

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 prevención del abuso/violencia contra los niños/jóvenes
Tage Aktivismus Prävention von Missbrauch/Gewalt gegen Kinder/Jugendliche

1-19 November



Edition 2021



www.woman.ch



19 Days Prevention Kit 2021

Eliminating Violence & Abuse against Children & Youth

Prevention is about protecting what's important to you!



It takes compassion to end violence against children & youth
SDG Target 16.2 needs our contributions! www.woman.ch - wdpca@wwsf.ch

1 Prevention of Children in Armed Conflict	2 Prevention of Child Sexual 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	8 Prevention of Child Prostitution	9 Prevention of CSAM	10 Prevention of Child Trafficking	11 Prevention of Child Sex Tourism	12 Prevention of Harmful Traditions
13 Street Children	14 Prevention of Discrimination based on health	15 Prevention of Addiction and Substance Abuse	16 Prevention of Malnutrition	17 Prevention of ICTs Dangers	18 Prevention of Abduction
19 Juvenile Justice & Juvenile Death Penalty	19 Nov. 2021 Universal Children's Day	20 Universal Children's Day			16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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WWSF Children / Youth Section
#EndViolence #19DaysWWSF



Table of Contents

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WWSF, a Swiss Foundation and an International empowerment network for women, children and youth, serves with its annual initiatives, campaigns, world days and prize awards the implementation of women and children's rights and the United Nations Development Agenda 2030.

WWSF has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations ECOSOC, UNFPA and DPI

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Introduction	3
COVID-19 Confinement	4
Reminder of the UN Development Goal Target #16.2	5
Acknowledgment of selected civil society actions by member coalitions 2020	6
Recipient of the 2020 WWSF Prize for Innovative Prevention Activities	8
Why 19 Days of Activism	9
What is the Campaign 19 Days	10
What is Prevention of abuse & violence	11
Reminder of the relevant articles in the CRC	12
Updates on Universal Ratifications	13
Committee on the Rights of the Child - Meet new Chairperson Mikiko Otani	14
Najat Maalla M'Jid of Morocco as Special Representative on Violence against Children at the Level of Assistant SG	15
Message from the SRSG for children in Armed Conflict	16
UN Special Rapporteur on Sale & Sexual Exploitation of Children	17
2021 Campaign Poster	18
Theme 1 - Prevention of Children in Armed Conflict	19
Theme 2 - Prevention of Child Sexual Violence and Abuse - Main theme 2021	23
Theme 3 - Prevention of Bullying	27
Theme 4 - Prevention of Neglect	29
Theme 5 - Prevention of Child Labor	31
Theme 6 - Prevention of Corporal Punishment	3
Theme 7 - Prevention of Sale of Children	37
Theme 8 - Prevention of Child Prostitution	39
Theme 9 - Prevention of CSAM	41
Theme 10 - Prevention of Child Trafficking	43
Theme 11 - Prevention of Child Sex Tourism	45
Theme 12 - Prevention of Traditional Harmful Practices	47
Theme 13 - Street Children	51
Theme 14 - Discrimination Based on Health Conditions	53
Theme 15 - Prevention of Addiction and Substance Abuse	57
Theme 16 - Prevention of Malnutrition	59
Theme 17 - Prevention of ITCs Dangers	61
Theme 18 - Prevention of Abduction	63
Theme 19 - Juvenile Justice and Children Deprived of Liberty / World Day for Prevention of Violence and Abuse against Children and Youth	65
Call to Action: Commemorate World Day 19 November	68
20 November Universal Children's Day	69
2021 - Circles of Compassion – Strategy	70
Peace Seals - Letter to parents and teachers	75
Ideas to Plan Activities / Events	76
List of World Days	79
Advertising your event(s)	80
2021 - 19 Days Activity Report Guidelines	81
Brief summary of the Convention on the right of the child (CRC)	82

Brief history of the WWSF Children-Youth section

2000 launch **World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse - 19 November** (annual empowerment campaign)
2004 launch WWSF Prize for 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 **First edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit 19 Days Activism 1-19 November**
2012 launch Second edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme "Children involved in armed conflict"
2013 launch Third edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme "Sale of children, child prostitution & child pornography"
2014 launch Fourth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme "Addiction and substance abuse"
2015 launch Fifth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme "Bullying"
2016 launch Sixth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme "Malnutrition" + Link to SDGs
2017 Seventh edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme "Traditional Practices/Circles of Compassion"
2018 Eighth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Corporal punishment / 19 November WorldDay
2019 Ninth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Discrimination Based on Health Conditions
2020 Tenth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Prevention of Child sexual abuse & violence
2021 Eleventh edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Prevention of Child sexual abuse & violence

Introduction

Message from the WWSF President, Convener of the 19 Days Campaign

The Campaign supports the emergence of a global culture for prevention of violence and abuse against children and youth, and supports the realization of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030 and in particular **SDG Target #16.2**



July 2021



Dear 19 Days Campaign Partners and Friends,

The **COVID-19** pandemic is still with us and continues to change our lives and how we work, learn and connect. As the virus still spreads, we remain alarmed by the devastation it already caused with no real end in sight in too many countries. COVID-19 is demonstrating that we are all together in this health crisis and that no one is safe until everyone is safe. Our thoughts go out to all who are still suffering and to all who have lost loved ones.

We wish to inform you that our 11th edition of our **annual Campaign Kit for the prevention of violence and abuse against children and youth 1-19 November 2021** is published online for all to consult, get inspired, register your local and/or national program of action, strengthen your grassroots leadership, promote awareness, build networks and influence change.

WWSF publishes its annual campaign Kits since 2010 with the aim to reach out and mobilize increased civil society action and create a global network for NGOs and grass-roots groups, share innovative measures for a culture of prevention of violence and abuse against children and youth. We see ourselves as "wind in the sail" for the relevant UN agencies that especially call on governments and their leaders to create national plans for robust prevention of child abuse and violence, and to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goal - Target #16.2: "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children"**.

Violence against children and youth includes many forms of violence and abuse and we have selected 19 themes to briefly introduce the main problems, some statistics and many ideas for action to choose from. This list is not exhaustive, and we know that there are many more harmful practices that deserve to be denounced and eliminated. However, there are today many actors around the world that join forces to help end such abusive social trends.

We also acknowledge and wish to thank all our coalition partners who sent us their action programs, and we especially acknowledge those who sent us their 2020 activity report, which we summarized in our annual GLOBAL IMPACT REPORT, published on our website <https://www.woman.ch/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/global-impact-reports-campaign-19-days-of-activism-for-prevention-of-violence-against-children-and-youth-1-19-november/>

Solidarity and multi-stakeholder cooperation are needed now more than ever, and we count on all the civil society actors to transform their communities compassionately. Guidelines on how to create your "Community Circle of Compassion" can be found here <https://www.woman.ch/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/training-workshops-creating-circles-of-compassion/>



"COVID-19 is a test to our societies, governments, communities and individuals. It is a time for inquiry about what we must change to tackle the virus, and mitigate effects. Respect for human rights across the spectrum, including economic, social, cultural, and civil and political rights, will be fundamental to the success of the public health response and recovery from the pandemic..." <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/COVID19Guidance.aspx>

As always, we thank you in advance for registering your 2021 program of activities with us. This link gives you access to our new Registration form <https://www.woman.ch/registration-form-for-the-19-days-campaign/>

We are grateful for our sponsors, staff and interns who prepare the bulk of our annual campaign programs. We acknowledge in particular, Deborah Marolf and Ségolène Davister for their gracious assistance in research and communication skills in preparing this year's kit. Thank you for your continued support.



We look forward to hearing from you and remain in a spirit of partnership and solidarity.

Elly Pradervand, WWSF President /CEO and UN Representative, in collaboration with the WWSF Campaign Team

Please share the PDF of the 19 Days Kit 2021 (published on our website) <https://www.woman.ch/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/> with your network and friends!



Find us on social media and give us a follow, like, or a share!
#ENDviolence #19DaysWWSF #SDGoal16 #StopChildAbuse #CircleOfCompassionWWSF

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@youthengagegeneva

 @WWSFoundation
@youth_engage

 @womensworldsummitfoundation

 @Elly Pradervand

COVID-19: For many women and children, the home is not a safe place



Executive Summary of UN Policy Brief :

Impact of COVID-19 on children (15 April 2020)
https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/policy_brief_on_covid_impact_on_children_16_april_2020.pdf

"Children are not the face of this pandemic. But they risk being among its biggest victims. While they have thankfully been largely spared from the direct health effects of COVID-19 - at least to date – the crisis is having a profound effect on their wellbeing. All children, of all ages, and in all countries, are being affected, in particular by the socio-economic impacts and, in some cases, by mitigation measures that may inadvertently do more harm than good. This is a universal crisis and, for some children, the impact will be lifelong.

Moreover, the harmful effects of this pandemic will not be distributed equally. They are expected to be most damaging for children in the poorest countries, and in the poorest neighbourhoods, and for those in already disadvantaged or vulnerable situations.

There are three main channels through which children are affected by this crisis: infection with the virus itself; the immediate socioeconomic impacts of measures to stop transmission of the virus and end the pandemic; and the potential longer-term effects of delayed implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

All of this is affecting children in multiple ways:

✓ **Falling into poverty:** An estimated 42-66 million children could fall into extreme poverty as a result of the crisis this year, adding to the estimated 386 million children already in extreme poverty in 2019.

✓ **Exacerbating the learning crisis:** 188 countries have imposed countrywide school closures, affecting more than 1.5 billion children and youth. The potential losses that may accrue in learning for today's young generation, and for the development of their human capital, are hard to fathom. More than two-thirds of countries have introduced a national distance learning platform, but among low-income countries the share is only 30 percent. Before this crisis, almost one third of the world's young people were already digitally excluded.

✓ Threats to child survival and health:

Economic hardship experienced by families as a result of the global economic downturn could result in hundreds of thousands of additional child deaths in 2020, reversing the last 2 to 3 years of progress in reducing infant mortality within a single year. And this alarming figure does not even take into account services disrupted due to the crisis – it only reflects the current relationship between economies and mortality, so is likely an under-estimate of the impact. Rising malnutrition is expected as 368.5 million children across 143 countries who normally rely on school meals for a reliable source of daily nutrition must now look to other sources. The risks to child mental health and well being are also considerable. Refugee and internally displaced children as well as those living in detention and situations of active conflict are especially vulnerable.

✓ **Risks for child safety:** Lockdowns and shelter in place measures come with heightened risk of children witnessing or suffering violence and abuse. Children in conflict settings, as well as those living in unsanitary and crowded conditions such as refugee and IDP settlements, are also at considerable risk. Children's reliance on online platforms for distance learning has also increased their risk of exposure to inappropriate content and online predators. This policy brief provides a deeper analysis of these effects. It identifies also a series of immediate and sustained actions for the attention of governments and policymakers, including in relation to the following three priorities:

- **Rebalance** the combination of interventions to minimize the impact of standard physical distancing and lockdown strategies on children in low-income countries and communities and expand social protection programmes to reach the most vulnerable children.

- **Prioritize** the continuity of child-centred services, with a particular focus on equity of access – particularly in relation to schooling, nutrition programmes, immunization and other maternal and newborn care, and community-based child protection programmes.

- **Provide** practical support to parents and caregivers, including how to talk about the pandemic with children, how to manage their own mental health and the mental health of their children, and tools to help support their children's learning.

For each of the above, specific protections must be put in place for vulnerable children including refugees, the displaced, homeless, migrants, minorities, slum-dwellers, children living with disabilities, street children, living in refugee settlements, and children in institutions.

Now is the time to step up international solidarity for children and humanity— and to lay the foundations for a deeper transformation of the way we nurture and invest in our world's youngest generation."

Protect our Children - Message from the UN Secretary-General António Guterres

<https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/protect-our-children>

"The United Nations system – our agencies, funds, programmes and the Secretariat entities – are working across all settings and stand ready to support all governments and societies."

Guidelines to protect yourselves, visit the WHO special guidance

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advise-for-public>

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak, available on the WHO website and through your national and local public health authority.

Reminder of the UN Sustainable Development Goal Target #16.2

Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the [19 Days Campaign](#) promotes and supports the urgent realization of **SDG Target #16.2** described below. Given the Corona Virus pandemic, 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, wherever possible, the SDG Target #16.2.



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

"Research shows that "abuse and maltreatment can lead to

life-long physical and mental health problems, lower educational achievement, and can even affect a child's brain development. Victims of violence are more likely to become future perpetrators, feeding a cycle that consumes lives."

In addition, there are large economic effects. Countries that do not address issues of violence against children end up losing significant amounts of money. Physical, psychological, and sexual violence against children can cost governments up to US \$7 trillion a year." ¹



Other relevant SDG Targets for the 19 Days Campaign include:

5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking, 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: Elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including slavery and human trafficking recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms

4.a: 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: See above

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

16.9: Provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

16.a: Strengthen relevant institutions... to prevent violence

1- http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/working_to_end_violence_against_children_french.pdf

Highlights at a glance

Examples of 2020 activities by coalition members



FICE

FICE ROMÂNIA

International Federation of Educational Communities, Romania section

FICE ROMANIA, mobilized in 2020:

1'188 schools, **26'000** students, more than **20'000** teachers, psychologists, policemen, social workers, journalists, physicians and parents.

Organized over **187** workshops, roundtables, debates, participation in local, regional and national TV programs. Over **2'000** direct activities carried out with and by children in kindergardens and participating schools. Carried out over **200** activities with parents / grandparents / relatives of children.

Over **700** meetings with specialists (policemen, doctors, psychologists, priests...)

83 circles of compassion and forum theatre and puppet shows.

Involvement of local institutions: (public social assistance services within the 588 localities involved), **at county level** (General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection, County Police Inspectorates, County School Inspectorates, County Centers for Drug Prevention and Evaluation), **regional** (Regional Centers for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings) and **central institutions** (National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoptions) **in the field of child protection and law and order, as well as other NGOs working in the field of child protection** (Association of Directors of DGASPCs/AD-DGASPC, Association of Mayors of Communes in Romania/ACoR).



Navjyoti India Foundation, India

total reach: **4'776** participants
in two states: Haryana (Gurugram) & Delhi



Amani Initiative

....together we can make a difference!

Amani Initiative, Uganda

Through social media key messages, community dialogues and school outreach, mobilized over **12,000** people.



PO Drugie Foundation, Poland

estimated **16'000** participants (**6'341** children, **5,215** youth and **4'591** adults) and **565** workshops.

Examples of 2020 activities by coalition members (cont'd.)

Examples of webinars organized during the 2020 - 19 Days Campaign



International Online Conference

"CHILD ABUSE AND VIOLENCE – AN APPROACH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC"

NOVEMBER 19, 2020 13.00 (CET) [14.00 Romania]
„International Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse”.

Moderators: Gabriela Cretu and Toma Mares

- Opening speech - **Mares Toma** president of FICE ROMANIA
- The message of the lady-president and CEO of the "WWSF – Women's World Summit Foundation"- **Elly Pradervand**
- Reflections about the results of a survey about residential care during the pandemic -**Emmanuel Grupper**-president of FICE International- - Professor for child and youth care at the Ono Academic College, Israel
- "The current pandemic context - agent generating information and situations with negative semantics in the environments of education actors" Prof. univ. emeritus **Dr. Neacsu Ioan**
- Violence, structural distress and negative resilience in special and inclusive schools - expert **Calin Dragoi** -Germany
- Violence in the virtual environment against children in the context of the COVID Pandemic 19- Associated Professor Ph. D. **Urea Ionela Roxana** ,University of Bucharest, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
- "Ways to prevent online child abuse in the context of the COVID pandemic 19" - **Dr. Eugen Simion**, Head of DGASPC Neamt Service, FICE Romania
- "Significant aspects of child abuse and violence in South Africa"- **Donald Nghonyama- Johannesburg Area, South Africa**
- Management of violent / aggressive reactions of children with hearing impairment in a pandemic context. Good practices- drd. prof **Adler Carmen**
- Message from the Association of Directors of the General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection **Ion Florin** -DGASPC Iasi
- .Radiography of cases of abuse and negligence registered at DGASPC Constanta in the first 3 quarters of 2020 - **Roxana Onea**



HOPE FOR SECOND CHANCE FOUNDATION

Hope for Second Chance Foundation, Nigeria

reached during their school sensitization **8'605** students, and approximately **5 million** people were reached during their media advocacy campaign



International Webinar
on
Prevention of Online Violence, Abuse and Exploitation of Children during Pandemic
in partnership with
Women's World Summit Foundation
on
Saturday, 7th November, 2020
1600 hrs to 1800 hrs IST

Speakers

 Elly Pradervand President Women's World Summit Foundation	 Karnal Singh, IPS (Retd.) Former Director Enforcement Directorate, Govt. of India	 Dr. Sherryll Kaizer President Coalition for Children	 Dr. B. Ramaswamy Senior Advocate Supreme Court of India
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Convenors

 Rakesh Gaur President Udisha	 Robin David Advocate Supreme Court of India
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Recipient of the 2020 WWSF Prize for Innovative Prevention Initiatives

(selected from the 2020 activity reports received)

17th Prize edition WWSF Prize US\$ 1000

**Congratulations to the "Haven Initiative" (Nigeria)
for their creative partnership!**



Dear WWSF,

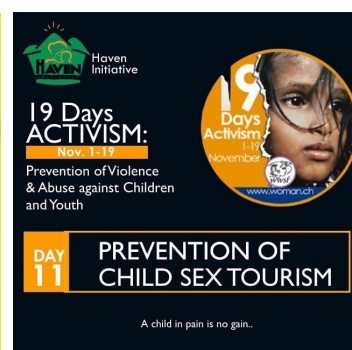
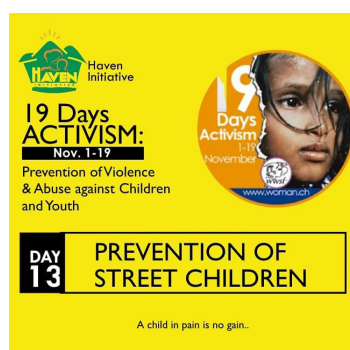
"We are very excited about us being selected for the annual WWSF 'Prize for Innovative Prevention Activities' of violence against children and youth. The selection is indeed a wake up call to do more and we are fully ready for it.

