children to discover and use their potential in areas other than criminal activity

Lobby
your governments to strengthen legislation and practice that prioritize diversion, non-custodial measures and alternatives to deprivation of liberty for children in conflict with the law

Encourage
informal justice systems, mechanisms such as religious authorities, traditional leaders, customary courts, tribal/clan social structures and community forums to align traditional conflict resolution practice with child-sensitive justice

Promote
effective, child-centred coordination among all justice and child-protection actors including police, social welfare services, schools, NGOs, local mediators and community volunteers

1 ACTION FOR YOUTH

The Youth TABLE by WWSF / FSMF - GENEVA INTL.

- **Create or Join "The WWSF Youth Table"** to share ideas and find solutions to end children deprived of liberty.
- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch / https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form

- Mark the World Day for Prevention of child abuse -19 November and use the annual Poster to announce your local activities and events to increase participation in ending violence against children and youth
- Create a youth group or a "Youth Table" and use the 19 Days Campaign themes to speak out about violence and how to end it
- Use the 20 November to remind everyone of the Children's Rights Convention
- Learn about diversion and alternatives to detention — community service, restorative justice, and rehabilitation programs — and advocate for your local justice system to use them instead of automatically detaining children

Youth Age : 15 to 24 years. (1.2 billion estimated worldwide)

2 ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

Initiate training of actors in the juvenile justice system on legislation and guidelines, children's rights, and child development. The actors concerned include the police, prosecutors, the judiciary, probation officers, lawyers, social workers, facilitators and mediators.

3 ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Circles of Compassion / Cercles de Compassion / Kreise des Mitgefühls / Círculos de Compasión

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- **How to Join?**
  Visit our website- www.woman.ch

#ENDviolence #JuvenileJustice #JusticeForChildren #ChildrenDeprivedOfLiberty

19 November: WWSF World Day Poster 2026
Join and share the Poster

19 Nov. 2026

WWSF WORLD DAY

PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Launched in 2000 for a world fit for children

*In synergy with **20 November,** Universal Children's day, respect for Children's Rights*

&

***18 November,** European Day on the Protection of Children against Exploitation and Sexual Abuse*

20 Nov. 2026

JOURNÉE MONDALE DE PRÉVENTION
CONTRE LA VIOLENCE ENVERS ENFANTS
DÍA MUNDIAL DE PREVENCIÓN DEL VIOLENCIA CONTRA LOS NIÑOS
WELTTAG VORBEUGUNG VON GEWALT AN KINDERN



YOU ARE INVITED TO USE THIS POSTER & THE WWSF 2026 PREVENTION KIT TO PREPARE YOUR ACTIVITIES AND MOVE OTHERS TO JOIN YOU!

Share with us your plans and posters to help realize the UN SDG Target # 16.2: « End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children by 2030 »

18 NOVEMBER
European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

18 November - European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Abuse
«The European Day promotes the ratification and implementation of the Lanzarote Convention * a unique legally-binding instrument that obliges states to criminalise all forms of sexual abuse of children and spelles out the ways to fight it.» Council of Europe, Children's Rights
https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/2023-edition
* **Link to the Lanzarote Convention:** https://www.coe.int/fr/web/children/lanzarote-convention

Women's World Summit Foundation-Children's section
Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes
www.woman.ch



WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation
CALL TO ACTION! - We all have a role to play!

WWSF calls on its coalition members, partners, friends & new subscribers around the world to participate in commemorating the 19th and 20th November to help create a world fit for children.

We invite you to use our 2026 campaign poster (page 61), add your name and logo and promote your participation in your communities. With every 5 minutes a child dying because of violence around the world, we need to mobilize not only Governments, but all civil society – adults, youth & children.

For those of you who are new to the WWSF - **19 November World Day**, please note that the day was established in 2000 with endorsements from many dignitaries and experts from around the world, including Kofi Annan, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Queen Rania of Jordan, Jean Zermatten and Prof. Yang-hee Lee, both former chairs of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Marta Santos Pais, former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on violence against children, child prosituiuon and child pornography, to mention some of them.

Every year, we prepare and propose a poster and an update of our **"19 Days Prevention Kit"** for civil society actors to get involved and use the 19 themes & ideas for better prevention of violence and abuse against children and youth.

For your information, WWSF – "The Youth Table" initiative, launched in 2025, is our vision for young people to create conversation – Action Tables about the 19 themes we have selected that need urgent new ideas and solutions for a better future for children and youth. In other words Youth needs to create "A Revolution for the Common Good for All" You can learn about the Youth Table on our website and register your own Youth Table.
(Link: https://www.woman.ch/online- registration-form)

This new proposal for action for young people to use the UN Sustainable Development Goals – target #16.2 – "End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children" to share ideas and find solutions to prevent and eliminate violence against children and youth around the world.

WWSF looks forward to receiving your "Youth Table" and remains available for any questions you may have.

"Where there is a Will, there is a Way!"

It takes compassion to end violence & abuse against children & youth

How to create your Community Circle of Compassion

UN SDG Target #16.2 needs our contributions! (4 pages) (Page 1)

A strategy for a world fit for children & youth



"End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children".

Introduction

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) is pleased to share with civil society and International NGOs at large, the idea of creating around the world ***Community Circles of Compassion*** *to change our world compassionately. Our future depends on the willingness of more and more people to recognize their responsibility for creating the future we want for our children and youth, and to realize the* **SDG target #16.2.**

Community Circles of Compassion

Participating groups work towards their selected themes or their personal goals set by themselves for the creation of a more empathetic, compassionate society. Given the need on the ground this will give many an opportunity to become change makers, and building new prevention programmes. We hope to inspire more civil society leadership participation, and work with local partners and grassroots organizations to strengthen the idea of Creating Community Circles of Compassion.

Community circles offer society the opportunity to rethink and refine interaction among people and an opportunity to unite, share and choose a community problem they wish to support or help transform it.

Achieving the "UN Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030", the target #16.2 in any measure, will require a deliberate approach to knowledge sharing, continued learning and community services.

Below you find the latest list of examples of violence against children and youth in our world today to empower you to select one or two issues you may wish to adopt as a change-maker in your community that can benefit from innovative solutions.

Violence against children - UN Facts & Figures (as of 2025)

- "Up to 1 billion children aged 2–17 — more than half of all children in this age group — experience physical, sexual or emotional violence or neglect every year.
- A child is killed by an act of violence somewhere in the world every 4 minutes.
- Violence against children is estimated to cost societies around US$7 trillion every year, equivalent to approximately 8% of global GDP.
- Violence against children is substantially underreported. Fewer than half of children affected by violence do not tell anyone, and less than 10% receive help, according to WHO.
- A 2025 global threat assessment found that 1 in 5 children experience sexual harm online and/or offline, with more than half of these experiences occurring between peers. — "WeProtect Global Threat Assessment 2025"
- Around half of all school-age children aged 6–17, live in countries where corporal punishment at school is not fully prohibited.
- Nearly 3 in 4 children aged 2–4 are still regularly subjected to physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by parents or caregivers."

Sources: by WHO / UNICEF / UNESCO / WeProtect

How to create Community Circles of Compassion to achieve SDG #16.2

(cont'd) (Page 2)

What is a Community Circle?

In her book "Women Circling the Earth", Beverly Engel offers a powerful guide to fostering community, healing and empowering. A circle is not just a gathering of people who sit in a circle on the floor or a meeting where the chairs are arranged in a circle. Circle meetings provide simple, yet powerful tools to help teach people how to communicate more honestly and openly. What we wish to promote is an alternative to hierarchical structures and confining systems. Circles can help us to

- listen without judgment
- foster cooperation and understanding
- help implement creative solutions to problems
- bridge differences
- help settle disputes and reach consensus
- encourage reconciliation and apology, etc.

We still live in a world that cultivates separateness between people. When people join together in circles, they become keenly aware that such separateness does not really exist on a deeper level. Circles of Compassion help alleviate the feeling that we stand alone against the harshness and violence of modern society. They remind us that we are all one.

Community Circle Guidelines

Circles provide a replenishing and sanctuary place and can be considered laboratories of grace where people can learn to relate in a way so conflicts and problems can be resolved. To create or participate in a circle, all you need is the desire, the willingness to attend the meetings, and agree to follow the guidelines. Each group determines their own rules but there are some universal circle guidelines that all agree to and help circle meetings to function more successfully. They include:

- **Invite** friends, family and partners; create a circle center - a space where you celebrate a special time of relationships
- **Welcome** by the Circle convener and begin with a period of silent reflection
- **One person speaks at a time** – use a talking peace if necessary
- **Speak from the heart** and from your own experience
- **Listen for wisdom** with compassion and with discernment instead of judgment
- **Invite silence and reflection** when needed, in you and in the Circle
- **Take responsibility for your experience** and your impact on the Circle
- **Make decisions, whenever possible**, by consensus and write them down
- **Encourage and welcome diverse points of view**
- **Agree to hold the tension**, instead of rushing in to fix things
- **Keep the confidence of Community Circles discussions**; respect the trust relationship about what is shared
- **Feel free to add other guidelines** should Community Circle members find it useful to do so
- **Close with fixing the date for your next meeting**

Community Circle meetings are excellent places for people to learn positive lessons about power. Your Circles can rotate regularly the leadership position so that each member gets a chance to experience the role of a leader. There is no hierarchy, only interactive, distributed leadership and partnership, accountability and compassion.

Create your own Community Circle of Compassion

Invite your friends, colleagues and acquaintances and make sure to ask that people make a commitment to working within the circle and to achieve the group objective. We encourage you to focus on the "UN Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs) – Agenda 2030, and especially focus on SDG Target # 16.2. You are however free to choose the theme(s) according to your community needs and requirements.

It takes compassion to end violence against children & youth

SDG Target 16.2 needs our contributions ! www.woman.ch - wdpca@wwsf.ch

wwsf@wwsf.ch

How to create Community Circles of Compassion to achieve SDG target #16.2

(cont'd) (Page 3)



You may wish to add a spiritual dimension to your Circle

A prayer-meditation component in your circle connects members to each other at the soul level, deepens the group, reveals what really matters to the members, and brings spirit into the circle and through the circle into everyday life. When opening the circle, use a go-around fashion to encourage each person to share briefly what is closest to their heart and what is most important in their lives at that particular moment. To close the circle, acknowledge any situation (or topic) that was discussed and is in need of a remedy and have the circle give it its blessing. Close with a final go-around. It is important to provide ample time for silent prayer or contemplation for closing. Each person is free to pray in his/her own way. Circles are not intended to replace already established religious practices.

Tell us about your Community Circle(s)

We invite you to send a brief report about your Community Circles of Compassion (name, place, theme, date and email) to wwsf@wwsf.ch. It is planned to monitor the spread of Community Circles of Compassion around the world, which will be published in our website report to inspire others to participate in ending violence against children & youth, an idea whose time has come.