We thank you so much for putting us in your thought and finding us worthy of this great opportunity.

You have been a major source of inspiration to us and we won't take that for granted.

Thank you for creating a platform for the 19 Days Campaign."

Omotayo Adebayo
Founder Haven Initiative, Nigeria



Examples of daily social media alerts on the 19 themes by "Haven Initiative".

Why 19 Days of Activism for prevention?

Women's World Summit Foundation - Call to Action!

Prevention of violence against children & youth

Children in armed conflict	Prevention of sexual abuse	Prevention of bullying	Prevention of neglect
Prevention of child labor	Prevention of corporal punishment	Prevention of the sale of children	Prevention of child prostitution
Prevention of CSAM	Prevention of child trafficking	Prevention of child sex tourism	Prevention of harmful traditions
Street children	Disabilities	Prevention of substance abuse	Prevention of malnutrition
Prevention of ICTs Dangers	Prevention of abduction	Juvenile Justice	19-20 Nov. World Days Circles of Compassion

SDG Target # 16.2

Annual 19 Days Campaign Kit available www.woman.ch

The children are waiting for our contributions. It takes compassion to end violence against children.

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, we help to increase solidarity and activism to create a worldwide commitment for the end of violence against children and youth by 2030.

Selected Facts and Figures

(source: UN SDG #16.2)

- Violence against children affects more than 1 billion children around the world and costs societies up to US\$ 7 trillion a year
- 50% of the world's children experience violence every year
- Every 5 minutes, somewhere in the world, a child is killed by violence
- 1 in 10 children is sexually abused before the age of 18
- 9 in 10 children live in countries where corporal punishment is not fully prohibited, leaving 732 million children without legal protection
- 1 in 3 internet users worldwide is a child and 800 million of them use social media. Any child can become a victim of online violence
- Child online sexual abuse reports to NCMEC has grown from 1 million in 2014 to 45 million in 2018.
- 246 million children worldwide affected by school-related violence each year
- 1 in 3 students has been bullied by their peers at school in the last month, and at least 1 in 10 children have experienced cyberbullying

Other Facts

(source: UN Agencies)

- 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys will be sexually abused before they reach the age of 18.
- 1 million children are coerced, kidnapped, sold and tricked into child prostitution or child pornography each year.
- 100 million children live or work in the streets facing daily discrimination, violence and exploitation.
- 168 million children around the world are engaged in child labor. Of these, 85 million children are exposed to hazardous work that poses a danger to their health and safety.
- Only 46 States have introduced a comprehensive ban on corporal punishment.
- Estimated 13.5 million children – most of them girls – will be married before they turn 18. About 4.4 million of them will be married before they turn 15.
- Over 200 million girls and women worldwide are currently living with the consequences of FGM.
- It is estimated that at least 1 million children are deprived of their liberty worldwide.
- As many as 150 million girls & 73 million boys worldwide are raped or subject to sexual violence each year, usually by someone in their family circle.
- Children with disabilities are 3-4 times more likely to be victims of violence.
- An estimated 250,000 children are being recruited and used by diverse armed forces/groups.
- Between 80 and 100 million girls are 'missing' from the world's population – victims of gender-based infanticide, femicide, malnutrition and neglect.
- Close to 300 million children aged 2-4 worldwide experience violent discipline by their caregiver on a regular basis.
- Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45%) of death in children under 5 – 3.1 million children each year.

What is the Campaign "19 Days of Activism for Prevention of Violence and 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 – 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 Goals, **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 the main theme for 2020 being **Prevention of Child sexual violence and abuse**

- 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
- 8 **Prevention** of Child prostitution
- 9 **Prevention** of Child CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material)
- 10 **Prevention** of Child trafficking
- 11 **Prevention** of Child sex tourism
- 12 **Prevention** of Harmful traditional practices
- 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 **Juvenile Justice and Children deprived of liberty / World Day for prevention of violence against children/youth 19 November.** The 19 November World Day was created to be in synergy with the Universal Children's Day (20 November), promoting the Convention on the Rights of the Child



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What is Prevention of Violence and Abuse Against Children and 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)

The goal of prevention is to create an environment that

- **Challenges** social norms, which tolerate abuse and violence
- **Enhances** the capacity of all to build safer homes, schools, institutions, workplaces and communities for our children and youth

"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." (WHO)

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 raising awareness about child abuse and violence. They may include campaigns aimed at children and adults such as public service announcements that encourage positive parenting, parent education programs that focus 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 the child population considered more at risk of being abused and specific of the adult population considered to be more at 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 of the CRC, see pages 82-83)

BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
IN THE WORLD
HAS ONE THING
IN COMMON.
THEIR RIGHTS.

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 <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

Updates on Universal Ratifications and various Optional Protocols (as of 2021)

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

- **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)

- Handbook on the Optional Protocol <http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/547>
- Status: **121** Signatories and **177** Parties
- Child-Friendly Version of OPSC

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.

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

- Status: **130** Signatories and **171** Parties

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.

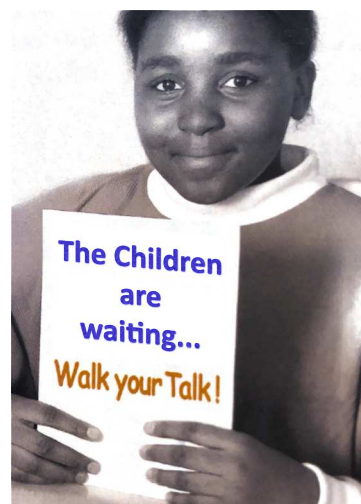
Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (OPCP)

- 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.
- This possibility is available to children whose governments have ratified the Third Optional Protocol
- Status: **52** signatories and **48** parties

Link to the Guide for Non-governmental Organizations
https://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Guide_OP_EN_web.pdf

« The Optional Protocols give 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 14 January 2014



Updates on the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Meet new Chairperson Mikiko Otani



Mikiko Otani (Japan), elected new Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in **May 2021**.

"Mikiko Otani is an **international human rights lawyer based in Tokyo where practicing family law with focus on women's and children's rights**. Previously Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, she is also Council Member of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute and former Chair of the Committee on International Human Rights of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations. She is also the country representative of Japan for the Family Law and Family Rights Section of LAWASIA (The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific). The areas of her focus include human rights education, early childhood development, child participation, girl child, child marriage, human trafficking and migrant children." (Biography from OHCHR <https://www.ohchr.org>)

MAHAMANE Cissé-Gouro, Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, welcomed the four new members of the Committee:

- Rinchen Chopel (Bhutan)
- Sophie Kiladze (Georgia)
- Zara Ratou (Chad)
- Benoit Van Keirsbilck (Belgium)

and thanked the outgoing Chairperson Luis Ernesto Pedernera Reyna (Uruguay) for his non-stop work to ensure that the protection of children's rights remained a priority for all. It was not yet possible to have in-person meetings, and the Office appreciated the huge efforts undertaken by the Committee to continue to implement and uphold children's rights despite the difficulties posed by time differences and connection issues.



This new global wave of COVID-19 was having severe consequences for a greater number of children, with access to essential health, social protection and education services being continuously constrained. Children were facing mental health issues, with large numbers of children reporting anxiety, fear, irritability and depressive symptoms. In particular, children living with chronic illness, disability or existing psychological disorders were likely to be at an elevated risk of mental health distress, as were migrant children and children from disadvantaged socio-economic situations.

While COVID-19 did not affect children's physical health to the same extent that it affected adults, the overall health, social and economic impact of COVID-19 had a disproportionate effect on children. Child poverty was continuing to rise at an alarming rate. The United Nations Children's Fund had estimated that in the absence of any mitigating policies, the total number of children living in poor households globally could reach over 725 million.

Ensuring the equitable access of children to online services and connectivity was a necessary first step towards ensuring their access to quality online learning and information from a wide variety of trusted sources. In this regard, the **Committee's General Comment no. 25 on children's rights in relation to the digital environment**, which had been launched at the end of the last session, provided valuable, timely guidance to States on ensuring children's access to digital technologies as a means to realise their full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights."

To read more: <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/news-media/meeting-summary/2021/05/committee-rights-child-opens-online-eighty-seventh-session>

"Monitoring children's rights

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 State parties. It also monitors implementation of two Optional Protocols to the Convention, on involvement of children in armed conflict (**OPAC**) and on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (**OPSC**). On 19 December 2011, the UN General Assembly approved a third Optional Protocol on a communications procedure (**OPIC**), which allow individual children to submit complaints regarding specific violations of their rights under the Convention and its first two optional protocols. The Protocol entered into force in April 2014.

All States parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights are being implemented. States must submit an initial report two years after acceding to the Convention and then periodic reports every five years. The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the State party in the form of "concluding observations".

To read more: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/crc/pages/crcintro.aspx>

Najat Maalla M'jid of Morocco UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children at the level of UN Assistant Secretary-General



Najat MAALLA M'JID (Morocco)

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children

She acts as an independent global advocate for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children. The mandate of the SRS on Violence against Children is anchored in human rights standards, and promotes the universal ratification and effective implementation of core international human rights conventions.

Excerpts of her Annual Report

22 February–19 March 2021

<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/40>

Summary

"In the present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/133, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Najat Maalla M'jid, provides an overview of major initiatives and developments that sustain and scale up efforts to safeguard children's freedom from violence and advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



She also outlines the immediate and longer-term impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on children's protection and wellbeing, as well as the role of children as agents of change in building a world free from violence. The report contains key recommendations for accelerating action for implementation of the 2030 Agenda while building back better after the pandemic."

Selected excerpts of the report

II. Accelerating action to end violence against children by 2030, before and during the COVID-19 pandemic

"6. Since taking up the mandate, the Special Representative has stressed in her strategy the centrality of supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the initiative of the Secretary-General to accelerate progress through the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals.

E. Engaging with children

"27. The Special Representative holds regular meetings with children during her country visits and regional activities and in the context of intergovernmental processes in Geneva and New York. In July 2020, she hosted a discussion with children and young activists who were participating in the high-level political forum on sustainable development to present their work, which included shadow reports for their respective Government's voluntary national review.

"28. The Special Representative supports work on empowering and safeguarding children as human rights defenders. She provided technical input to Child Rights Connect in the development of a toolkit to provide guidance to States and other stakeholders on how to ensure that national laws, policies and practices allow children to fully and safely exercise their rights as human rights defenders.



III. Impact of COVID-19 on violence against children

B. Harmful impact of the pandemic on children, in particular vulnerable children, worldwide

"32. The challenges of ending violence against children were already immense before COVID-19 struck. The direct impact of the pandemic and mitigation measures adopted in response are further undermining implementation of the 2030 Agenda. What began as a health crisis risks evolving into a broader child-rights crisis.

"33. The pandemic and the mitigation measures adopted in response have increased the risk of children experiencing or being exposed to violence at home due to school closures, confinement, movement restrictions, disruption in the provision of already limited child protection services, and added family stresses related to job loss, isolation and anxieties over health and finances.

"34. UNICEF reported that violence prevention and response services had been disrupted in 104 countries. It also reported that, at the height of the lockdowns, one third of the world's schoolchildren were unable to access remote learning, and school closures affected almost 90 per cent of students around the world.

"35. During the pandemic, widespread digitalization and increased unsupervised Internet use by children has exacerbated online sexual violence, exploitation and cyberbullying. The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) has noted that its law enforcement partners reported increased online activity by those seeking child-abuse material.

"36. The COVID-19 pandemic has harmed children's mental well-being. In consultations, children expressed that they felt unsafe, insecure, scared, lonely and isolated. Toxic stress and anxiety are known to have negative and long-lasting effects on children's mental health, including sleep and eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. At the same time, approximately 70 per cent of countries surveyed by the World Health Organization between June and August reported that mental health services for children and adolescents had been disrupted by the pandemic. (...)"

To read more: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/40>

Message from the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict



Virginia Gamba (Argentina)
UN Under-Secretary-General Special Representative
of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

Excerpts of her Report
22 February - 19 March 2021
<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/39>

Summary

"In her report, which covers the period from December 2019 to December 2020, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict explores challenges in ending and preventing grave violations and in strengthening the protection of children affected by armed conflict. She outlines the activities undertaken in discharging her mandate, including by working with human rights entities and mechanisms, and the progress achieved in addressing grave violations against children. The Special Representative also lays out her advocacy activities, including through her focus on lessons learned and best practices. In addition, the Special Representative provides information on her field visits and on her efforts to engage with regional organizations and international partners. She outlines challenges and priorities on her agenda and concludes with a set of recommendations to enhance the protection of children affected by conflict."

Selected Excerpts of the report:

"III. Challenges, trends and progress in ending and preventing grave violations

8. The number of grave violations against children remained high during the reporting period, with the COVID-19 pandemic increasing the vulnerability of conflict-affected children and placing an additional burden on child protection actors. Despite persisting and emerging challenges, important progress to end and prevent grave violations was achieved in relation to several country situations on the children and armed conflict agenda, including in the area of transitional justice.



"B. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on ending and preventing grave violations

20. Confinement measures and movement restrictions were put in place in most of the situations on the children and armed conflict mandate, sometimes as early as the first week of March 2020. While such measures were necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect populations, including children, many activities relating to the children and armed conflict mandate were disrupted.

21. Restrictive measures to contain the pandemic often had an adverse effect on children. For instance, in Afghanistan, restrictions disrupted children's access to education, health care and social services and placed additional stressors on parents, guardians and caregivers. The closing of schools made children more susceptible to recruitment and use by parties to the conflict, while stigma and discrimination relating to COVID-19 also increased children's vulnerability to violence and psychosocial distress. Attacks against hospitals and personnel were particularly egregious considering the fragile state of the health-care system of Afghanistan and the heavy burden it carries during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Colombia, the closure of all schools, the reduced presence of protection and humanitarian actors in conflict-affected

areas, and the reduction in family incomes may increase the risks of the recruitment and use of children and other grave violations against children by armed groups. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, trials against child recruiters were suspended. At the same time, fewer separated children were able to benefit from support services. In Iraq, the pandemic exacerbated an already adverse protection environment for children, especially in camps for internally displaced persons and in detention. In Myanmar, travel restrictions and mitigation strategies seriously affected humanitarian access and exacerbated pre-existing operational and access challenges as humanitarian partners already had extremely limited access to more than half a million people, including 130,000 stateless Rohingya confined in camps in Rakhine State. There is particular concern about the limited access of internally displaced persons and stateless persons to health care.

"B. Advocacy

42. The Special Representative continued to use her voice as the highest United Nations advocate for the protection of children affected by conflict to publicly call for their increased protection, including by issuing some 50 press releases and public statements, several of which were published jointly with other high-level United Nations officials as mentioned below. Furthermore, in July 2020, the Special Representative delivered a radio message for the International Criminal Court's access to justice radio programme in the Central African Republic on the theme of justice and the protection of children in situations of armed conflict.

"D. Building and supporting global alliances

56. The Special Representative actively engaged with Member States and other key stakeholders to build and support global alliances aimed at ending and preventing grave violations against children. She continued to advocate for the endorsement by Member States of political commitments such as the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (the Paris Principles), the Safe Schools Declaration and the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers (the Vancouver Principles). In May 2020, the Special Representative was a

speaker at a virtual event entitled "Protecting education from attack: scope, impact and response," marking the fifth anniversary of the Safe Schools Declaration and co-organized by Argentina, Norway, Qatar, Spain, Uruguay and the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack.

"V. Conclusions and recommendations

84. The Special Representative remains deeply concerned by the scale and severity of grave violations committed against children and calls upon all parties to conflict to comply fully with international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law, and to immediately end and take all measures to prevent grave violations. She also calls upon the Human Rights Council and States Members of the United Nations to take all available measures to prevent violations from occurring."