For how many months or years a circle meets depends on many factors, like the quality of energy in your circle, your objectives, the number and stability of participants, etc. Some circles have been known to last well beyond 10 or 15 years. Each circle manages itself autonomously. It is natural for members to start supporting each other and as your community circle matures, various service activities in the community and/or supporting projects around the world are introduced by the circle members. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030 are a set of 17 objectives the world's governments have pledged to realize by 2030. Circles of Compassion can help meet these vital development goals - transforming our world compassionately and leaving no one behind.

Please feel free to copy and circulate the WWSF Community Circle Guidelines presented in this kit with the mention:
CirclesOfCompassionWWSF2026

Acknowledgements

WWSF wishes to acknowledge all the pioneers in circle work who have helped bring this idea to the world, such as the Chakra Circle, the Circle of Seven, The Women's International Dialogues, the Millionth Circle phenomena (a wonderful little book "How to Change Ourselves and The World), Peer Spirit, Women Circling the Earth, Calling the Circle: The First and Future Culture, the Visualizing alternative structures Video campaign, and others. In addition, we honor all the wise women everywhere, young and old, who continue to gather in circles as a way to bring the spirit of community closer together in their circle of compassionate hearts.

Books on Circle formats and skills

- The Millionth Circle, Dr. Jean Shinoda Bolen, a gem to read and use
- Women Circling the Earth: A Guide Fostering Community, Healing and Empowerment, Beverly Engel
- Calling the Circle: The First and Future Culture, Christina Baldwin
- Wisdom Circles: A Guide to Self-Discovery and Community Building, Charles Garfield, Cindy Spring and Sedonia Cahill, and many more as circle building is a transformational tool to change the world.

Registration and use of logo www.woman.ch #WWSFcompassionCircles

To register your Circle, use the link to the registration form online and you will be included in the WWSF coalition network for future updates. **https://www.woman.ch/copie-de-online-registration-form**

Once we have received your Community Circle program, we will grant you the use of the "Circle of Compassion" logo ©CirclesOfCompassionWWSF2026 - and include you in the WWSF Circle list. Your Circle will be mentioned in our annual Global Impact reports, with your organizational name and logo.

About WWSF (www.woman.ch)

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF), a not-for-profit, international NGO, created in 1991 in Geneva, Switzerland, serves with its annual campaigns - **1.** "Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life" / **2.** 19 Days Kit Prevention of Violence & Abuse against Children and Youth 2026 - **3.** "The Women's Table" and **4.** "The Youth Table" - initiatives, to promote International civil society Leadership participation and action for a better world.

Address: WWSF: POBox 1504 – 1201 Geneva, Switzerland – wwsf@wwsf.ch – www.woman.ch – Office Phone: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19

Community Circles of Compassion to achieve - SDG #16.2 (cont'd) (Page 4) &

Introduction: "CHARTER FOR COMPASSION"



WWSF : "19 Days of activism themes for prevention of violence against children & youth 1-19 November Campaign"

CHARTER FOR COMPASSION

Brief introduction - https://charterforcompassion.org/

We are sharing the Charter to inspire more people to use it & participate in making its principles a global quality of life.

"The Charter for Compassion is a document that transcends religious, ideological, and national differences. Supported by leading thinkers from many traditions, the Charter activates the Golden Rule around the world. The Charter for Compassion is a cooperative effort to restore not only compassionate thinking but, more importantly, compassionate action to the center of religious, moral and political life. Compassion is the principled determination to put ourselves in the shoes of the other, and it lies at the heart of all religious and ethical systems."

The text of the Charter for Compassion: "The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the center of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect."

"It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion."

"We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies."

"We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community."

Link:

https://charterforcompassion.org/images/menus/charter/pdfs/CharterFlyer-2019.pdf

20 November - UN Universal Children's Day

“The Day was established in 1954 and is celebrated on November 20th each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare. November 20th is an important date as it is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child."
Link to the Convention: https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx

"Since 1990, the Universal Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the declaration and the convention on children's rights. Mothers and fathers, teachers, nurses and doctors, government leaders and civil society activists, religious and community elders, corporate moguls and media professionals as well as young people and children themselves can play an important part in making Universal Children's Day relevant for their societies, communities and nations."

"Around the world, children are showing us their strength and leadership advocating for a more sustainable world for all. Let’s build on advances and re-commit to putting children first. For every child, every right."
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres" Source: https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day



The following articles explain how goverments, the UN & other organizations work to make sure all children enjoy all their rights

https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/united-nations-convention-rights-child-childrens-version/)

A child is any person under the age of 18.



All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.



When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. All adults should do what is best for children. Governments should make sure children are protected and looked after by their parents, or by other people when this is needed. Governments should make sure that people and places responsible for looking after children are doing a good job.



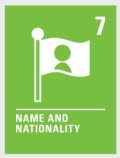
Governments must do all they can to make sure that every child in their countries can enjoy all the rights in this Convention.



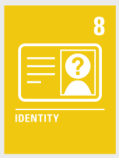
Governments should let families and communities guide their children so that, as they grow up, they learn to use their rights in the best way. The more children grow, the less guidance they will need.



Every child has the right to be alive. Governments must make sure that children survive and develop in the best possible way.



Children must be registered when they are born and given a name which is officially recognized by the government. Children must have a nationality (belong to a country). Whenever possible, children should know their parents and be looked after by them.



Children have the right to their own identity – an official record of who they are which includes their name, nationality and family relations. No one should take this away from them, but if this happens, governments must help children to quickly get their identity back.



Children should not be separated from their parents unless they are not being properly looked after –for example, if a parent hurts or does not take care of a child. Children whose parents don't live together should stay in contact with both parents unless this might harm the child.



If a child lives in a different country than their parents, governments must let the child and parents travel so that they can stay in contact and be together.



Governments must stop children being taken out of the country when this is against the law – for example, being kidnapped by someone or held abroad by a parent when the other parent does not agree.



Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously.



Children have the right to share freely with others what they learn, think and feel, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms other people.



Children can choose their own thoughts, opinions and religion, but this should not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Parents can guide children so that as they grow up, they learn to properly use this right.



Children can join or set up groups or organisations, and they can meet with others, as long as this does not harm other people.



Every child has the right to privacy. The law must protect children's privacy, family, home, communications and reputation (or good name) from any attack.



Children have the right to get information from the Internet, radio, television, newspapers, books and other sources. Adults should make sure the information they are getting is not harmful. Governments should encourage the media to share information from lots of different sources, in languages that all children can understand.



Parents are the main people responsible for bringing up a child. When the child does not have any parents, another adult will have this responsibility and they are called a "guardian". Parents and guardians should always consider what is best for that child. Governments should help them. Where a child has both parents, both of them should be responsible for bringing up the child.



Governments must protect children from violence, abuse and being neglected by anyone who looks after them.



Every child who cannot be looked after by their own family has the right to be looked after properly by people who respect the child's religion, culture, language and other aspects of their life.



When children are adopted, the most important thing is to do what is best for them. If a child cannot be properly looked after in their own country – for example by living with another family – then they might be adopted in another country.



Children who move from their home country to another country as refugees (because it was not safe for them to stay there) should get help and protection and have the same rights as children born in that country.



Every child with a disability should enjoy the best possible life in society. Governments should remove all obstacles for children with disabilities to become independent and to participate actively in the community.



Children have the right to the best health care possible, clean water to drink, healthy food and a clean and safe environment to live in. All adults and children should have information about how to stay safe and healthy.



Every child who has been placed somewhere away from home - for their care, protection or health – should have their situation checked regularly to see if everything is going well and if this is still the best place for the child to be.



Governments should provide money or other support to help children from poor families.



Children have the right to food, clothing and a safe place to live so they can develop in the best possible way. The government should help families and children who cannot afford this.



Every child has the right to an education. Primary education should be free. Secondary and higher education should be available to every child. Children should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level possible. Discipline in schools should respect children's rights and never use violence.



Children's education should help them fully develop their personalities, talents and abilities. It should teach them to understand their own rights, and to respect other people's rights, cultures and differences. It should help them to live peacefully and protect the environment.



Children have the right to use their own language, culture and religion - even if these are not shared by most people in the country where they live.



Every child has the right to rest, relax, play and to take part in cultural and creative activities.



Children have the right to be protected from doing work that is dangerous or bad for their education, health or development. If children work, they have the right to be safe and paid fairly.



Governments must protect children from taking, making, carrying or selling harmful drugs.



The government should protect children from sexual exploitation (being taken advantage of) and sexual abuse, including by people forcing children to have sex for money, or making sexual pictures or films of them.



Governments must make sure that children are not kidnapped or sold, or taken to other countries or places to be exploited (taken advantage of).



Children have the right to be protected from all other kinds of exploitation (being taken advantage of), even if these are not specifically mentioned in this Convention.



Children who are accused of breaking the law should not be killed, tortured, treated cruelly, put in prison forever, or put in prison with adults. Prison should always be the last choice and only for the shortest possible time. Children in prison should have legal help and be able to stay in contact with their family.



Children have the right to be protected during war. No child under 15 can join the army or take part in war.



Children have the right to get help if they have been hurt, neglected, treated badly or affected by war, so they can get back their health and dignity.



Children accused of breaking the law have the right to legal help and fair treatment. There should be lots of solutions to help these children become good members of their communities. Prison should only be the last choice.



If the laws of a country protect children's rights better than this Convention, then those laws should be used.



Governments should actively tell children and adults about this Convention so that everyone knows about children's rights.



These articles explain how governments, the United Nations – including the Committee on the Rights of Child and UNICEF - and other organisations work to make sure all children enjoy all their rights.

Annexes

1. OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

WWSF - Global Peace Seal Campaign for Homes & Schools

Building cultures for Peace & non-violence

How to order your Peace Seals: see below

"MY HOME IS A PLACE OF PEACE"

"MY SCHOOL IS A PLACE OF PEACE"

Dear Friends,

WWSF wishes to share with you its global "Peace Seal campaigns: **"My home is a place of peace", "My school is a place of peace"**, which are meant to help everyone, especially children to understand that they can be active peacemakers right where they live. Peace is something that starts in one's heart 💜 and expands to filling the home, the school, the community and, ultimately, the world.





1) Start a discussion

about what constitutes peace, stressing that peace is more than an absence of conflict: it is a positive state that includes feelings such as contentment, calm, the absence of longing and desire, inner quiet, forgiveness, innocence, etc., i.e. all conducive to experiencing the inner peace that is our essential state of being and a dynamic transformative process.

2) Continue to discuss

about where peace resides,concluding that it is ultimately a state of consciousness. Help children to share their experiences when they have felt peace or its contrary (anger, hate, irritation, envy, etc.) which do they prefer? Living in peace and staying inwardly in a state of peace does not mean that one does not encounter conflicts or that one avoids them; it means living and facing them in a non-violent way with a desire to resolve them harmoniously.

3) Become an active peacemaker

Everyone can be a peacemaker by taking a stand for peace in his/her life, starting at home, then at school, in classrooms, in meetings, in the bus, in church, at the play-ground, etc.

4) How to be a peacemaker

Discuss potential conflict situations at home and at school and how to resolve them harmoniously. Have students share experiences and ask them if they wish to declare that their home and their school are places of peace, and invite them to use the peace seal to remind them of their pledge for peace.