To read more: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/39>

UN Special Rapporteur on sale and sexual exploitation of children



Mama Fatima SINGATEH (Gambia)

UN Special Rapporteur on sale and sexual exploitation of children by

"Ms Singhateh has held a number of high-level positions in public service in the Gambia. She holds a master's degree in International Business Law from the University of Hull and has undergone numerous trainings in child rights programming, arbitration and mediation, and legislative drafting. She has drafted laws, organized and conducted numerous training sessions, delivered presentations at both national and international fora and written articles and reports on issues relating to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child."

Excerpts of her Report

19 March 2021

<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/31>

Summary

"In the present report, the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, Mama Fatima Singhateh, focuses on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on increased risk and various manifestations of sale and sexual exploitation of children. The Special Rapporteur outlines the push and pull factors, protection challenges and good practices, and provides recommendations on measures to address the heightened risks of sale and sexual exploitation of children, both online and offline, during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis and the ensuing lockdowns."



"B. Impact of the pandemic on increased risks and various manifestations of sale and sexual exploitation of children"

1. Overview and multifaceted impacts of the pandemic on children

12. The pandemic has quickly morphed into a full-fledged economic and social crisis, the effects of which will reverberate for years to come. COVID-19 has pushed the global economy into its worst crisis since the Second World War, with the International Monetary Fund forecasting that more than 170 countries will experience negative per capita income growth in 2020 and a projected cumulative output loss of \$9 trillion. What started as a public health emergency has snowballed into a formidable test for global development and for the prospects of today's young generation. Globally, confinement measures, economic shutdown and the disrupted provision of already limited child protection services have exacerbated the vulnerability of the most vulnerable children in the most fragile communities where social cohesion is already undermined and institutional capacity and services are limited.

"13. The socioeconomic impact – and from the containment and mitigation measures – has been potentially catastrophic for millions of children. According to an estimate by UNICEF, approximately 150 million additional children are living in multidimensional poverty – without access to essential services – due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of children living in multidimensional poverty has soared to 1.2 billion – a 15 per cent increase since the pandemic hit in early 2020.5 Children may well be among the biggest victims of the crisis in the long term, because their education, nutrition, safety and health will be significantly undermined by the socioeconomic impact and by unintended consequences of the pandemic response."

"14. As at September 2020, an estimated 827 million learners, or 47 per cent of the total number of enrolled children, were affected by school closures. As a result, 346 million children were estimated to be missing school meals, 47 per cent of whom were girls. UNICEF has reported that without urgent action to protect families from the economic impacts of the pandemic, the number of children living below national poverty lines in

low and middle-income countries could increase by 15 per cent in 2020, reaching 672 million. And the World Food Programme has estimated that the number of young children suffering acute malnutrition could increase by 10 million in 2020, a 20 per cent increase in global rates. The pandemic and its accompanying economic crisis and global recession⁸ will put poor children at even greater risk and greatly exacerbate existing inequalities.⁹

"B. Recommendations"

86. In order to effectively prevent and combat the sale and sexual exploitation of children, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting socioeconomic crisis, the Special Rapporteur invites all States to accelerate efforts to achieve comprehensive and child rights-centred protection systems, and to support and promote a coordinated global response to eradicate the sale and sexual exploitation of children.

"1. At the national level"

87. Governments have an obligation to put in place a robust, rights-based child protection system. This should be in place before disaster strikes in order to prevent or mitigate the increased risks of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children in times of national emergency or a public health crisis.

"88. Data collection is essential for tracking the impact of any emergency situation. There is therefore a need for systematic data collection and analysis on the impact of COVID-19, in order to understand and track the phenomenon, which would in turn inform decision-making."

"89. Governments and relevant authorities must develop rapid assessment tools to evaluate the impact of the pandemic on essential services for victims, as well as on law enforcement and justice capacities. They should ensure child-centred, integrated, individualized trauma-informed support for suspected and identified child victims."

"90. Children must be actively involved in the decision-making process in the development of any national strategy on mitigation, recovery and reintegration measures for the prevention of sale and sexual exploitation of children."

"91. Child participation must therefore be institutionalized and included as a process. It must be a core and cross-cutting component of a comprehensive, context-specific, rights-based child protection system in compliance with international standards and norms (see A/67/291, para. 100)."

"92. As the pandemic eases, resources should be focused on supporting family-based and community-based programmes and services in order to reduce family separation for children, including those whose parents are unable to care for them as a result of the economic impact of the pandemic, or who find themselves orphaned as a result of the death of a parent from the disease."

To read more: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/31>

2021 Campaign Poster

1-19 Novembre 2021

19 Days Activism






Photo © Claude Noguès - WWSF

Supporting SDG Target #16.2
Prevention of abuse and violence against children and youth





16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



19 Days of Activism Prevention abuse and violence against Children/Youth
Jours d'activisme Prévention abus/violence envers Enfants/Jeunes
Días Activismo Prevención del Abuso/violencia contra los Niños/Jóvenes
Tage Aktivismus Prävention von Missbrauch/Gewalt gegen Kinder/Jugendliche
1-19 November

19 Days Campaign organizer
Women's World Summit Foundation - WWSF
Children - Youth Section
P.O.Box 1504, 1211 Geneva 1 - **Switzerland**
wdpca@wwsf.ch - Tel: +41 22 738 66 19

#19DaysWWSF
www.woman.ch



Prevention of Children in Armed Conflict



Updated version 2021

This is the first day of the Campaign 1-19 November 2021!

As an advocacy campaign, « WWSF-19 Days campaign for prevention of violence against children and youth 1-19 November », shares with its coalition members information and ideas for action selected from expert groups, UN bodies, and civil society actors to help us to better understand the complexities of the problem and also in our resolve to help end using children in armed conflict.

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

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



UNITED NATIONS, 25 June 2020 (IPS) - "The current coronavirus pandemic is having a profound affect on children in conflict zones — with girls especially being at higher risk of violence and sexual health concerns.

For adolescent girls specifically, these disruptions can have profound consequences, including increased rates of pregnancy and child, early, and forced marriage."

Shannon Kowalski, director of advocacy and policy at the [International Women's Health Coalition](https://www.iwhc.org/) (IWHC), told IPS.

Children and armed conflict Report of the Secretary-General General Assembly - Security Council Seventy-fifth session 6 May 2021 - Promotion and protection of the rights of children:

https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/S_2021_437_E.pdf

Excerpts of the report :

"II. Situation of children and armed conflict

A. Overview of trends and patterns

4. In 2020, the situation of children in armed conflict was marked by a sustained high number of grave violations. The United Nations verified 26,425 grave violations, of which 23,946 were committed in 2020 and 2,479 were committed earlier but verified only in 2020.

Violations affected 19,379 children (14,097 boys, 4,993 girls, 289 sex unknown) in 21 situations. The highest numbers of violations were the recruitment and use of 8,521 children, followed by the killing (2,674) and maiming (5,748) of 8,422 children and 4,156 incidents of denial of humanitarian access. Children were detained for actual or alleged association with armed groups (3,243), including those designated as terrorist groups by the United Nations, or for national security reasons. Escalation of conflict, armed clashes and disregard for international humanitarian law and international human rights law had a severe impact on the protection of children. Cross-border spillover of conflicts and intercommunal violence affected children, in particular in the Sahel and Lake Chad basin regions."

To read more: https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/S_2021_437_E.pdf

Children are considered an economically efficient alternative to adult combatants. They are easily indoctrinated and are efficient fighters because they have not yet developed a concept of death.³



As part of recruitment,

children are often forced to kill or maim a family member, a tactic to increase trauma and break community bonds.⁴

The notion of schools as zones of peace is challenged in many conflicts. Schools are used for military purposes and students teachers and schools 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.⁷

240 million children today live in countries affected by ongoing conflict.⁶

46 State militaries around the world continue to recruit children under the age of 18.⁶

1 - Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups, 2007. 2 - <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/effects-of-conflict/six-grave-violations/>. 3 - <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/effects-of-conflict/root-causes-of-child-soldiering/>. 4 - <https://www.warchild.org.uk/what-we-do/protection/child-soldiers>. 5 - US Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 2019. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>. 6 - https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CSI_annual_report_2018.pdf. 7 - <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/>

The UN's 2019 child recruitment list.⁵

Afghanistan
Burma
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Iran

Iraq
Mali
Somalia
South Sudan
Syria
Yemen

More than 8,500 children were used as soldiers last year in various conflicts across the world and nearly 2,700 others were killed. (UN)

Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



Children and Armed Conflict:

UN SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

Recommendations for the UN Security Council and Member States

In June, the UN Security Council will hold its open debate on children and armed conflict (CAAC), under Estonia's presidency. Special Representative Virginia Gamba will present the Secretary-General's (SG) 2021 annual report on children and armed conflict (forthcoming), covering the reporting period from January 1 to December 31, 2020.

Despite calls from both the SG and the Security Council (SCR 2532) for a global ceasefire to focus on the COVID-19 response, armed conflicts continued to rage—and in some cases, intensify—throughout 2020. The pandemic, and measures put in place to mitigate it, presented new challenges and exacerbated existing obstacles to the effective protection of children living through armed conflicts.

Health care systems already strained from the impacts of armed conflict were pushed further towards a breaking point under the weight of the pandemic. Hospitals and medical personnel continued to face threats and attacks, even as they struggled to respond to COVID-19's rapid spread. With in-person classes suspended, schools became easier targets for occupation by armed forces and groups, and out-of-school children faced increased vulnerability to recruitment and use. Movement restrictions to slow the virus' spread impacted the ability of humanitarian and health workers to provide lifesaving assistance to the most vulnerable. Shifts in donor funding sometimes resulted in abrupt changes to the availability of programming for children associated with armed forces and armed groups (CAAFAG). Many children continued to languish in detention, while monitors faced restricted access to detention centers. From early on, rights defenders raised the alarm about "silent pandemics" of sexual violence and mental health crises, even as access to reporting and support services became more difficult. As vaccination efforts are rolled out across the globe, it is crucial that the rights and vulnerabilities of children in warzones, including the specific needs of girls and boys, are taken into account in ongoing responses and in medium- and long-term recovery efforts.

Against this backdrop, dedicated child protection staff on the ground are needed more than ever to monitor and report on grave violations, operationalize action plans, engage with parties to conflict to end and prevent violations, and strengthen the overall child protection architecture of UN missions. However, budget cuts, underfunding, and transitions threaten to erode child protection capacity in UN peacekeeping and special political missions, especially in the context of mission transition or drawdown.

Pervasive impunity for violations also continues to present challenges to the protection of children in armed conflict. The UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), the SG's annual report, and its annexed list of perpetrators of grave violations against children have proven to be powerful tools to influence warring parties' behavior and promote compliance with international law. In recent years, however, the exclusion of some offending parties from the report's annexes, and the premature de-listing of parties who continue to commit grave violations, have undermined the strength of these mechanisms. In March 2021, a group of internationally respected experts on CAAC undertook an independent review of the SG's listing and de-listing decisions between 2010 and 2020. Their analysis revealed persistent and disturbing discrepancies in the listing of perpetrators, including the omission of parties who were found responsible for killing and maiming over 100 children in a single year, double standards in the treatment of state and non-state parties, and inconsistent application of the criteria for de-listing as specified in the SG's 2010 annual report.

Finally, Watchlist and its partners continue to be concerned about the treatment of children associated with armed groups, including foreign children with actual or alleged ties to terrorist groups. In a number of contexts, these children are detained, tortured, or otherwise treated as security threats and perpetrators, rather than victims of serious rights violations. Governments have employed policies and measures to counter terrorism that lack adequate safeguards and threaten to erode implementation of decades of established child protection norms and principles. Counterterrorism measures and sanctions also threaten the delivery of principled humanitarian assistance. This could amount, in some contexts, to denial of humanitarian access, one of the six grave violations.

WWSF thanks
« Watchlist on
Children and Armed
Conflict »
(New York NY) for
giving us permission
to share with our
network some of their
Special
Updates.

Situations before the
Council involving parties
listed for grave violations
against children:

[Afghanistan](#)

[Central African Republic](#)

[Colombia](#)

[Democratic Republic
of the Congo](#)

[Iraq](#)

[Mali](#)

[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)

[Nigeria](#)

[Philippines](#)

[Somalia](#)

[South Sudan](#)

[Sudan](#)

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For resolution language
on Children and Armed
Conflict, download the
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from Watchlist, now
available on [iPhone](#), [iPad](#)
and [Android](#).



In view of the upcoming open debate, Watchlist recommends that the Security Council and other UN Member States:

1. Call for increased compliance with international humanitarian, human rights, and refugee law and child protection norms, and strengthen accountability for all grave violations against children:

- a. Reiterate support for the Security Council's CAAC agenda, including the integrity and impartiality of the listing mechanism; call for a single, complete list of perpetrators in the annexes of the SG's annual reports, that is evidence-based and accurately reflects data collected and verified by the MRM; strongly urge the SG to implement a rigorous, objective, and transparent process to ensure that parties are listed and de-listed according to the formal criteria, without discrimination and consistently across country situations;
- b. Urge Member States to bring to justice all those responsible for grave violations against children, including through prompt investigation and prosecution for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other egregious crimes perpetrated against children; encourage the cooperation of Member States with international justice mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court, and call for dedicated child rights expertise within investigative and justice mechanisms;
- c. Encourage Member States who have not done so to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC) and endorse the Paris Principles and Commitments, Vancouver Principles, and Safe Schools Declaration.

2. Make effective use of existing mechanisms and tools to monitor, report, and respond to child rights violations in armed conflict:

- a. Welcoming progress achieved thus far, call for systematic follow-up on the implementation of Security Council Working Group on CAAC conclusions, drawing on the full range of the Working Group's toolkit and strengthening coordination with regional Groups of Friends;
- b. In order to effectively implement the CAAC agenda, maintain dedicated child protection capacity in UN peace operations and political missions, with financial, political, and operational support to fully deliver on child protection mandates; prioritize child protection considerations in the context of downsizing or transition of such operations;
- c. Encourage the consistent consideration of the particular impacts of armed conflict on girls and boys, including through the systematic collection of gender-disaggregated data on grave violations to inform response and prevention strategies.

3. Prioritize the protection of the rights and well-being of children in armed conflict, including in the context of efforts to counter terrorism:

- a. Remind fellow Member States that CAAFAG should be treated primarily as victims, including those actually or allegedly associated with groups designated as terrorist or those who may have committed crimes; their reintegration should be prioritized in line with international juvenile justice standards; and detention should only be used as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate time;
- b. In order to prevent unlawful detention of children, call for the signing and effective implementation of handover protocols for their swift transfer from military custody to civilian child protection actors, as well as access to detention facilities for UN and other monitors;
- c. Call on countries of origin to safely repatriate their nationals and children of their nationals, following individual rights-based needs assessments, and to provide reintegration support in line with international laws and standards, and ensuring the best interests of the child;
- d. Ensure that COVID-19 response and medium- and long-term recovery efforts at all levels prioritize the rights and needs of vulnerable children;
- e. Recalling SCR 2427 (2018), call for the protection, rights, well-being, and empowerment of children affected by war to be fully incorporated and prioritized in ongoing and future peacebuilding efforts; encourage and facilitate consideration of children's views in these processes where possible and compatible with the best interests of the child; urge stakeholders to draw on existing tools, including the Practical Guidance for Mediators to Protect Children in Situations of Armed Conflict.

NGO Resources

- ➔ [Joint Open Letter from 18 Nongovernmental Organizations \(NGOs\) to the Secretary-General Calling for a Complete, Evidence-Based List of Perpetrators](#), May 2021
- ➔ [War Child and World Vision, The Silent Pandemic: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing of Children in Conflict-Affected Countries](#), April 2021
- ➔ [Watchlist, "A Credible List": Recommendations for the Secretary-General's 2021 Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict](#), April 2021
- ➔ [Eminent Persons Group, Keeping the Promise: An Independent Review of the UN's Annual List of Perpetrators of Grave Violations against Children, 2010 to 2020](#), March 2021
- ➔ [Watchlist, A Path to Reintegration: The Role of Handover Protocols in Protecting the Rights of Children Formerly Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups](#), December 2020
- ➔ [Plan International, et al., Girls Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups: Lessons Learned and Good Practices on Prevention of Recruitment and Use, Release and Reintegration](#), December 2020
- ➔ [Save the Children, Killed and Maimed: A Generation of Violations against Children in Conflict](#), November 2020

About Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict is a global network of international human rights and humanitarian non-governmental organizations which strives to end violations against children in armed conflicts through local partnerships, reporting and advocacy.

To subscribe to Watchlist updates and recommendations, Click [here](#) or visit: <http://watchlist.org>

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

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Email: watchlist@watchlist.org • Website: www.watchlist.org

Prevention of Children in Armed Conflict cont'd.

General Ideas for Action!



1 Lobby the government

if your country is involved in armed conflict, to develop or implement an Action Plan to ensure child protection <http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/our-work/action-plans>

2 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

3 Develop / improve

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

4 Raise

funds or resources in favor of rehabilitation centers

5 Visit

rehabilitation centers for demobilized children and organize meetings/discussions with children, staff and affected persons

6 Ensure

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

7 Organize

walks, marches or any other public action showing your solidarity with these children even if your own country/region is now itself at war, with the hashtag #childrennotsoldiers to show your support

8 Introduce

peace education programs in schools

9 Support

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

10 Create

awareness about the fifty countries that still allow the recruitment of children in armed forces

11 Ensure

child victims of grave violations are treated primarily as victims*



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 in the context of the pandemic.



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Learn about your rights and about this topic and become a Human Rights Defender: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/Defender.aspx>
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media or create your own
- Understand and share that the battlefield is not a place for young people and do not think of war as a game
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Check the Summary <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Stay informed and share news about what is happening to children growing up in countries affected by conflict
- Promote a culture of peace and support initiatives that helps create communities that are more secure for children



Young people need to develop crucial skills to cope with the effects of the Corona Virus Pandemic in their future work and prospects

- Empower youth leaders to drive social innovation, communities, to change regulations and help to end violence against children and youth

Youth:
15 to 24 years.
1.2 billion estimated worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Strengthen local capacity to assist children affected by war*
- Increase efforts to ensure that children have access to humanitarian assistance, even in times of conflict*

*source: www.childrenandarmedconflict.un.org



Solidarity is also necessary in active conflict situations where responding to the UN Secretary-General's global ceasefire call would allow the world to only focus together on the true fight – against COVID-19." https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/160420_Covid_Children_Policy_Brief.pdf



#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #Childrennotsoldiers

2021 Call to 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 - wdpca@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch

Prevention of Child Sexual Violence & Abuse

Main theme 2021 - 4 pages

« No violence against children is justifiable and that all violence against children is preventable. »



Updated version 2021

The 2021 "Kit for prevention of violence against children and youth 1-19 November" has as its purpose to mobilize more and more women and men who decide to join the change makers for a better world for too many children and youth that are experiencing violence and abuse today.

The SDG Target **16.2** is our main message to ensure that we "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 developmentally prepared, or that violates the laws or social 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, gynecological complications, sexually transmitted diseases, mental health problems, suicidal behavior, social exclusion, stigma, etc. Sexual violence against children is also «mostly invisible» and goes largely undocumented stating that fear of «getting into trouble» as well as shame and stigma all contribute to children not reporting." (Unicef).

Honorable Presidents & Ministers,

Your duty is to protect children from all forms of violence and abuse, including sexual violence.

"Just 21% of countries have national plans of action that include specified indicators on the prevalence of violence against children."

The time has now come for all countries to develop their national plans in order to speed up solutions and share their commitments to eliminate sexual violence against children and youth.

You may recall the 1990 Global Summit for Children, held at the UN in New York, where over 70 world leaders pledged to do better by the world's children. Their promises were eloquent, their goals ambitious.

31 years later, we need to tell you that children cannot survive or strive on promises only. You, and all world leaders have an obligation to find the resources and political will necessary to translate, 31 years later, promises into reality.

The purpose of the Global Summit for Children was to exact a universal commitment from you to make children's lives better. All the delegates unanimously adopted a declaration and a plan of action designed to meet 7 major promised goals by the year 2000.

How can we understand that such a major international event, creating such an enormous promise for the children of the world, needs us to remind you in 2021 of the alarming abuses and sexual violence still being carried out on children today.

When will the promises to the children be kept?



Still today, we learn that "every year, at least a billion children are exposed to violence. Every five minutes, a child dies a violent death (Hillis et al.2016) somewhere around the world."²

Ground-breaking research released by INTERPOL and ECPAT International into the online sexual exploitation of children suggests that when online images or videos of child sexual abuse depict boys or very young children, the abuse is more likely to be severe.³



Relevant SDG by 2030

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

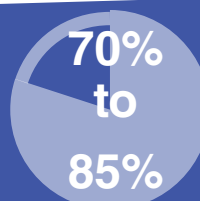
A problem global in scope: Alarming News!

"Online child sexual abuse, pornography, exploitation are reaching a breaking point. The images are horrific. Children, some just 3 or 4 years old, being sexually abused and in some cases tortured."

According to a New York Times article in 2019, "technology companies reported a record of 45 million online photos and videos of the abuse last year. More than a decade ago this number was less than a million. (...)"⁵

1 - WHO, Report on the Consultation of Child Abuse Prevention, 1999. 2 - <https://www.humandignity.foundation/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/The-Global-Partnership-Strategy.pdf> 3 - <http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/TOWARDS-A-GLOBAL-INDICATOR-ON-UNIDENTIFIED-VICTIMS-IN-CHILD-SEXUAL-EXPLOITATION-MATERIAL-Summary-Report.pdf> 4 - http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/11n5/default_en.asp 5 - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/09/28/us/child-sex-abuse.html> 6 - <https://www.unicef.org/end-violence>

Worldwide, around 15 million adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 have experienced forced sex in their lifetime.⁶



of sexual abuse cases, the abuser is somebody that the child knows and trusts.⁴

Prevention of Child Sexual Violence & Abuse

Main theme 2021 *cont'd.*



Overview: Global Status Report on Preventing Violence against Children 2020

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240004191>

"The Global status report on preventing violence against children 2020 charts countries' progress towards the SDGs aimed at ending violence against children. Jointly published by WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Violence against Children, and the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, it collates inputs from over 1000 decision-makers in 155 countries who assessed their violence prevention status against the evidence-based approaches set out in INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children. The report shows that while many of the participating countries are taking some action, government officials from these same countries acknowledge that their efforts are clearly insufficient to achieve the SDG targets. The report concludes with recommendations for boosting INSPIRE implementation efforts and accelerating national progress."

Research from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children also highlights the extreme growth of child sexual abuse reports.

- 1998: 3000 reports
- 2014: 1 million reports
- 2018: 18,4 million reports
- 2019: 16,9 million reports (69,1 million images and videos)

Source: <https://www.missingkids.org/HOME>

Understanding the crime is crucial to preventing it

"To be able to more effectively act to prevent this crime we need to better understand it. We need to understand technology and the way the material is shared online, but also trends in victim, offender and content characteristics over time. It's crucial that law enforcement agencies throughout the world have databases and the ability to track relevant information about the material they process and investigate. It is not enough to have large databases with lots of variables, rather we need robust databases with useful, and carefully defined variables to act to prevent this crime from happening and find victims when it does."

Read full report: Trends in online child sexual abuse material.
<https://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/ECPAT-International-Report-Trends-in-Online-Child-Sexual-Abuse-Material-2018.pdf>

Internet Safety at Home

"As adults and children alike have turned to digital tools for school, work, and socialization, online safety matters now more than ever.

Here are **five tips** for keeping kids safer online, adapted to fit the current "safer at home" environment.

Even if our online habits have changed significantly, you can still set boundaries that work for your family and schedule. Involving children in setting these rules may help them stick to the guidelines.

Consider:

- Distance learning tasks before social media or gaming
- No devices during meals
- At least ____ minutes of non-electronic activities per day
- "Digital curfew": no devices after a certain hour

Even the strictest monitoring programs and content blockers can't ensure that children are totally protected online. The best tools for keeping kids safe are time, attention and active conversation about digital behaviors.

Consider:

Setting up workstations for children and teens that provide quick visual access to the screens for easy check-ins from parents/ caretakers as they telework or complete household tasks.

Take advantage of this time at home and online to get more familiar with the technology platforms your child likes to use. Taking a genuine interest in the games and platforms your child enjoys will help you better understand what your child is doing online

Consider :

If you're teleworking, take a short break to join your child on a round on the game console, or forward a funny meme or video you saw on one of the social media channels they use. It's a quick way to show you're willing and able to be involved in your child's online life.

Chat "in real life" with your children. With our social lives being conducted entirely online these days, it's important to have face-to face discussions about how children and teens are maintaining healthy relationships online, and to give them opportunities to also talk about anything unhealthy or uncomfortable happening to them online.

Consider :

Showing that you're willing to listen and respond calmly, even if what you hear is uncomfortable or troubling.

Taking away internet access because a child has made a mistake online rarely solves the problem. Taking access away during a lockdown would likely do far more harm than good. Beyond affecting a child's ability to complete distance-learning tasks, it would all but completely isolate them from friends and other family; a support system that is essential right now. Find ways to give consequences that don't involve removing online access entirely.

Consider:

If you must, limit access (shorter window for digital socializing, gaming, restricted use to certain public areas of the house, etc.) rather than removing it entirely"

Source: <https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/netSMARTZ/downloadable/tipsheets/Internet-Safety-at-Home-EN-ES.pdf>

2 Prevention of Child Sexual Violence & Abuse

Main theme 2021 *cont'd.*



Learn about Interpol

"**INTERPOL** has 194 member countries, making it the world's largest police organization. They work together and with the General Secretariat to share data related to police investigations.

Each country hosts an INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB), which links national police with our global network. Countries come together at the annual General Assembly to decide policy, working methods, finances and activities. In addition, heads of NCB meet annually at a conference to share experiences.

Interpol, by name of International Criminal Police

Organization, is an intergovernmental organization that facilitates cooperation between the criminal police forces of more than 180 countries. Interpol aims to promote the widest-possible mutual assistance between criminal police forces and to establish and develop institutions likely to contribute to the prevention and suppression of international crime. Headquartered in Lyon, France, it is the only police organization that spans the entire globe.

Interpol concentrates on three broad categories of international criminal activity:

- terrorism and crimes against people and property, **including crimes against children, trafficking in human beings**, illegal immigration
- automobile theft, and art theft
- economic, financial, and computer crimes, including banking fraud, money laundering, corruption, and counterfeiting
- and illegal drugs and criminal organizations, including organized crime"

Interpol helps specialized units work across borders and sectors to ensure criminals don't exploit children.

<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children/Our-response-to-crimes-against-children>

"Their main activity is to help police to identify victims of child sexual exploitation, by analysing photos and videos found on the Internet or on seized devices. Their database of images is available to specialized experts, and supports traditional police investigations.

Interpol also provides opportunities for experts to boost their skills and networks, leading to more effective investigations.

Victim identification

The identification of young victims portrayed in sexual abuse material is a top priority for law enforcement, as it can also help locate the perpetrators.

Crucial to their work is the International Child Sexual Exploitation image database, which uses sophisticated image comparison software to make connections between victims and places.

Preventing the distribution of child sexual abuse material

Prevention of access to child material online is complementary to investigative work, and stops re-victimization of the children abused. They work closely with Internet service providers to block access to child abuse material online.

Appropriate terminology

Along with international experts, they recommend using appropriate terminology describing child sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. The Luxembourg Guidelines have been established as the reference for such terminology.

Training

A core function of our specialized experts in this area is to help police in their member countries to build their capacity to investigate child sexual exploitation.

Interpol organizes training courses in all regions of the world and covering the entire scope of child sexual abuse investigations:

- Conducting investigations in the online environment;
- The use of INTERPOL's **International Child Sexual Exploitation database**;
- Victim identification methods;
- Victim and offender interview techniques;
- Categorization and triage of child sexual abuse material.

While many countries have child protection and special victims units, few have specialized staff able to investigate online child sexual abuse cases or perform victim identification. Our specialized officers can advise countries on how to set up victim identification units and can provide tailored support to national authorities.

Specialists Group on Crimes Against Children

The INTERPOL Specialists Group on Crimes Against Children meets annually to facilitate and enhance the investigation of sexual crimes against children. Gathering law enforcement, regional and international organizations, NGOs, the private sector and academia, the group identifies new trends and techniques and develops best practice.

Travelling sex offenders

Some sex offenders will cross borders to abuse children, allowing them to stay out of sight of their home authorities and gain unsupervised access to children.

INTERPOL can issue a **Green Notice** to warn about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered a threat to children, or a **Blue Notice** to collect information on a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime.

Missing, abducted and trafficked children

At the request of a member country, we can issue a **Yellow Notice** to help locate missing persons, especially minors. These notices are circulated on an international basis and recorded in our database of missing and abducted children.

We also work closely with our member countries and partners to protect minors from being trafficked and exploited for labor.

Partners

Interpol nurtures relationships with a number of cross-sector partners in order to cast the widest possible net against sex offenders.

- ECPAT
- Human Dignity Foundation
- INHOPE
- International Justice Mission
- Internet Watch Foundation
- WeProtect Global Alliance
- Virtual Global Taskforce
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- Regional law enforcement organizations
- THORN

Private sector partners such as financial institutions, internet service providers and software developers also play a crucial role in tracking child sexual abuse material and shutting down illegal distribution channels. Their input is highly valued and a key part of our coordinated approach." Find out more about Interpol: <https://www.interpol.int/>

General Ideas for Action!

1 Ensure

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

2 Listen

to children and give them the opportunity to express their views and treat them with respect

3 Training

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

4 Speak

out earlier about sexual advances and abuse

5 Promote

the establishment of comprehensive sexuality education in schools

6 Request

local and national authorities to set up and update profiles of known pedophiles

7 Request

that Interpol set up and update files of known pedophiles

8 Initiate

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

9 Support

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

10 Support

and develop skills to enable adults who work with youth for meaningful and ethical participation with children for the prevention of child abuse



COVID-19

increases the risk of child sexual abuse and violence when schools are closed and freedom of movements are restricted



Be vigilant

during the pandemic if you need to replace your caregiver/ day-care provider, be aware that child sexual abuse most often happens within the family



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 - during quarantine and self-isolation processes and procedures.

https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_Preparedness_and_Response_-_UNFPA_Interim_Technical_Briefs_Adolescents_and_Young_People_23_March_2020.pdf



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Speak up if you see, hear or experience any form of sexual abuse
- Request sex education in your school and participate and engage in prevention activities in your school and community
- Ensure your inclusion in research, planning, developing, implementing, and monitoring prevention activities and programs
- Create youth associations and organizations, youth groups and local centers and facilitate sharing about abuses and violence against children and youth
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Create circles of compassion
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Check the Summary <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Listen to the questions and anxieties of young people
- Explain to your peers COVID-19 and what adults are doing to meet children's needs



Youth:
15 to 24 years.
1.2 billion estimated worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Empower civil society community learning about prevention of abuse and violence against children
- Accompany your congregation with PPE (Personal protective equipment) recommendations and advice for COVID-19
- Promote the creation of community circles of compassion to increase action and to achieve the SDG Goal #16.2 (see p. 70 - 73)
- Link to Faith and Children's Rights: A Multi-religious Study on the Convention on the Rights of the Child: https://arigatouinternational.org/images/zdocs/files/209_CRC-Full-Study-Publication-web_compressed_v2_r3.pdf
- Ensure religious texts, scriptures, teachings and traditional ceremonies and practices are used to promote respect for children – not to condone or perpetrate violence against children



#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventChildSexualAbuse

2021 Call to 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 - wdpca@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch

Theme 3 Prevention of Bullying



Updated version 2021

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.¹

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 out intentionally, 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.¹
- **"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."

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 suicide²

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 popularity²



"COVID-19 continues to impact heavily on the world's children, including their education, health, and social life. Bullying, which harms each of these domains of childhood development, may have substantially increased during the ongoing pandemic, compounding further the disproportionate impact on children and young people.

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.

Research is urgently needed to establish the impact of COVID-19 on the prevalence of all forms of childhood and adolescent bullying, and meaningful interventions installed in anticipation of elevated levels."

<https://bjgp.org/content/71/704/122>

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

A study of 40 developing countries showed that an average of 42% of boys and 37% of girls were exposed to bullying.⁵

According to research by an anti-bullying charity, 37% of teenagers who responded said they had been bullied on Facebook.⁶

3. 6% of children had had their explicit pictures shared without their permission. 25% had been the subject of online rumors about their sex lives. And 31% had seen people their own age create fake profiles in order to share sexual pictures of a third party. More worrying still, 9% had received sexual threats from people their own age.⁷

Nine out of 10 young people believe bullying is a pervasive problem in their communities.⁸

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



1 - <https://www.unicef.org/egypt/bullying> 2 - <https://www.stopbullying.gov/at-risk/warning-signs/index.html> 3 - UNICEF Data : Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women, 2017 4 - <https://cyberbullying.org/2019-cyberbullying-data> 5 - World Health Organization, Youth Violence, 2016 <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/youth-violence> 6 - <https://www.ditchthelabel.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/The-Annual-Bullying-Survey-2017-1.pdf> 7 - https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Project_deSHAME_Dec_2017_Report.pdf 8 - UNICEF, 2016 https://www.unicef.org/media/media_92086.html 9 - School Violence and Bullying Global Status Report : UNESCO AND SDGs, 2017 <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002469/246970e.pdf>

130

Worldwide, close to 130 million (slightly more than 1 in 3) students between the ages of 13 and 15 experience bullying.³

School Violence and Bullying Global Status Report: UNESCO & SDGs⁹

General Ideas for Action!