We cordially invite you to share the peace seal project and its commitment with your family, students, colleagues and friends and the press, and visit our web site www.woman.ch to also copy the peace seal onto your site.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours, WWSF Geneva / Campaign Team

For further information and to order your seals contact Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) PO Box 1504, 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland
Email: wwsf@wwsf.ch - **website:** www.woman.ch

Cost: For min. 20 seals US$ or CHF 20.00, + handling and mailing costs included.

Swiss Francs IBAN: CH1900788000050701412
(You can pay with any currency as it will be automatically transferred to Swiss currency)

WSSF thanks you for your order & pre-payment.

2. UN World Days to inspire your advocacy work

List of selected relevant United Nations and Civil Society World Days

(complete list of UN World Days: https://www.un.org/en/observances/list-days-weeks)

January	
24 January	International Day of Education
February	
06 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance of FGM
10 February	Safer Internet Day
12 February	International Day against the use of Child Soldiers
20 February	World Day of Social Justice
March	
8 March	International Women's Day
20 March	International Day of Happiness
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
22 March	World Water Day
April	
4 April	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
6 April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
7 April	World Health Day
12 April	World Day for Street Children
21 April	World Creativity and Innovation Day
22 April	International Mother Earth Day
25 April	World Malaria Day (WHO)
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day (WIPO)
May	
3 May	World Press Freedom Day
16 May	International Day of Living Together in Peace
21 May	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
June	
4 June	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
5 June	World Environment Day
12 June	World Day to End Child Labor
15 June	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
16 June	International Day of the African Child
19 June	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
20 June	World Day for Refugees
26 June	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

UN World Days to inspire your advocacy work
(cont'd.)

July

4 July	International Day of Cooperatives
11 July	World Population Day
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons

August

9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
12 August	International Youth Day
19 August	World Humanitarian Day
29 August	International Day against Nuclear Tests

September

8 September	International Literacy Day
9 September	International Day to Protect Education from Attack
15 September	International Day of Democracy
18 September	International Equal Pay Day
21 September	International Day of Peace
28 September	International Day for Universal Access to Information

October

1 October	International Day of Older Persons
2 October	International Day of Non-Violence
5 October	World Teachers' Day
5 October	World Habitat Day
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child
15 October	International Day of Rural Women
16 October	World Food Day
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
24 October	United Nations Day

November

1-19November	19 Days of Activism for Prevention of Violence Against Children and Youth
2 November	World Day - Circles of Compassion (In support of SDG Target 16.2)
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development
19 November	NGO World Day for Prevention of Violence Against Children and Youth
20 November	Universal Children's Rights Day
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

December

1 December	World AIDS Day
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
10 December	Human Rights Day
12 December	Universal Health Coverage Day
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day

Annexes (cont'd)
3. Advertising your event(s)

Once you have planned your activities, you need to advertise them in order to reach a maximum number of people and to run a successful 19 Days campaign.

How to advertise

Here are some ideas:

- Email your network and ask your contacts to forward you their email with their own networks and partners
- Use religious channels or faith-based groups to increase awareness; ask them to pass the message on to their Congregations
- Use social media contacts; remember LinkedIn, Facebook or Twitter can enable you to mobilize a large number of people in a short amount of time
- Hand out leaflets, flyers, stickers, badges, etc.
- Place posters across your neighbourhood/city
- Create a YouTube video and broadcast it
- Broadcast your event on the radio or television
- Send out articles, newsletters
- Create press releases and to inform the press

Most importantly, remember to keep your message clear and simple to ensure a greater impact.

Relations with the Media

Learning how to mobilize the media can be a difficult task. Here are some suggestions:

When to contact the Media

Designate one or two people from your organization or group to talk to the media on your behalf. They must express themselves clearly and understand the objectives of your event/activity.

Your spokespersons are only authorized to speak on behalf of **your organization /or group**, not on behalf of WWSF. When they are speaking to the media in their position as spokespersons, they must only express the views and aims of your own **"19 Days of Activism Campaign Program"** in collaboration with WWSF.

Organize a press conference

In larger cities, you might set up a press conference for the local media a day or two before your event/activity. Try to involve one or two well-known local personalities in order to give the press conference additional credibility and a higher profile. Make sure that they are familiar with the "19 Days Campaign Activism for Prevention of Abuse and Violence Against Children and Youth."

Contact the local media two or three days beforehand with a press release announcing the press conference or event. Send them a reminder the day before or on the morning of the conference. The best times for press conferences are between 10:00 AM and midday – so that they have time to prepare an item for that evening's news or write-ups for the following day.

Have a moderator to introduce the people on the press panel. Start with brief statements by each person. Then open up the floor for questions for a half-hour or so. Pass around a sign-up sheet so that you can contact the people again.

If possible, please send us copies of press articles related to your activities so that we better understand the local/national impact of your campaign.

Advertising your event(s)
(cont'd.)

How to answer media questions

Where possible, give very short and concise answers, especially for radio and TV. Talk slowly, especially if someone is taking notes. Sharing how the issue resonates with you on a personal level can have a strong impact on your message. Remember that personal examples are appreciated.

Make sure that if you are talking about someone else, you have his/her permission. When you speak on behalf of the "19 Days of Activism Campaign", avoid giving your personal opinion in order not to modify the essence of the WWSF international campaign.

If a journalist asks you about your personal opinion, you can present your ideas by nuancing them. If he/she insists and you are not sure about the answer to a question, be firm and do not answer it. Don't get drawn into arguments. A reporter might use an argument to get you to say things you wouldn't particularly want to say.

There's no harm pausing to compose your thoughts. You do not have to answer a question if you do not want to. Make sure you get in the points you want to make. Avoid sarcasm, irony, or jokes that could be misconstrued if taken out of context.