1 Teach

your children from an early age the difference between playfulness and bullying and that bullying is unacceptable

2 Facilitate

and encourage youth participation in politics and civil societies at both local community and national levels

3 Make

youth participation a priority in public policies

4 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

5 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>

6 Create

a reliable and trustful student reporting systems and helplines so that children feel safe to report bullying in confidentiality

7 Set up

toll free child helplines and/or work with existing ones to ensure services are accessible

8 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



Check out

the Child Online Safety Universal Declaration The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development. https://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/working-groups/ChildOnlineSafety_Declaration.pdf



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Debate and brainstorm about how to stop bullying
- Build a support network to be a safe place for bullied kids
- Share with your local community and media your bullying prevention ideas
- Learn how to identify bullying behavior of all kinds, effective ways to avoid or stop bullies, how to speak up against bullying, how to be an advocate for those who are being bullied, how to accept coaching and be a coach for others
- If you wouldn't say something to someone's face, you shouldn't say it to them online, through texting, or posting in any other way
- Become a Teen ambassador for STOMP Out Bullying, if you are an Upstander against bullying, have excellent grades, public speaking experience and are a leader in your school or community you could be a Teen ambassador
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Check the Summary on pages <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>



Cultivate compassion*, raise awareness of and protection from the virus, promote healthy behaviour in your communities and sharing of correct information to promote prevention, using a variety of online tools and channels. This will include translating vital resources into local languages, using digital technologies, and combating misinformation and xenophobia around the COVID-19 pandemic

Youth:
15 to 24 years.
1.2 billion estimated worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Teach children the weight of words, to be mindful of others and demonstrate gentle kindness
- Talk to children and their parents to follow online education for ensuring education continuity
- “Church is a place where you are taught to stop lying, stop beating your younger ones, change your behavior” – Child in Nigeria
- Churches can also introduce examples of the notion of compassion, to help children and youth in difficult situations and learn about collective compassionate action (see p. 70 - 73)



It takes compassion to end violence against children & youth

SDG Target #16.2 needs our contributions. How to Create your Circle of Compassion & contact us www.woman.ch

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventBullying

2021 Call to 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 - wdpca@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch

4 Prevention of Neglect



Updated version 2021

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.²

Medical neglect

is the intentional deprivation of the child from healthcare, denying or delaying necessary treatment even though the parents or the caregiver 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 school³

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.¹⁰

<https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Voices-of-Children-2017-2018-FINAL-Spreads.pdf>

Article 19 - Convention on the Rights of the Child

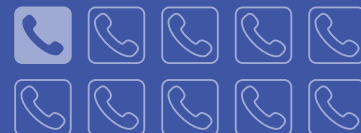
1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s),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

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



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 - Idem. 3 - <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect.htm/> 4 - <https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/child-helplines/child-helpline-network/> 5 - World Health Organization, Global Summit highlights solutions to end violence against children, calls for accelerated action, February 2018 http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/ 6 - <https://www.child-helpline.org/> 7 - World Health Organization, Child Maltreatment 2017 Infograph. http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/child/Child_maltreatment_infographic_EN.pdf?ua=1 8 - <https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2016-2020-Child-Helpline-International-Strategy.pdf> 9 - Child Helpline Data on Abuse and Violence from 2012-2013 – Violence Against Children – Giving a Voice to Children and Young People Worldwide. 10 - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/neglect/who-is-affected-by-neglect/>



Child Helpline Network International.⁴



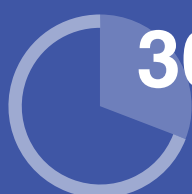
CHILD HELPLINE INTERNATIONAL 2016-2020 STRATEGY.⁸

In 2018, 1 **billion** children aged 2-17 years – or one in two children – have suffered physical, sexual or emotional violence or neglect.⁵

Children with disabilities are four times more likely to suffer from abuse or neglect.⁷



Boys and girls contact child helplines in equal numbers to talk about neglect (49% vs. 51%).⁹



of abused and neglected children will later abuse or neglect their own.⁶



General Ideas for Action!

- 1 Lobby**
your government to put in place a national action plan and a survey to collect data on child neglect
- 2 Establish**
child-friendly information services to identify children at risk
- 3 Increase**
public awareness to educate the community about neglect
- 4 Support**
efforts to address social problems such as poverty, substance abuse and family violence
- 5 Promote**
and encourage parenting education programs and coaching
<https://www.crin.org/en/library/publications/what-works-tackling-child-abuse-and-neglect-manual-policy-makers-managers-and>
- 6 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
- 7 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

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

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

- 10 Support**
the creation and maintenance of helplines and hotlines to report neglect



Parental support and stress release measures:

intensive home visiting programs to new mothers have been found to reduce child abuse and neglect (Olds 2007); some of these services could be carried out virtually during the lockdown (Conti et al. 2020). 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.³



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.



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Find and approach counsellors and child care services closest to you
- If you suspect someone is being neglected offer your support, they probably feel very alone and helpless and could use someone who will just listen to them, it could give them strength in finding a solution to their situation
- If you see an issue of neglect, call a helpline (1 in ten calls to child helplines worldwide concern neglect)
- Understand your rights as a child/young adult
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Check the Summary on pages 80 - 81
<http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Empower youth leaders to drive social innovation, communities, to change regulations and help to end violence against children and youth

Youth:
15 to 24 years.
1.2 billion estimated worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES



Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and considerations during severe shortages

WHO recommendations for the rational use of personal protective equipment (PPE), in health care and community settings.

[https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/rational-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-for-coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)-and-considerations-during-severe-shortages](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/rational-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-for-coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-and-considerations-during-severe-shortages)

- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventChildNeglect

2021 Call to 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 - wdpca@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch

Theme 5 Prevention of Child Labor



Updated version 2021

Honorable Presidents and Ministers,

Can you commit to prioritize investments in programs that can get children out of the workforce and back into school?



Target 8.7 asks Member States to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour among other targets."

Link to ILO Domestic Workers Convention C189

https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:2551460

"Recognizing the special conditions under which domestic work is carried out that make it desirable to supplement the general standards with standards specific to domestic workers so as to enable them to enjoy their rights fully,"



"The year 2021 is designated, by a United Nations General Assembly resolution, as International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor. The resolution urges governments to do what is necessary to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 8.

« For the first time in two decades, the number of children being put to work has risen – to 160 million worldwide, representing an increase of 8.4 million over four years – while millions of others are at risk due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new UN report... »

9 June 2021 - Human Rights

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/06/1093682>

"The report warns that progress to end child labour has stalled for the first time in 20 years, reversing the previous downward trend that saw the number put to work fall by 94 million between 2000 and 2016."

"(...) COVID-19 is endangering progress made in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean regions.

The report warns that globally, nine million additional children are at risk of being pushed into child labour by the end of 2022 as a result of the pandemic, which could rise to 46 million without access to critical social protection coverage."

To read more: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/06/1093682>

- 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.²

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).³

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.⁴

173

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

Definition

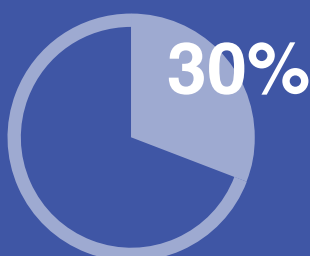
The term child labor is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity. Not all work done by children should be classified as child labor (i.e. activities such as helping parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours).⁷

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.¹

1 - <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang-en/index.htm> 2 - <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/06/1093682> 3 - https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_632122/lang-en/index.htm 4 - <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/06/1093682> 5 - https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11300:0::NO::P11300_INSTRUMENT_ID:312283 6 - <http://www.crin.org/en/home/campaigns/hosted-campaigns/domestic-workers-convention> 7 - <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang-en/index.htm>



Children make up nearly 30% of the world's estimated 50 million to 100 million domestic workers.⁶

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030





General Ideas for Action!

1 Lobby your government

to mainstream child labor concerns into child-sensitive social security policies (education, healthcare, nutrition) <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/lang--en/index.htm>

2 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>

3 Stop

children from working in dangerous places. We share with you ten tips for helping end child labor: <https://humaneeducation.org/2017/10-tips-for-helping-end-child-labor/>

4 Raise

awareness about the dangers of child labor to children's development in your community

5 Implement

on the local level the ILO Child Labor Monitoring Scheme

6 Cooperate

with local initiatives that aim to stop children from working in dangerous places

7 Develop

a regional roadmap to end child labour, with timebound achievable milestones and suggested resource allocations.

8 Lobby your government

to ensure access to free and compulsory education



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/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_745287.pdf



Ensure

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. This includes support to institutionalised and coordinated social protection measures. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_745287.pdf



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- 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
- Organize discussions at home and in schools about child labor
- Follow us on Twitter @youth_engage
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Respect PPE recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Youth:
15 to 24
years.
1.2 billion
estimated
worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Encourage and contribute to community protection activities to help end child labor
- Support children and adolescents in reaching out to decision-makers and the general public so that their views and ideas may be heard and taken into account
- Encourage civil society actors to engage in a constructive dialogue to know and respect the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to a multi-religious vision of our shared humanity
- Help create Community Circles of Compassion (see p. 70 - 73)

Theme 6 Prevention of Corporal Punishment

(4 pages)



Updated version 2021

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** (see pages 79 - 81) 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>

"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."

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



"Protecting children during the COVID-19 pandemic"

Updated 24 March 2020

<https://endcorporalpunishment.org/protecting-children-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

"The outbreak of a novel form of Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been declared a pandemic and the situation for children and families all over the world continues to evolve quickly. While the outbreak and its affects are unprecedented, we do know that children face an increased risk of violence in times of crisis, and the evidence from previous infectious disease outbreaks suggests that child protection risks are exacerbated and new ones emerge during an epidemic and

prevention and control measures. The pressures on vulnerable children and families will be compounded by the speed of change and implications such as loss of earnings, changes to the physical environment and reduced access to essentials, services and support, in addition to fears around physical health. Understandably, feelings of anxiety and stress among adults and children will be heightened.

We are reminded at this time of the importance of ensuring everyone is equipped to prevent violence against children around the world. Parents are in need of particular support during this time of isolation, to help reduce stress and maintain positive relationships with each other and their children."

Excerpts from "Global perspective on corporal punishment and its effects on children" by Ben Freer, PhD, professor at the Fairleigh Dickinson University USA – June 2020

https://www.un.org/development/desa/family/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2020/06/Freer_Expert-Group-Paper_Corporal-Punishment-Physical-Abuse_June2020.pdf

Effects of Corporal Punishment

"In summary, though the size of the effects are unclear, the majority of past research has identified a plethora of negative associations between the use of corporal punishment and child development, while finding an absence of benefits to the use of corporal punishment nor differences based on racial or ethnic group differences. In addition, exposure to corporal punishment increases the risk for exposure to physical abuse which has been theorized to be due to an escalation in violence over time (Ateah & Durant, 2005). Taken in total, the use of corporal punishment appears to provide no meaningful benefit to child development and many deleterious effects."

1 - <http://www.refworld.org/docid/460bc7772.html>, 2 - <https://2018.justicewithchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/TRIONA-LE-NIHAN-PRESENTATION-29.05.18-ROOM-VII.pdf> 3 - Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, 2017 <http://endcorporalpunishment.org/wp-content/uploads/global/Global-report-2017-singles.pdf> 4 - UNICEF : Monitoring the situation of Children and Women, 2017 <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence/violent-discipline/>

In **34** states,

corporal punishment -
whipping, flogging, caning
- is still lawful under state,
traditional and/or religious
law as a sentence for crimes
committed by juveniles:
Afghanistan, Bahamas,
Bangladesh, Barbados,
Botswana, Brunei
Darussalam, Colombia,
Dominica, Ecuador,
Grenada, Guyana,
India, Indonesia, Iran,
Kiribati, Libya, Malaysia,
Maldives, Mauritania,
Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar,
Saudi Arabia, Singapore,
Somalia, St. Vincent and
the Grenadines, State of
Palestine, Tonga, Tuvalu,
United Arab Emirates, UR
Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen,
Zimbabwe²

Stay up-to-date on all
developments

concerning Covid-19

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

130
States have
prohibited corporal
punishment in all
schools.³

Close to 300 million children aged 2 to 4 world-wide (3 out of 4) experience violent discipline by their caregivers on a regular basis⁴

Relevant Sustainable
Development Goal
by 2030



#16.2



A Case Study on the Impact of a Ban on Corporal Punishment

"In 1983, Finland became the second country, after Sweden, to adopt a law prohibiting corporal punishment on children by their parents. After 28 years, the country conducted a study in Western Finland to examine the outcomes of the ban with findings subsequently published by Österman and colleagues (2014). These researchers found that there was a significant drop in the experience of corporal punishment only after the law had been passed and not in the years leading up to the ban suggesting that **"a decline in physical punishment of children does not occur automatically but that the implementation of a law is necessary"**. The study also revealed significant mental health impacts with both men and women who had experienced corporal punishment in childhood reporting more mental health problems, depression, suicidal ideation, abuse of alcohol, and marital problems resulting in divorce. These negative outcomes associated with the experience of corporal punishment further support the findings reported earlier in this paper. In total, the case study from Finland demonstrates the immense power and importance of a government banning the use of corporal punishment to promote the safety, security, and healthy development of children."

Effective Parenting Programs to teach non-violent discipline

"It is clear that one mechanism to protect children from the experience of corporal punishment is through legal intervention at the State-level. However, there is also evidence that parenting programs can shift attitudes toward the use of corporal punishment. For example, researchers have demonstrated that a brief intervention can reduce favorable attitudes toward corporal punishment through a written or reading assignment (Griffen, Robinson, & Carpenter, 2000; Holden, Brown, Baldwin, & Croft Caderao, 2014; Robinson, Funk, Beth, & Bush, 2005), providing educational books about corporal punishment (Reich, Penner, Duncan, & Auger, 2012), and a video-based psychoeducation to promote alternative disciplinary strategies (Scholer, Hamilton, Johnson, & Scott, 2010).

One study expanded on these brief interventions to provide an hour-long motivational interview approach to mothers of children ages 3 to 5 that aimed to understand a person's perspective and promote a change in that perspective about corporal punishment (Holland & Holden, 2016).

This study resulted in a decrease in favorable attitudes toward corporal punishment and intention to use corporal punishment that continued to decrease even after a 1-month follow-up.

Future research, must examine whether these types of interventions can be effective in changing parental behavior in addition to attitudes and intentions. Despite a lack of research demonstrating that these interventions have reduced the use of

corporal punishment, previous research has demonstrated that attitudes toward corporal punishment are highly associated with reports of spanking use (Holden, Coleman, & Schmidt, 1995) and thus interventions to target attitudes remains a promising direction of intervention and research. "

Conclusions

"The use of corporal punishment is a serious problem for the health, safety, and security of children throughout the world. Past research has clearly linked the use of corporal punishment to a multitude of both short- and long-term negative outcomes in childhood and adulthood, and the use of corporal punishment by parents increases the risk of physical abuse. It is clear that the use of violence has deleterious effects on children and **States should take the initiative to pass legislation that prohibits the use of corporal punishment.** Indeed, while the number of States that have passed such legislation has increased dramatically in recent years, there are still ~90% of children world-wide who are not fully protected from violence in the home (Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment, 2019). This failure to achieve the goals of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and SDG 16.2 must be addressed and corrected in order for a productive and successful society."

To read the entire paper: https://www.un.org/development/desa/family/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2020/06/Freer_Expert-Group-Paper_Corporal-Punishment-Physical-Abuse_June2020.pdf

6 Prevention of Corporal Punishment cont'd.



What religious communities can do towards ending corporal punishment of children

(taken from the special conference Report) <http://endcorporalpunishment.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Special-report-Malta-spreads.pdf>

- Model and promote positive, non-violent parenting.
- Explain why the legality and practice of corporal punishment are incompatible with universal values of compassion, equality, justice, equity and non-violence.
- 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.
- Hold vigils and events dedicated to ending legalised violence against children.
- Promote the meaning of “discipline” as teaching and guidance, not as physical punishment; offer support and resources for parents
- Speak out about the harmful effects of corporal punishment
- Ensure religious texts, scriptures, teachings and traditional ceremonies and practices are used to promote respect for children – not to condone or perpetrate violence against children
- Use opportunities in the life of the religious community such as marriage preparation and the birth of a baby, to highlight the dangers of corporal punishment and promote positive non-violent parenting.
- Link the issue of corporal punishment and the urgent need to prohibit it with campaigns to end violence against women and girls.
- Identify child protection risks in the religious community; ensure accountability and reporting mechanisms are in place.
- Ensure child protection and safeguarding policies explicitly denounce corporal punishment.
- Encourage the religious community to actively support law reform at www.endcorporalpunishment.org.
- Work with others, including governments, NGOs and interfaith councils towards prohibition and elimination of all corporal punishment of children. *For further information and resources, see www.churchesfornon-violence.org*

Making non-violent childhoods a reality

The ultimate goal of prohibiting corporal punishment is to ensure that no child ever experiences it, by eliminating its use completely. Legal prohibition sends a clear message that hitting and hurting a child, for whatever reason, is wrong, just as hitting and hurting adults is wrong. But implementing the law is not only about responding to adults who violently punish children – it is primarily about transforming attitudes and practice so that physical punishment is no longer seen as acceptable, enabling a shift in social norms towards positive, non-violent childrearing methods.

Preliminary list of measures to accompany

prohibition (taken from the special conference Report) <http://endcorporalpunishment.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Special-report-Malta-spreads.pdf>

- Wide dissemination and explanation of the law and its implications
- Detailed guidance, for all involved, on how the law should be implemented in the best interests of children
- Communication of children’s right to protection from corporal punishment and all other cruel or degrading forms of punishment to children and adults
- Dissemination of information on the dangers of corporal punishment
- Promotion of positive, non-violent forms of discipline to the public, children, parents, other carers, teachers, etc.
- Integration of implementation/enforcement of the prohibition into the national and local child protection systems
- Identification of key public figures and a wide range of partners who can support implementation of the law and transformation of attitudes
- Attraction of necessary resources
- Evaluation of the impact of law reform and other measures, through a baseline survey and regular follow-up surveys, interviewing children and parents
- Possible points for communicating key messages
- Birth registration
- Pre- and post-natal services
- All other health service and health practitioner contacts with parents, future parents and children
- Pre-school entry, school entry, school curriculum and informal educational settings
- Social and welfare services in contact with children (including children in all non-family settings) and with families
- Initial and in-service training of all those working with and for families and children, including teachers, care workers, etc.
- Elements of civil society in contact with children and families, including religious/ faith groups
- Mass media, internet, social networking, etc.

“Violence is not a private matter that should be left to families to resolve, but a matter of human rights that states have a duty to uphold.”



General Ideas for Action!

1 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

2 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

3 Lobby

your government to promote a rights-based approach to prohibition, and to ensure that legislation is in place to ban corporal punishment in the home, schools, penal institutions, and all settings. Where legislation is in place, ensure its effective implementation

4 Promote and develop

within the community courses on alternative forms of discipline and nonviolent communication

5 Include training

on positive discipline methods in teacher curricula and address the causes of violent behavior of teachers and students

6 Convene

public debates to challenge myths/norms

7 Incorporate

in the school curriculum children's rights training and conflict resolution skills

8 Create

awareness about the harmful effects of corporal punishment on children

9 Urge

governments to commemorate the 19 November « World Day for the prevention of Violence against Children and Youth » and include the SDG target #16.2



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



CHILD PROTECTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CORONAVIRUS

https://alliancecpha.org/en/system/tdf/library/attachments/covid-19_technical_note_summary_5.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=37577



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Break the Silence against Childhood violence Video <https://vimeo.com/235105991>
- Communicate and contact your local helpline in case your friend, sibling, or classmate face corporal punishment <https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/child-helplines/child-helpline-network/>
- Request that all incidents of violence in schools are reported
- Learn about your right and how to challenge corporal punishment
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWp_mqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view

Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

Youth:
15 to 24 years.
1.2 billion estimated worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

Declaration of the Role of Religion and Religious Leaders in confronting corporal punishment of children (2011):

Para. 1: " We invite: (1) All religious leaders and their followers to make efforts, based on religious teachings, to: Utilise their capabilities to build the culture of respecting children's dignity and the principle of the best interests of the child, and to confront violence against children, particularly violence in the form of corporal punishment in the home and educational settings..."

<https://jilflc.com/resources/declaration-qom-iran-2011-the-role-of-religions-and-religious-leaders-in-confronting-corporal-punishment-of-children-in-the-family-and-educational-settings/>

- Promote the meaning of "discipline" as guidance, not as physical punishment; offer support and resources for parents
- Create Circles of Compassion (see p. 70 - 73)

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventCorporalPunishment

7 Prevention of the Sale of Children



Updated version 2021

Honorable Presidents 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 accepting of 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/EN/](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx)

[ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx)

Your duty is to protect children from being sold. How can you stop such "business" that violates the rights of the child?

Definition

The sale of children refers to any transaction whereby a child is transferred from one person or group to another for remuneration or any other consideration, according to Article 2 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC). A child can be sold for multiple purposes: sexual exploitation, child labor, organ trafficking, illegal adoption, child marriage, and more.¹



Excerpts from the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, Mama Fatima Singhateh

22 February–19 March 2021

<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/31>

"Persistent challenges

73. The pandemic has exacerbated the existing vulnerability of children. Governments around the world needed to adapt, extend and scale up support measures for families. In their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, States were called upon to take into account multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization, exclusion and inequality. States were called upon to integrate prevention, mitigation and response

efforts and reinforce plans and structures to counter the increase of sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence and violence in digital contexts, and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage, as part of their COVID-19 responses, including by maintaining and designating protection shelters, hotlines and help desks, health and support services as well as legal protection and support as essential services.

74. The mandate has previously observed that in general, and in the context of crises created by humanitarian and natural disasters, while a large number of action plans and strategies are developed, they are very often only partially or incompletely implemented, owing to – inter alia – weak capacities of the institutions responsible for the design, implementation and monitoring of action plans and strategies; inadequate allocations of budgetary and qualified human resources; multiple sectoral action plans and insufficient coordination among actors, leading to duplication of work and misuse of resources; and shortages or an absence of monitoring and assessment mechanisms to measure the impact of the actions taken.

75. In many places, low capacities, including low levels of financial and human resources, thwart efforts to tackle any form of abuse, violence and exploitation of children and to care for victims. Significant efforts are needed to train professionals to identify and address the relevant crimes and foster child-sensitive approaches to prevent and combat these child rights violations. **Capacity-building** also necessitates adequate budgetary allocations to enable the relevant institutions and services to operate effectively.

76. The collection and analysis of reliable data on the sale and sexual exploitation of children continues to be a major challenge. The lack of reliable data reduces the visibility of the issue, and hinders the development of adequate responses and preventive measures. **Furthermore, many States lack an integrated data-collection system."**

To read more: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/31>

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... »⁴



Exploitative practises in the context of commercial surrogacy arrangements commodifying children can amount to sale of children.²

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.³



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. 40 per cent of girls are married before age 18, and 12 per cent of girls are married before age 15.⁵

1 - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/opscrc.aspx> 2 - <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRC/OPSC-Guidelines-Explanatory-Report-ECPAT-International-2019.pdf> 3 - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/Illegaladoptions.aspx> 4 - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/Surrogacy.aspx> 5 - UNFPA, Child Marriage, 2018 <https://www.unfpa.org/child-marriage>

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.

7 Prevention of the Sale of Children cont'd.



General Ideas for Action!

1 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)

2 Support

the strengthening of parenting programs and parental capacities

3 Train

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

4 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

- Ratify the Hague Adoption Convention and ensure that national adoption policies take into account the best interests of the child and protect against illegal adoption http://www.hcch.net/upload/adoguide_e.pdf

- Implement civil registration of births, deaths, and marriages of children

- 15 countries have taken no action nor have they ratified the protocol. <http://indicators.ohchr.org/>

5 Create

a local coalition with various stakeholders to devise strategies to prevent child trafficking Resource: Training Manual to Fight Trafficking in Children for labor, sexual and other forms of exploitation, ILO, UNICEF and UNGIFT http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/areas/Traffickingofchildren/WCMS_111537/lang--en/index.htm

6 Take steps

to prevent and end child early and forced marriage, which are considered forms of sale of children <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage-theory-of-change/>



The UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on children

https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/160420_Covid_Children_Policy_Brief.pdf



Mobilize

child protection services for early detection and protection of the virus



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Learn about your right to dignity <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>
- 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>
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- 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.

Youth:
15 to 24
years.
1.2 billion
estimated
worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

"More solidarity: The **COVID-19 pandemic** is a test of our solidarity: within local communities, the scientific research community, faith-based communities and the community of nations. Children offer a common cause that can stoke a greater sense of unity among people. https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/160420_Covid_Children_Policy_Brief.pdf

- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity



#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #NotForSale

Theme 8 Prevention of Child Prostitution



Updated version 2021

Honorable Presidents and Ministers,

The 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/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>

Your duty is to protect children from prostitution. How can you enforce the unacceptability of such "business", and reinforce the right to dignity for all children and youth?

Definition

The United Nations defines it as «the act of engaging or offering the services of a child to perform sexual acts for money or other consideration with that person or any other person».

Article 2 (b) of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC)

defines child prostitution as "the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of compensation." Remuneration can be financial but could include other forms of payment, such as in kind-benefits, accommodation, or drugs.

Excerpts from the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, Mama Fatima Singhateh, 22 February–19 March 2021

<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/31>

Summary

"In the present report, the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, Mama Fatima Singhateh, focuses on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on increased risk and various manifestations of sale and sexual exploitation of children. The

Special Rapporteur outlines the push and pull factors, protection challenges and good practices, and provides recommendations on measures to address the heightened risks of sale and sexual exploitation of children, both online and offline, during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis and the ensuing lockdowns."



"C. Preventing and combating the sale and sexual exploitation of children during the pandemic: good practices and persistent challenges

1. Good practices

58. The mandate has concluded in the past that an initial problem pinpointed in times of humanitarian crisis and natural disaster has been the absence of a comprehensive framework for the coordination and allocation of roles and responsibilities of multiple international and local responders, which frequently leads to confusion, unnecessary duplication of efforts and substantial protection gaps.

In order for prevention to be effective, it is fundamental to have sustained political will, a sound knowledge base, an institutional presence, a multidisciplinary approach and coordination between different institutions, the participation of children and their families, outreach to communities at the grass-roots level, especially to marginalized groups, and attention to gender issues and the concerns of groups exposed to higher risks of sexual exploitation, as well as adequate human and financial resources.

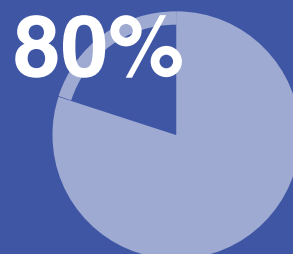
59. In the face of alarming trends, many countries have introduced new or scaled-up social protection services for children. By July 2020, at least 60 countries⁷⁴ had strengthened social protection for children and families as a response to COVID-19, including by setting up new child grant programmes, increasing the value of existing child grants, and extending the coverage of targeted cash transfer programmes."

To read more: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/31>

Although no reliable data is available on the extent of the phenomenon globally, studies indicate that it exists in all environments, including in developed countries, and across various socioeconomic levels.

Child sex tourism is a critical part of child prostitution, and the demand side must be addressed at all levels.²

It is believed that nearly 80% of all trafficking worldwide is for sexual exploitation, with over 20% of the victims being children.²



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

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



2 - <http://www.ecpat.net/what-we-do> 3 - https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575479.pdf

Children represent 21% of the victims of commercial sexual exploitation.³

Poverty is a factor of heightening the risk of children being used for sexual exploitation. (UNICEF)



1 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

2 Initiate

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

3 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

4 Understand

survivors as victims, not offenders

5 Partner

with public agencies to provide support and services to survivors

6 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

7 Involve

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

**Use**

and disseminate only official information about the Pandemic provided by government sites or the World Health Organization website.
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- 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
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>

Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

Youth:
15 to 24
years.
1.2 billion
estimated
worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Religious leaders have a unique opportunity to firmly condemn all forms of child prostitution
- The **SDG target #16.2** could be used to remind your congregation 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 encourage children to share their views, ideas and concerns (www.oikoumene.org/resources-children for example)
- Recognizing that children and adolescents who feel safe, valued and inspired by their churches will reach out to their peers and promote their participation to raise awareness, to help leverage the potential of children and adolescents as effective advocates in their communities and actors of change by planning and carrying out targeted outreach activities.

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #childProstitution

2021 Call to 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 - wdpca@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch

9 Prevention of CSAM

(Child Sexual Abuse Material)



Honorable Presidents 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 government 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/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>

Definition

Article 2 of the Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC), refers to any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for sexual purposes.

Link to the OPSC: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>



Excerpts from the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, Mama Fatima Singhateh
22 February–19 March 2021
<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/31>

"42. The COVID-19 crisis has also changed the usual models of trafficking and exploitation. Criminal groups dedicated to sexual exploitation have been very quick to adapt their ways of working, by escalating the use of online

communication and exploitation in homes. According to the European Commission, in some member States of the European Union the demand for child pornography has increased by up to 25 per cent during the COVID-19 lockdowns. At the same time, the lockdowns have forced institutions and NGOs to deal with greater difficulties in prevention and support activities for victims."

(e) Online forms of sale and sexual exploitation

"46. Over recent years, the number of reports of child sexual abuse has increased enormously to reach the staggering figure of nearly 17 million in 2019; this included nearly 70 million images and videos, of which more than 3 million images and videos concerned cases in the European Union. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated this situation. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has seen a 106 per cent increase in global reports of suspected child sexual exploitation to its CyberTipline compared with March 2019.

47. According to the most recent Europol report, child sexual abuse online in the European Union has increased and has become one of the top cybercrime threats, as a result of the lockdown measures put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 crisis has changed the pattern of sexual exploitation, which is now operating less on the streets and more "indoors" or "online." Online and ICT-facilitated violence against women and girls, which includes physical threats, sexual harassment, sex trolling, sextortion, online pornography and Zoombombing, is reported to be on rise.⁶⁰ According to Europol, during the pandemic and in its aftermath, law enforcement authorities reported "increased online activity by those seeking child abuse material." For example, the agency cites postings in dedicated forums and boards by offenders "welcoming opportunities" to engage with children whom they expect to be more vulnerable due to isolation, less supervision and greater online exposure.

To read more: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/31>

Updated version 2021

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.¹

The Philippines has become the world's largest known source of online child sexual exploitation, with endemic poverty helping drive a surge in abuse, a report said Thursday. Parents and relatives were responsible for facilitating the abuse in nearly all cases, according to the International Justice Mission aid group's seven-year study.³

A problem global in scope: Alarming News!

"Online child sexual abuse, pornography, exploitation are reaching a breaking point. The images are horrific. Children, some just 3 or 4 years old, being sexually abused and in some cases tortured."

According to a New York Times article in 2019, "technology companies reported a record of 45 million online photos and videos of the abuse last year. More than a decade ago this number was less than a million. (...)"⁵

1 - <https://www.thorn.org/child-pornography-and-abuse-statistics/> 2 - <https://www.iwf.org.uk/report/iwf-2019-annual-report-zero-tolerance>
3 - <https://www.thejakartapost.com/seasia/2020/05/21/philippines-tops-world-for-online-child-sex-abuse-study.html> 4 - UNICEF STUDY, 2016, https://www.unicef.org/philippines/media_25534.html#.WvP2mS_bnWc 5 - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/09/28/us/child-sex-abuse.html>

Globally there are around **75,000** child predators online.⁴

In 2019, almost 9 in 10 (89%) known URLs containing child sexual abuse material were hosted in Europe. This compares to 8 in 10 (79%) in 2018.²



General Ideas for Action!

- 1 Educate**
children about the risks associated with the Internet and other technology to prevent and combat child pornography
- 2 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; create a debate among children, parents and teachers
- 3 Conduct**
awareness-raising sessions with teachers, parents, NGOs, and government representatives to discuss risks for child pornography and protective factors such as installing filtering tools, etc.
- 4 Encourage**
Internet service providers, mobile phone companies, Internet cafes and other relevant actors to develop and implement Codes of Conduct and self-regulation measures that address prevention and protection from child pornography
- 5 Promote**
and raise awareness about Child Helplines in your country
<https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/child-helplines/child-helpline-network/>
- 6 Set up**
toll free helplines providing children with information and confidential support
- 7 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
- 8 Take action**
and report any form of child pornography :
www.iwf.org.uk / www.inhope.org / www.cybertipline.org



Use

and disseminate only official information about the Pandemic provided by government sites or the World Health Organization website.
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Learn about your right to dignity.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>
- 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)
- Start a debate about the demand side for child pornography
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child,
<http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

Youth:
15 to 24
years.
1.2 billion
estimated
worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Religious leaders have a unique opportunity to firmly condemn all forms of child pornography
- 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" <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity
- Promote the creation of community Circles of Compassion to find solutions to child pornography (see p. 70 - 73)

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #CSAM

2021 Call to 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 - wdpca@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch

**Honorable Presidents 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.

Your duty is to protect children from being trafficked. How can you ensure the right to dignity for all children and youth?

Definition

A child has been trafficked if he or she has been moved within a country, or across borders, whether by force or not, with the purpose of exploiting the child (UNICEF).

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.¹

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.

Child trafficking is closely linked to other types of exploitation, see our 19 Days themes 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 18.

Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Siobhán Mullally
21 June–9 July 2021

<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/47/34>

Excerpts from her report:**"E. Children's rights, armed conflict and post-conflict situations**

39. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict has highlighted States' legal obligations not to "doubly victimize" children who have been abducted, recruited, used and exposed to violence at an early age and to ensure that all children associated with parties to conflict and encountered in security operations should be treated primarily as victims, rather than as security threats.

Addressing trafficking in situations of armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in its resolution 2388 (2017), **the Security Council urged Member States to refrain from the use of administrative detention of children, especially those who were victims of trafficking in persons, for violations of immigration laws and regulations.**

In its resolution 2427 (2018), applicable to the treatment of children associated or allegedly associated with all non-State armed groups, including those who commit acts of terrorism, the Security Council called for the establishment of standard operating procedures to ensure their timely handover to civilian child protection actors. Reiterating the focus on child protection, the Council called upon Member States to consider non-judicial measures that were focused on the rehabilitation and reintegration of children as alternatives to prosecution and detention and called for the application of due process for all children detained for association with armed forces and armed groups."