As your initiatives move forward, a growing grass-roots interest can be expected to attract the attention of media people. Journalists, editors, T.V. and radio commentators will begin to include you in their coverage of various issues. The involvement of the media will provide important, complementary input into raising public awareness and encouraging mobilization.

Fundraising

We also encourage you to raise funds for your local project(s). To do so you can, for example, ask for non-monetary donations, e.g. persuade local newspapers to print free ads and radio and TV stations to run free public-service announcements. You can also organize events such as concerts, gala dinners, art auctions, etc. to raise funds.

Try to keep your own expenses as low as possible. If you need an office or workspace, find a local group to dona space and find businesses or groups to donate furniture and bas c office supplies

Keep track of funds

You must be transparent and vigilant. If you are a sub-committee of an existing organization (school board, a business, etc.), then ensure that it verifies the money you receive and s end, and keeps records of all transactions.

Tips and resources on how to fundraise

- Funds for NGOs, Grants and Resources for Sustainability: http://www.fundsforngos.org
- The Foundation Center: https://fconline.foundationcenter.org/
- How to Fund Raise Effectively for a Nonprofit Organization - https://nonprofitpoint.com/fundraising-cycle



FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

WWSF is also fundraising for the research, coordination and publishing of it's annual Prevention Kits and follow-up work with active coalition members and social media. Every donation, no matter the size, will help advance the building of a culture for prevention of violence and abuse, and achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030. We thank you in advance for investing in the creation of a world fit for children and youth, an idea whose time has come. We all have a role to play.

The Geneva Swiss Bank Acoount information: IBAN: CH1900788000050701412
(all currencies are accepted and are automatically transferred into our Swiss Bank account)

Annexes (cont'd)

4. Your 19 Days Activity Report - Guidelines for 2026

In order to learn more about the activities of coalition members, and to share the impact of your prevention work, WWSF kindly asks that each registered, active member organization submit a brief Activity Report via email to wwsf@wwsf.ch (deadline: **31.01.2027).**

WWSF will include a summary of your activities in the "19 Days - Global Impact Report 2026 and publish it online together with selected photos, videos, and press releases. These materials may also be shared via other outlets to increase awareness of your innovative participation.

REMINDER: Your "19 Days WWSF Campaign Activity Report" will be the basis for WWSF to select Prizewinner organizations for the "WWSF Annual Innovation Prize for Prevention of Violence and Abuse against Children and Youth". To date, 61 coalition organizations have been awarded and honored with the WWSF prize. All Laureate organizations are published on the Internet and receive a certificate and monetary award.

Please be sure to address the following points in your 2026 report

- Logo and name of organization (and acronym), city and country, telephone number, email address, website (if applicable)
- What theme(s) you selected (from the list of the 19 campaign themes), and the relevance of the chosen theme/s in your community
- What type of activities you organized (i.e. social media campaigns, press conferences, Zoom trainings and seminars, awareness-raising sessions, public events, film screenings, etc.)
- Description of activities (max. 2 pages)
- What campaign materials were used and disseminated, and how you advertised your events
- The estimated number of people reached by your activities
- Collaboration/participation with other civil society organizations/NGOs, Youth Clubs, Schools, UN Agencies, Business partners, Government officials, Media, etc.)
- The impact of your activities in your community

Additional information

We thank you in advance for sending to **wwsf@wwsf.ch** selected event photos, links to and copies of media coverage, event websites and declarations, videos and TV spots produced, and campaign/promotional materials created for your campaign, which we will share, if possible, with our network.

Annexes (cont'd)

5. Brief summary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

https://www.unicef.org/montenegro/en/reports/summary-rights-under-convention-rights-child

Preamble
The preamble recalls the basic principles of the United Nations and specific provisions of certain relevant human rights treaties and proclamations. It reaffirms the fact that children, because of their vulnerability, need special care and protection, and it places special emphasis on the primary caring and protective responsibility of the family. It also reaffirms the need for legal and other protections for the child before and after birth, the importance of respect for the cultural values of the child's community and the vital role of international cooperation in securing children's rights.

Article 1
Definition of a child. A child is recognized as every human being under 18 years old, unless national laws recognize an earlier age of majority.

Article 2
Non-discrimination. All rights apply to all children without exception. It is the State's (national government's) obligation to protect children from any form of discrimination and to take positive action to promote their rights.

Article 3
Best interests of the child. All actions concerning the child shall take full account of his or her best interests. The State shall provide the child with adequate care when parents, or others charged with parental responsibi-lity, fail to do so.

Article 4
Implementation of rights. The State must do all it can to implement the rights contained in the Convention.

Article 5
Parental guidance and the child's evolving capacities. The State must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and the extended family to provide guidance for the child that is appropriate to his or her evolving capacities.

Article 6
Life, survival and development. Every child has the inherent right to life, and the State has an obligation to ensure the child's survi-val and development.

Article 7
Name and nationality. The child has the right to a name at birth. The child also has the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, to know his or her parents and be cared for by them.

Article 8
Preservation of identity. The State has an obligation to protect and, if necessary, re-es-tablish basic aspects of the child's identity. This includes name, nationality and family ties.

Article 9
Separation from parents. The child has a right to live with his or her parents unless this is deemed incompatible with the child's best interests. The child also has the right to maintain contact with both parents if separated from one or both.

Article 10
Family reunification. Children and their parents have the right to leave any country and to enter their own for purposes of reu-nion or the maintenance of the child-parent relationship.

Article 11
Illicit transfer and non-return. The State has an obligation to prevent and remedy the kidnapping or retention abroad of children by a parent or third party.