To read more: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/47/34>

2020 Trafficking in Persons Report calls upon governments to step up action to bring an end to extra-territorial child sexual exploitation and abuse.⁹

Human trafficking and sexual exploitation endanger the welfare of the individual, the family and the community. Accepting such exploitation as inevitable is inconsistent with a human rights vision.²

Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world, a business of more than \$150 billion annually - attracting criminals to exploiting women and girls.⁴

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

54% of the millions of victims are sold and abused for sexual exploitation by buyers, pimps and traffickers for financial gain.⁶

"We understand that we won't end sexual exploitation until we end the demand for prostitution. As long as there is a global sex trade, ours will be an unsafe, unjust world."⁷

1 - ILO, Combatting trafficking in children for labor exploitation: A resource kit for policy makers and. 2 - <https://www.worldwithoutexploitation.org/3> - <https://www.worldwithoutexploitation.org/4> - https://www.equalitynow.org/what_is_sex_trafficking_intro 5 - <https://www.equalitynow.org/trafficking> 6 - https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/equalitynow/pages/266/attachments/original/1527182554/Equality_Now_Sex_Trafficking_Fact_Sheet.pdf?1527182554 7 - <https://www.worldwithoutexploitation.org/8> - <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/children-account-nearly-one-third-identified-trafficking-victims-globally> 9 - <https://www.protectingchildrenintourism.org/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report-calls-upon-governments-to-step-up-action-to-bring-an-end-to-extraterritorial-child-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/>

Children make up almost 1/3 of all human trafficking victims worldwide.⁸

Read " FACTS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING" UNODC

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html#h1>

94% of trafficking victims are women and girls.⁵

General Ideas for Action!

- 1 Learn**
about the situation of child trafficking in your country in order to tailor responses to local, national and regional specifics
- 2 Create**
a local coalition with various stakeholders to devise strategies to prevent child trafficking
Training Manual to Fight Trafficking in Children for labor, sexual and other forms of exploitation, ILO, UNICEF and UNGIFT <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=14616>
- 3 Raise awareness**
about the warning signs of child trafficking to help the community identify and support children at risk
- 4 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
- 5 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
- 6 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
- 7 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.



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Learn about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- 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 Intl. Missing Children Day 25 May with public events, activities and projects aiming at raising awareness among your peers
- Request that your school presents the Global Education Tool « Learning to live together » <https://ethicseducationforchildren.org/en/>
- Understand how traffickers use social media. Teach others, and pledge to share credible information on your social media channels

Youth:
15 to 24
years.
1.2 billion
estimated
worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Mark the "International Missing Children Day-25 May" with activities and projects aiming at raising awareness among congregations
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity
- Create Community Circles of Compassion in your congregation and share the 19 Days of Activism Campaign



Read about "How to create community circles of compassion on p. 70 - 73

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #StopChildTrafficking

2021 Call to 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 - wdpca@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch

11 Prevention of Child Sex Tourism



Updated version 2021

Honorable Presidents and Ministers,

Your duty is to protect children from child sex tourism. How can you condemn the unacceptability of such "business", and declare the unreservable right to dignity for all children and youth?

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 orphans²

Child victims have no single story and come from a wide range of backgrounds. Therefore, the « one-size fits all » approaches cannot hope to protect children against sex tourism. Given that there is no typical victim, prevention and response measures must be tailored to the specific situations if they are to be effective. There must also be adequate resources to provide skilled care for child victims of sex tourism.



23 June 2021 – Child Protection as Part of Sustainable and Responsible Travel & Tourism Recovery

<https://www.protectingchildrenintourism.org/23-june-2021-child-protection-as-part-of-sustainable-and-responsible-travel-tourism-recovery/>

Excerpt of the virtual conference

"June 2021 marks the tenth anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the globally recognized framework for State duties and business responsibilities in preventing and addressing business-related human rights abuse. Although many businesses refer to the UNGP and other human rights guidelines, children's rights still need to be equally perceived as an intrinsic part of human rights frameworks.

In the travel and tourism sector, awareness about trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children has increased over the last decade among 'frontrunner' businesses, many of which are members of The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (The Code). Much more needs to be done to improve national legal and policy frameworks, and step up the accountability of business to prevent sexual exploitation of children.

Trafficking and sexual exploitation of children has not stopped with the closure of borders and travel restrictions – offenders who transitioned to online exploitation of children are likely to travel to commit hands-on abuse when the restrictions ease. As countries confront the challenges of the Covid-19 crisis and its growing economic and social impacts on children, their families, and entire communities, key partners representing CSOs, governments, and business will discuss progress made versus existing gaps, and call for prioritising child protection as part of the Next Decade of Business and Human Rights."



"As the world responds to COVID-19, we see that push factors that facilitate or lead to sexual exploitation of children are expected to intensify. According to ECPAT

members across the world, restrictions imposed by governments worldwide to curb the virus heavily impact on children. Today, ECPAT is present in 102 countries, through 118 members."

CST destinations evolve quickly and frequently, as a result of the development of new tourism destinations and economic, social and political developments.³

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labour, accounting for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry, and 58% in other sectors.⁵



In 2012, hotel business professionals (from the Accor Group), the police and ECPAT signed a joint agreement to reduce the delays in reporting cases of CST. The agreement provides special training for professionals in the hotel industry working in sex tourism destination countries in order to cooperate with authorities and better prevent the exploitation of children by tourists.⁴

1 - ECPAT International, Combating Child Sex Tourism, Questions and Answers, 2008. 2 - Idem. 3 - Thematic Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, A/HRC/22/54, 2012 <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/AnnualReports.aspx>. 4 - ECPAT International, Combating Child Sex Tourism, Questions and Answers, 2008. 5 - https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_575479/lang-en/index.htm 6 - <https://www.ecpat.org/news/covid-19-sexual-abuse/> 7 - <https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2019/07/29/12-trafficking-statistics-enormity-global-sex-trade/1755192001/> 8 - Idem.

Profits from forced sexual labor are estimated at \$99 billion worldwide.⁸

13 sex trafficking statistics that explain the enormity of the global sex trade.⁷

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



General Ideas for Action!

1 Raise

awareness about the root causes of CST and organize public education campaigns

2 Stay

informed and support the efforts of authorities and the tourism industry to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children

3 Support

organizations that work to protect and end commercial sex tourism and exploitation

4 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

5 Lobby

the business community to sign the Code of conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism <http://www.thecode.org>

6 Lobby your government

to enforce legislation to prosecute tourists and travellers for sexual crime

7 Encourage

travel agencies, airlines and other travel and tourism companies to hand out information on CST such as brochures, ticket folders, luggage tags, video spots, public service announcements, etc. www.ecpat.net

8 Encourage

tourists to choose and use the services of travel and tourism companies that have socially responsible tourism policies <http://ecpat.net/resources#category-about-csec>

**Use**

and disseminate only official information about the Pandemic provided by government sites or the World Health Organization website.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED
LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

"Faith-based organizations are well-positioned by their familiarity with local threats, their stake in keeping their communities safe, and their ability to develop context, build trust, establish relationships, and provide protection before a trafficker ever acts. They can issue calls to action that cut across borders, cultures, ethnicities, and economic classes." <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-TIP-Report-Complete-062420-FINAL.pdf>

- The **SDG target #16.2** can be used to remind your congregation 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>
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity
- Promote Community Circles of Compassions (see p. 70 - 73)



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Learn about your right to dignity. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>
- 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
- Know where to report
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>

Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

Youth:
15 to 24
years.
1.2 billion
estimated
worldwide

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #EndCST



Definition

Harmful traditional practices stem from social convictions or deeply rooted traditions, culture, religion or superstition. These practices include:

- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Early, Child and Forced Marriage
- Child Widows
- Son preference and female infanticide
- honor killings
- acid violence
- initiation rites
- ritual killings
- witchcraft
- breast flattening
- binding of newborns and infants
- birth superstitions
- and dowry systems¹

These practices have severe consequences for the child's physical, emotional and psychological development. *Article 24.3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child* (https://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Rights_overview.pdf)

On the next page you'll find a brief presentation of FGM, early child and forced marriage, son preference and female infanticide and honor killings.

Good News !

First Africa Summit on child Marriage & FGM, 21 June 2019 in Dakar, Senegal

Senior Islamic Cleric issues a Fatwa Against child Marriage. Deputy grand imam of al-Azhar calls for marriage based on mutual consent with minimum age set at 18.

The summit was organized by Jaha Dukureh, a Gambian campaigner and the founder of **Safe Hands for Girls**, herself a survivor of child marriage and FGM, who drove a successful campaign to end FGM in her country.

Jaha Dukureh, with Syrian journalist Abdalaziz Alhamza and African Union envoy Aya Chebbi, worked with imams to formalise a draft version of the child marriage fatwa.

Four in 10 women in sub-Saharan Africa are married before their 18th birthday. Boys are affected too – according to recent UN data, roughly one in 30 worldwide were married as children, with the highest number in Central African Republic, where almost a third of boys and men were child grooms.

More on: <https://www.the-guardian.com/global-development/2019/jun/21/senior-islamic-cleric-issues-fatwa-against-child-marriage>

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

20 countries with the highest prevalence rates of child marriage:

Niger 76%
Central African Republic 68%
Chad 67% Bangladesh 59%
Burkina Faso 52%
Mali 52%
South Sudan 52%
Guinea 51%
Mozambique 48%
Somalia 45%
Nigeria 44%
Malawi 42%
Madagascar 41%
Eritrea 41%
Ethiopia 40%
Uganda 40%
Nepal 40%
Sierra Leone 39%
Democratic Republic of the Congo 37%
Mauritania 37%.²

"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 is a result of social norms which consider this act a necessary part of raising a girl properly."³



Key effects of COVID-19 for children, including adolescents, and efforts to end harmful practices:

- social isolation and loss of social support
- increased risk of violence, abuse and exploitation
- loss of access to education, reproductive health and protection services
- loss of livelihoods
- opportunities to disrupt FGM and child marriage
- opportunities for young people⁷

1 - International NGO Council on Violence Against Children, Violating Children's Rights: Harmful Practices Based on Tradition, Culture, Religion or Superstition, 2012. 2 - <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Its-time-for-Africa-to-end-child-marriage.pdf> 3 - FGM Factsheet, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, https://www.wagggs.org/documents/1065/FGM_page_2.pdf 5 - UNFPA, Child Marriage, 2018 <https://www.unfpa.org/child-marriage-frequently-asked-questions> 6 - <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/india/#:~:text=27%25%20of%20girls%20in%20India,brides%20in%20the%20world%20%E2%80%93%2015%2C509%2C000> 7 - <https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/TechnicalNote-COVID-19-and-HarmfulPractices-April%202020.pdf>

27% of girls in India are married before their 18th birthday and 7% are married before the age of 15.⁶

Child marriage takes place all over the world. It even happens in developed countries – including the United States and United Kingdom.⁵

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



Theme 12 Prevention of Harmful Traditional Practices cont'd.



Updated version 2021

WWSF presents below 5 selected harmful traditional practices



The COVID-19 pandemic is likely worsening child marriage and FGM. The pandemic has vast impacts on the lives of girls and their families – from economic hardships and school closures to the loss of access to health services and community programmes.

1 - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) / Definition

FGM refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.¹ The procedure has no health benefits for girls and women, and instead causes severe bleeding, problems urinating, later cysts, infections, and complications in childbirth.² The practice is often carried out by traditional circumcisers, who often play other central roles in communities, such as attending childbirths.³ FGM is nearly always carried out on minors and is a violation of the rights of the child. The practice also violates a person's right to health, security, and physical integrity, the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, and the right to life when the procedure results in death.

Where FGM is a social norm, the social pressure to conform to what others do and have been doing, as well as the need to be accepted socially and the fear of being rejected by the community, are strong motivations to perpetuate the practice. In some communities, FGM is still almost universally performed and unquestioned.

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."

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ijgo.12792>

2 - Early, Child, and Forced Marriage / Definition

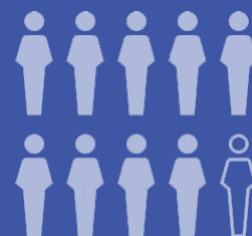
"Child marriage, or early marriage, is any marriage where at least one of the parties is under 18 years of age. Forced marriages are marriages in which one and/or both parties have not personally expressed their full and free consent to the union. A child marriage is considered to be a form of forced marriage, given that one and/or both parties have not expressed full, free and informed consent." <https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/women/wrgs/pages/childmarriage.aspx>

Breaking the Chain: Empowering girls and communities to end child marriages during COVID-19 and beyond - 20 May 2021

<https://www.wvi.org/publications/report/it-takes-world/end-child-marriage/breaking-chain-empowering-girls-and-communities-end-child>

"Right now, there are 650 million child brides living in every region of the world. Child marriage is a fundamental violation of human rights, which severely impacts the global economy, peace and security, as well as hampering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Progress has been made over the last decade, but 2020 saw the greatest surge in child marriage rates in 25 years. Global projections of girls married by 2030 have shot up from 100 million to 110 million, as an additional 10 million girls will now be married due to the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak.

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 pregnancy or childbirth.⁵



9 in 10 adolescent births occur within marriage or a union.⁶

More than 120 million additional girls will marry before their 18th birthday by 2030.⁷

At least 200 million girls and women alive today living in 31 countries have undergone FGM.⁸

1- WHO, Female Genital Mutilation Fact Sheet, February 2017 2 - Idem. 3 - Idem. 5 - UNICEF 6 - UNFPA, State of the World Population, 2013, <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/EN-SWOP2013.pdf> 7 - <https://www.unicef.org/stories/child-marriage-around-world> 8 - <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation/>

WHO, UNFPA and others recommend that in formal debate FGM be described as what is: an act that harms and damages the female genital organs, ie genital mutilation.

Theme 12

Prevention of Harmful Traditional Practices cont'd.



Updated version 2021

According to anecdotal data from our programmes, between March-December 2020, child marriages more-than doubled in many communities compared to 2019.

This report compiles research and data from four unique contexts - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Senegal and Uganda - where World Vision has been working to address the issue of child marriage. In each of these countries, case studies were developed using first-hand accounts of promising practices towards eliminating child marriage."

3 - Child Marriage and Child Widows

A resource guide has been compiled by Action on Child, Early and Forced Marriage to support advocacy and action surrounding the elimination of child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) during armed conflict and other humanitarian emergencies, published by Mohinder Watson, PhD, MPH, "ACTION ON CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE"

Link : Child Marriage and Child Widows in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and Humanitarian Response (actiononchildearlyandforcedmarriage.org)

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.² 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.³ Although neglect is the rule, in extreme cases son preference may lead to selective abortion or female infanticide.⁴

The psychological effect of son preference on women and the girl child is the internalization of the low value accorded them by society. Geographically, there is a close correspondence between the areas of strong son preference and of health disadvantage for females. Discrimination in the feeding and care of female infants and/or higher rates of morbidity and malnutrition have been reported in countries with son preferences.

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 honour. 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/>

1 - UNFPA, Child Marriage, 2018 <https://www.unfpa.org/child-marriage-frequently-asked-questions>. 2 - OHCHR, <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet23en.pdf> 3 - Idem. 4 - Idem. 5 - Unite To End Violence Against Women, <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/pdf/VAW.pdf> 6 - https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/GSH2018/GSH18_Gender-related_killing_of_women_and_girls.pdf 7 - <https://www.unfpa.org/swop> 8 - <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/25-million-child-marriages-prevented-last-decade-due-accelerated-progress-according>

650 million

More than 650 million women and girls alive today were married before their 18th birthday. Twenty-one per cent of young women (20-24 years old) around the world were child brides.¹

Female infanticide, prenatal sex selection and systematic neglect of girls are widespread in South and East Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East.⁵

58% of women killed globally were murdered by intimate partners or family members.⁶

The total number of girls married in childhood is now estimated at 12 million a year.⁸

Every day, hundreds of thousands of girls around the world are harmed physically or psychologically, with the full knowledge and consent of their families, friends and communities. And without urgent action, the situation is likely to worsen.

These are the findings of UNFPA's flagship 2020 State of World Population report.⁷

1 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

2 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

3 Promote

access to primary and secondary education to help delay child marriage

4 Promote

a multi-sectorial, sustained and community-led approach for action <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272429/9789241513913-eng.pdf?ua=1>

5 Involve

respected and influential personalities as agents of change, calling for the elimination of harmful traditional practices <http://www.woman.ch/uploads/19nov/guide/WWSFpreventionGuide-2011-en.pdf>

6 Ensure

that the medical profession supports the abandonment of FGM: provide training to health care providers <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Joint%20Programme%20on%20FGMC%20Summary%20Report.pdf>

7 Develop

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

8 Call for

simplification of nullification process of Early, Child and Forced Marriages

**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.

**Learn**

more about COVID-19 prevention ideas, consult the excellent UNFPA report: **Putting the brakes on COVID-19: Safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls** <https://www.unfpa.org/news/putting-brakes-covid-19-safeguarding-health-and-rights-women-and-girls>

State of the World Population 2020, link to the UNFPA report: <https://www.unfpa.org/swop>

**Empower**

African youth leading the way on ending harmful practices

**Organize**

civil society discussions based on this topic

**WHAT YOUTH CAN DO**

- Raise awareness in your community about what constitutes harmful traditional practices
- Mark the International Day for Zero tolerance for FGM on 6 February
- Learn about the harmful traditional practices prevailing in your community
- Learn about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>
- Stand up for these harmful traditional practices to end

Youth:
15 to 24
years.
1.2 billion
estimated
worldwide

**IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED
LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES**

"Make no mistake: there is no honor in violence against women, and no cultural, social, or **religious** belief is ever a valid reason to commit violence against women, or deprive anyone of their fundamental human rights."