Article 12
Respect of the child's views. The child has the right to express his or her opinion freely and to have that opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting the child.

Article 13
Freedom of expression. The child has the right to express his or her views, obtain information and make ideas or information known, regardless of frontiers.

Article 14
Freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The State shall respect the child's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, subject to appropriate parental guidance.

Article 15
Freedom of association. Children have a right to meet with others, and to join or form associations.

Article 16
Protection of privacy. Children have the right to protection from interference with their privacy, family, home and correspondence, and to protection from libel or slander.

Article 17
Access to appropriate information. The State shall ensure the accessibility to children of information and material from a diversity of sources, and it shall encourage the mass media to disseminate information that is of social and cultural benefit to the child, and take steps to protect him or her from harmful materials.

Article 18
Parental responsibilities. Parents have joint primary responsibility for raising the child, and the State shall support them in this. The State shall provide parents with appropriate child-raising assistance.

Article 19
Protection from abuse and neglect. The State shall protect the child from all forms of mal-treatment by parents or others responsible for the child's care and shall establish appropriate social programs for the prevention of abuse and the treatment of victims.

Article 20
Protection of a child without family. The State is obliged to provide special protection for a child deprived of the family environment and to ensure that appropriate alternative family care or institutional placement is available in such cases. Efforts to meet this obligation shall pay due regard to the child's cultural background.

Article 21
Adoption. In countries where adoption is recognized and/or allowed, it shall be carried out only in the best interests of the child, and then only with the authorization of competent authorities and safeguards for the child.

Article 22
Refugee children. Special protection shall be granted to a refugee child or to a child seeking refugee status. It is the State's obligation to cooperate with competent organizations that provide such protection and assistance.

Article 23
Disabled children. A disabled child has the right to special care, education and training to help him or her enjoy a full and decent life in dignity and achieve the greatest degree of self-reliance and social integration possible.

Article 24
Health and health services. The child has a right to the highest standard of health and medical care attainable. States shall place special emphasis on the reduction of infant and child mortality and on the provision of primary and preventive health care and of public health education. They shall encou-rage international cooperation in this regard and strive to see that no child is deprived of access to effective health services.

Article 25
Periodic review of placement. A child who is placed by the State for reasons of care, protection or treatment is entitled to have that placement evaluated regularly.

Brief summary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (cont'd)

http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/

Article 26
Social security. The child has the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance.

Article 27
Standard of living. Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Parents have the primary responsibility to ensure that the child has an adequate standard of living. The State's duty is to ensure that this responsibility can be, and is, fulfilled. State responsibility can include material assistance to parents and their children.

Article 28
Education. The child has a right to education, and the State's duty is to ensure that primary education is free and compulsory, to encourage different forms of secondary education accessible to every child, to make higher education available to all on the basis of capacity and to ensure that school discipline is consistent with children's rights and dignity.
The State shall engage in international coo-peration to implement the right to education.

Article 29
Aims of education. Education shall aim to develop the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest extent. Education shall prepare the child for an active adult life in a free society and shall foster in the child respect for his or her parents, for his or her own cultural identity, language and values, and for the cultural background and values of others.

Article 30
Children of minorities or indigenous populations. Children of minority communities and indigenous populations have the right to enjoy their own culture and to practice their own religion and language.

Article 31
Leisure, recreation and cultural activities. The child has the right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities.

Article 32
Child labor. The child has the right to be protected from work that threatens his or her health, education or development. The State shall set minimum ages for employment and shall regulate working conditions.

Article 33
Drug abuse. Children have the right to protection from the use of narcotic and psy-chotropic drugs, and from being involved in their production or distribution.

Article 34
Sexual exploitation. The State shall protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography.

Article 35
Sale, trafficking and abduction. It is the State's obligation to make every effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children.

Article 36
Other forms of exploitation. The child has the right to protection from all forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare not covered in articles 32–35.

Article 37
Torture and deprivation of liberty. No child shall be subjected to torture, cruel treatment or punishment, unlawful arrest or deprivation of liberty. Both capital punishment and life imprisonment without the possibility for release are prohibited for offences committed by persons below age 18. Any child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interests not to do so. A child who is detained shall have legal and other assistance as well as contact with the family.

Article 38
Armed conflicts. States shall take all feasible measures to ensure that children under 15 years old have no direct part in hostilities. No child below 15 shall be recruited into the armed forces. States shall also ensure the protection and care of children who are affected by armed conflict as described in relevant international law.

Article 39
Rehabilitative care. The State has an obligation to ensure that child victims of armed conflict, torture, maltreatment or exploitation receive appropriate treatment for their recovery and social reintegration.

Article 40
Administration of juvenile justice. A child in conflict with the law has the right to treatment that promotes the child's sense of dignity and worth, takes the child's age into account and aims at his or her defense. Judicial proceedings and institutional placements shall be avoided wherever possible.

Article 41
Respect for higher standards. Wherever standards set in applicable national and international law relevant to the rights of the child are higher than those in this Conven-tion, the higher standards shall always apply.

Articles 42–54
Implementation and entry into force. These articles notably foresee:

• the entry into force of the Convention 30 days after its ratification or accession by 20 States;

• States parties' obligation to make the rights of the Convention widely known to both adults and children;

• the establishment of a Committee on the Rights of the Child to consider the reports that States parties are required to submit two years after they have ratified the Convention and every five years thereafter;

• States parties' obligation to submit said reports to the Committee on measures they have taken to fulfill the Convention and the progress being made in their implementation;

• States parties' obligation to make their reports widely known in their own countries;

• International cooperation in the field cove-red by the Convention achieved by inviting UNICEF and the specialized agencies of the United Nations – such as the International Labor organization, the World Health organization and United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural organization – along with 'competent' bodies such as non-govern-mental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations to attend Committee meetings and provide expert advice on areas within the scope of their activities, and by the Committee's referring to them States parties' requests for technical advice and assistance;

• the Committee's right to recommend to the General Assembly that special studies be undertaken on specific issues relating to the rights of the child. The rights of the child articulated by the Convention are further reinforced by its Optional Protocols on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

The full version of the Convention and its optional Protocols can be found at : https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/crc

About Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)

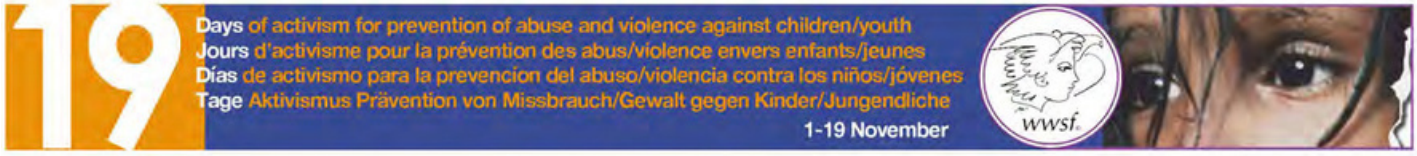
Mission & objectives of annual campaigns briefly described below and on our website: *www.woman.ch*

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) is a not-for-profit, international, humanitarian, lay NGO with UN consultative status (ECOSOC, UNFAP and DPI). Since 1991, WWSF serves with its annual campaigns, action Kits, Prize awards, Zoom events, and in person meetings for the empowerment of women, children and youth and advocates for a world where 75% of the world population (6 billion of us) is included in decision-making.

*Via its international network and annual Calls for action, WWSF contributes to the empowerment, capacity building, and education for better prevention measures to eliminate violence against children and youth, ending rural poverty, moving civil society actors into greater partnerships with governments to increase activism and ensure that the UN Sustainable Development Goals - 2030 are realized. WWSF activities are coordinated by a secretariat based in International Geneva that deals with program development, management, fundraising, communications and relationships with members, donors, NGOs, staff, the media, and UN Agencies. The secretariat also manages relations with Board Directors, Advisory Team members, Prizewinners, Active coalition member organizations and various Networks, and since 2025, it promotes **"The WWSF Woman's Table"** and **"The WWSF Youth Table". (see below)***



15 October - International Day of Rural Women, and announcement of the WWSF annual Prize for women's creativity in rural life. *You find the Nomination Guidelines and Forms for your prize candidates on our website www.woman.ch, Prizewinners are honored in their communities around the world on 15 October and their profiles are published on our website, together with our e-booklet presenting the first 500 Laureates (1994-2025) honored to date with a Prize amount of US$ 1000.00 per laureate.*



WWSF seeks to mobilize via its annual 19 Days Campaign Kit for action *(including 19 themes), organizations and grassroots groups serving the implementation of the rights of the child and its members to organize annual activities.*
The 19 Days campaign for ending violence against children and youth *is designed to help increase local and national civil society action and encourage the achievement of the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially* Goal #16.2 "End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children". *WWSF also awards an annual "Innovation Prize" to selected coalition member organizations (61 Prizes awarded to-date) and promotes the creation of "Community Circles of Compassion" online.*

***In 2025**, WWSF started to develop the **"75% campaign Leadership Training Courses"**, designed to inspire collective civil society problem solving and community building initiatives. Proposing solutions & action for the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030, a contribution for a more prosperous and just societies.*
***Our Vision for "The Woman's Table"** is an additional new opportunity to bring civil society closer together to exchange ideas, select initiatives, and develop collective action for change. Through in-person and via the digital **Woman's Tables**, WWSF proposes new forms of real-time collaboration, grounded in forward-looking solutions of problems that need our urgent collective attention.*
Link to the WWSF Concept Note "The Woman's Table":
https://www.woman.ch/_files/ugd/afa537_373c8dbc70dd499ba799ec1495cfd7f0.pdf

***In 2025**, WWSF started to also develop an initiative for Young people to play a vital role in shaping meaningful change at a time when global challenges are intensifying and solutions are becoming increasingly complex, active youth engagement is more important than ever.*
***Our Vision for "The Youth Table"** is a timely initiative, designed to contribute to bringing young people together and exchange ideas, select topics and drive transformative Civil Society Leadership towards learning on how to work and lead together for change on this beautiful planet. **"The Youth Table"** proposes and supports new forms of civil society participation with relevant Leadership Training.*
Link to the WWSF Concept Note "The Youth Table":
https://www.woman.ch/_files/ugd/afa537_649072027b7d472da1929ee128271ac7.pdf

You are invited to create your own "WWSF Woman's Table" or "WWSF Youth Table" to increase Civil Society Leadership in your communities, building a more just and peaceful world for all.
"When women, children and youth unite for a more just world, it will be a force such as the world has never known"

To register your Table(s). Visit this link: https://www.woman.ch/online-registration-form
We look forward to your partnership and engaging with your Civil Society Tables to ensure that the SDG Goals are realised.

Children's Rights are Human Rights



WWSF Global Priorities 2026/7

Thank you for your participation in 2026 with the "19 Days Campaign for prevention of violence against children and youth", and for commemorating the 2026 WWSF World Day 19 November for prevention of violence & abuse against Children and Youth as well as the promotion of "Community Circles of Compassion"

Convener: Women's World Summit Foundation - WWSF
Children - Youth Section

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www.woman.ch