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/the-horror-of-honor-killings-even-in-us/>

- Create a Call to Action to help eliminate all forms of harmful traditional practices against women and children still prevailing today
- Ensure support for girls sold into marriage without their consent
- Encourage children and youth to speak to you. It can transform harmful practices such as FGM
- Create Circles of Compassion (see p. 70 - 73)

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #FGM #EndChildMarriage

Theme 13 Street Children



Updated version 2021

Honorable Presidents and Ministers,

Your duty is to protect children from living in the streets and in extreme poverty. How can your government create means and better measures to avoid children living in the streets and being exposed to undiscrifiable suffering, abuse and with no future change in sight? The time is now to end all possibility of children ending up living in the streets, especially in this challenging Corona Virus pandemic.

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.

"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

1 - <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/Study/OHCHRBrochureStreetChildren.pdf> 2 - <https://theirworld.org/explainers/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.unicef.org/videoaudio/PDFs/Uprooted.pdf>

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



The COVID-19 pandemic and responses to it have brought new risks to street children and homeless youth in developing countries unlike any we've ever

seen before. This population, already vulnerable before the onset of the pandemic, has largely been forgotten in emergency preparedness and response.

As a result, street children and homeless youth face devastating direct and indirect consequences of this pandemic. Directly, street children are at increased risk of contracting the virus due to their limited ability to take preventative measures, and of developing complications if they contract the virus due to often having underlying health conditions and compromised immune systems.

To read more: https://mcusercontent.com/32a5275302d9551ed125b5c2e/files/b550bbcb-658c-4f7e-b0ad-14623da1b611/CSC_Note_on_rights_of_street_children_during_covid_19_for_SR_Housing.pdf

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



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



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. We invite you to support this organization based in London info@streetchildren.org to empower them to giving street children a voice for change.⁵

About 28 million children are homeless globally due to violent conflict. Almost the same number have had to abandon their homes in search of a better life⁶



Children LIVING IN THE STREET

- Can't "stay at home and stay safe" if they don't have a home and shelters are closed
- Unable to access food and water if they cannot work on the street
- Can't ask for care when they get sick.
- Danger of being locked out during a lockdown.⁶



1 Raise awareness

in your community about Human Rights Council Resolution 16/12, and lobby your government for the implementation of its recommendations, such as

- Ensuring universal and free birth registration
- Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty
- Ensuring fulfillment of the right to education
- Supporting capacities of families and caregivers
- Adopt, strengthen and implement cross-sectorial strategies and plans to eliminate violence against children living and/or working on the street
- Promote sustainable reintegration
- Additional recommendations: <http://daccess-dds-nny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/G11/126/92/PDF/G1112692.pdf?OpenElement>

2 Use

the WHO Training Package to inform efforts working directly with street children and make sure social workers are trained in child-centered approaches http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/activities/street_children/en/

3 Raise

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

4 Integrate

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

5 Ensure

that appropriate, child-sensitive counseling, complaint and reporting mechanisms are in place so that street-connected children can report incidents of violence <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/Study/OHCHRBrochureStreetChildren.pdf>

6 Train

law-enforcement officers on child rights and child protection <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/Study/OHCHRBrochureStreetChildren.pdf>



Support

organization/NGOs, like the Consortium for Street Children in their COVID related recommendations and responses. Children in street situations are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 due to the fact that many are homeless or living in informal settlements. They have a particular relationship with public spaces, often forced by necessity. They have limited or no access to water and sanitation and are therefore among the most exposed to the risk of contagion. <https://www.streetchildren.org/how-covid-19-affects-street-children/>



Provide

accurate and supportive care and messaging with the intention to enhance people's safety, dignity and rights https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_A_Gender_Lens_Guidance_Note.pdf



Act

individually and collectively to put children's welfare first, particularly for those who are already marginalized and are the hardest to reach.

"Doing all we can to ensure that government responses to COVID-19 take street-connected children, and the realities of their lives, into account, and that protective measures work for them too" <https://www.streetinvest.org/blog/covid-19-streets>



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Engage with the public discourse about how to help street children
- Learn about how to become a Children 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
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUQcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>
- Find a way to get involved and help find solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic

Youth:
15 to 24
years.
1.2 billion
estimated
worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- creating spaces for reflection, meditation or prayer, create a community circle of compassion
- Inspire your congregation to help create a world without children living on the streets - SDG Target #1
- Engage with the public discourse about creating structures for street children to leave the street and learn a trade
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity.

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #FGM #StreetChildren

2021 Call to 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 - wdpca@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch

Theme 14 Discrimination based on health conditions (4 pages)



Updated version 2021

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 (HIV/AIDS especially), to name only a few examples. 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

One billion people, or 15% of the world's population, experience some form of disability, and disability prevalence is higher for developing countries. One-fifth of the estimated global total, or between 110 million and 190 million people, experience significant disabilities. Persons with disabilities are more likely to experience adverse socioeconomic outcomes than persons without disabilities, such as less

education, poorer health outcomes, lower levels of employment, and higher poverty rates.



As COVID-19 continues to have wide-reaching impacts across the globe, it is important to note how persons with disabilities are uniquely impacted by the pandemic, including health, education, and transport.¹⁰

The ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic are more severe for certain groups of vulnerable children, with potential for some far-reaching effects. The outbreak challenges the resilience of vulnerable children as it increases in children's environments the number of already existing risks (e.g. reduced access to healthy food, high family stress, and absence of contact with supportive adults) and reduces the number of protective factors (e.g. school placements, access to play spaces and extra-circular activities, and strong child protection systems).

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/combating-covid-19-s-effect-on-children-2e1f3b2f/#figure-d1e606>

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."⁸

1/10

Worldwide, one in every 10 children has a disability – and the proportion is even higher in areas with armed conflict or disasters.⁴

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.⁵

Link to the UN-General Comment No. 3 on Women and Girls with Disabilities.⁹

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



1 - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Art. 2. 2. - http://www.campaignforeducation.org/docs/reports/Equal%20Right,%20Equal%20Opportunity_WEB.pdf 3 - Idem. 4 - UNICEF, Including Children with disabilities in humanitarian action, 2018 <http://training.unicef.org/disability/emergencies/index.html> 5 - http://www.campaignforeducation.org/docs/reports/Equal%20Right,%20Equal%20Opportunity_WEB.pdf 6 - <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/43/41> 7 - <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-2.html> 8 - <https://www.right-docs.org/doc/a-hrc-res-40-14/> 9 - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=24251&LangID=E> 10 - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/GC.aspx>

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.⁷

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities 17 December 2019.⁶

Globally, an estimated 93 million children – or 1 in 20 of those aged up to 14 years of age – live with a moderate or severe disability.³



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



International
Day of
Persons with
Disabilities

3 DECEMBER

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

"The theme for IDPD 2019 is "The Future is Accessible." The International Communication Project (ICP) marks the day because it advocates for people with communication disability, seeks to raise the profile of communication disability, and seeks to have them recognised accordingly."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 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx> ² - <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/news/dspd/idpd.html> ³ - <https://internationalcommunicationproject.com/campaign-news/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities/> ⁴ - <https://changingpaces.com/6-general-types-of-disabilities/>



"How to talk to 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

Encourage the children to understand and value each others' differences.

- Encourage children with disabilities to contribute equally and to share the same obligations with all children.
- Allow children with disabilities to take the same risks as other children in order to help them to gain confidence. Over-protection denies them the chance to explore.
- Do not help children with disabilities unless they need it. Too much support denies them the chance to become independent."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. This 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.unicef.org/disabilities/files/Take_Us_Seriously.pdf 3 - <http://www.dinf.ne.jp/doc/english/asia/resource/apdrj/z13fm0300/z13fm0309.html> 4 - <https://www.unicef.org/disabilities/files/Assistive-Tech-Web.pdf>

General Ideas for Action!

1 Educate

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

2 Use media

including advertising campaigns, as entertainment designed to educate as well as to amuse ("edutainment"), and integrate non-stigmatizing messages into TV and radio shows (UNAIDS)

3 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)

4 Take action

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

5 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

6 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 (Idem.)



Follow

local guidelines for COVID 19 while helping your child stay as active as possible both indoors and outdoors



Keep

emergency contact numbers where you can easily see them on your refrigerator or on your telephone



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. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_A_Gender_Lens_Guidance_Note.pdf



Strengthen

the capacity of youth organizations to engage safely, effectively and meaningfully in ways that enable young people to augment their knowledge on the virus and play an effective role in the prevention and response, including as social and community workers and as assistants to professional health staff, where needed and possible. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_Preparedness_and_Response_-_UNFPA_Interim_Technical_Briefs_Adolescents_and_Young_People_23_March_2020.pdf



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Know how the problem of discrimination based on health condition manifests in your community
- Learn about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- Mark the World AIDS Day 1st December, and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3rd December
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>
- 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 exposed to COVID-19 are as likely as old people to become infected and contagious. They should therefore strictly follow national guidelines around screening, testing, containment and care and practice social distancing. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_Preparedness_and_Response_-_UNFPA_Interim_Technical_Briefs_Adolescents_and_Young_People_23_March_2020.pdf



Young people represent a valuable resource and network during crises to discuss public health responses

Youth:
15 to 24
years.
1.2 billion
estimated
worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Ensure that the needs of children and adolescents with disabilities are taken into account in all aspects of your congregation's activities, including when planning and implementing them
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Teach children kindness and compassion to other children with disabilities
<https://www.verywellfamily.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-disabilities-4142349>

15 Prevention of Addiction and Substance Abuse



Updated version 2021

Definition of Addiction

is the repeated use of a psychoactive substance or substances, to the extent that the user (referred to as "an addict") is periodically or chronically intoxicated, shows a compulsion to take the preferred substance/s, has great difficulty in voluntarily ceasing or modifying substance abuse, and exhibits determination to obtain substances by almost any means. Frequently, withdrawal syndrome occurs when substance use is interrupted.

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.² Substance abuse often leads to addiction, but can also pose a problem without the physical dependence of addiction.

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/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/youth exposed to drugs on one hand, and an increased risk of physical/sexual abuse, neglect, anxiety, depression, delinquency, and educational problems, on the other.¹

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.

Commitment: to providing and encouraging the development of best practices and evidence-based programs aimed at the promotion of health and well-being for all young people. Mentor's work has been recognized by the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime, the World Health Organization, the Organization of American States, and the Council of Europe.

Link: <http://mentorinternational.org/about-mentor/about-us/>



The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on substance use: Implications for prevention and treatment

"The COVID-19 pandemic has brought major challenges to healthcare systems and public health policies globally, as it requires novel treatment and prevention strategies to adapt for the impact of the pandemic. Individuals with substance user disorders (SUD) are at risk population for contamination due to multiple factors-attributable to their clinical, psychological and psychosocial conditions. Moreover, social and economic changes caused by the pandemic, along with the traditional difficulties regarding treatment access and adherence-will certainly worsen during this period, therefore aggravate their condition. In addition, this population are potential vectors of transmission. In that sense, specific strategies for prevention and treatment must be discussed. health care professionals dealing with SUD must be aware of the risks and challenges they will meet during and after the COVID-19 outbreak. Addiction care must be reinforced, instead of postponed, in order to avoid complications of both SUD and COVID-19 and to prevent the transmission of coronavirus."⁹

255 000 000

There are 255 million drug users worldwide.⁵

Victims of cyberbullying are more likely to use alcohol and drugs.⁶

The global market in drug trafficking has an estimated annual global value of between \$426 billion and \$652 billion (USD).⁸

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



Involvement in drug use can increase the risks of being both a victim and/or perpetrator of violence, while experiencing violence can increase the risks of initiating illicit drug use. (WHO)



1 - http://www.incb.org/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR2013/English/AR_2013_E.pdf 2 - WHO http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/terminology/who_lexicon/en/ 3 - http://www.crin.org/docs/Childrens_rights_and_drug_use.pdf 4 - https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/NPS_Report.pdf 5 - https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/WDR17_Fact_sheet.pdf 6 - https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC_2017_ENG_WEB.pdf 7 - https://www.unodc.org/pdf/youthnet/who_street_children_module3.PDF 8 - <https://www.talkingdrugs.org/report-global-illegal-drug-trade-valued-at-around-half-a-trillion-dollars> 9 - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7219362/>

List of frequently used substances: Alcohol, Nicotine, Opioids, Hallucinogens, Cannabis, Hypnosedatives, Stimulants, Amphetamines, Cocaine and Inhalants.⁷

1 Join

Mentor International's Prevention Hub to access the latest research and tools for substance abuse prevention amongst children and youth

2 Create

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

3 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.)

4 Learn and integrate

parenting techniques to help prevent substance abuse of your children

5 Engage

with local schools, youth groups and community development organizations

6 Integrate

substance abuse prevention and treatment into a national strategy for the healthy development of children and youth

7 Develop

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

8 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

9 Ensure

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

**Use**

and disseminate only official information about the Pandemic provided by government sites or the World Health Organization website.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

**WHAT YOUTH CAN DO**

- Know about the dangers and consequences of substance abuse and create awareness against addiction in your community
- Create support groups for recovering addicts to avoid their relapse
- Engage in your community and encourage a healthy lifestyle to prevent substance abuse
- Visit and learn from the Mentor program for classmates suffering from addiction and substance abuse <http://preventionhub.org/en>
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7lW/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>
- Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

Youth:
15 to 24
years.
1.2 billion
estimated
worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

Share the guide for families:

Link : <https://drugabuse.com/guide-for-families/parents-of-addicted-children/>

Communicate with your addicted child :

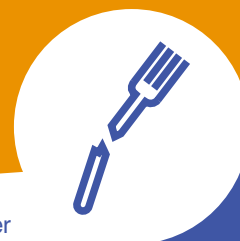
- Stay engaged and focused
- Display a sense of acceptance and understanding
- Be kind and respectful
- Reduce distractions
- Focus on the good
- Diminish negative reactions
- Using encouragement and optimism to build a sense of teamwork and cooperation while reducing conflict and negativity



Read about "How to create community circles of compassion on p. 70 - 73

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventAddiction

Theme 16 Prevention of Malnutrition



Updated version 2021

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 diarrhea. 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 under-nutrition: 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.

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.

Excerpts from the UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020

"Disrupted health care and limited access to food and nutrition services could result in hundreds of thousands of additional under-5 deaths and tens of thousands of additional maternal deaths in 2020. About 70 countries reported moderate-to-severe disruptions or a total suspension of childhood vaccination services during March and April 2020.

School closures kept 90 per cent of students (1.57 billion) out of school and caused over 370 million children to miss out on school meals this spring. Prolonged absence from school results in lower retention and graduation rates and worsens learning outcomes. (...) As more families fall into extreme poverty, children in poor and disadvantaged communities are at much greater risk of child labour, child marriage and child trafficking. In fact, the global gains in reducing child labour are likely to be reversed for the first time in 20 years. In short, the crisis is having life-altering consequences for millions of children and youth worldwide.

Urgent actions are especially needed to protect the nutritional status of the most vulnerable children during the pandemic

Chronic undernutrition, or stunting, puts children at greater risk of dying from common infections; it is also associated with poor cognitive development. The proportion of children under 5 years of age suffering from stunting decreased from 32 per cent in 2000 to 23 per cent in 2015 and 21 per cent in 2019. However, **144 million children under age 5 were still affected by stunting in 2019. Three quarters of these children lived in just two regions: Southern Asia (39 per cent) and sub-Saharan Africa (36 per cent).** More intensive efforts are needed to achieve the global target of bringing down the number of stunted children to 99 million by 2025 and to 82 million by 2030."

Read more: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/finding-transformative-pathways-in-turbulent-times/>

20%
By 2050, hunger and malnutrition could increase by up to 20 percent as a result of climate-related disasters.³

30%
In low or moderate income countries, 30% (182 million) children are stunted or underweight.⁴

47 million children under 5 years of age are wasted, 14.3 million are severely wasted and 144 million are stunted, while 38.3 million are overweight or obese.⁷

1 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition> 2 - <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/179316.php>
3 - <https://www.wfp.org/climate-action> 4 - NCBI, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4232245/> 5 - WHO, <http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/childhood/en/> 6 - [https://www.worldhunger.org/world-child-hunger-facts/#:-:text=Approximately%203.1%20million%20children%20die,disease%20\(UNICEF%2C%202018a\).](https://www.worldhunger.org/world-child-hunger-facts/#:-:text=Approximately%203.1%20million%20children%20die,disease%20(UNICEF%2C%202018a).) 7 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition>

42,000,000+
children worldwide are overweight.⁵

3,000,000
It is estimated that around 3 million children die each year due to undernutrition.⁶

General Ideas for Action!

1 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

2 Monitor

children's growth by regularly weighing a child to identify growth faltering before it becomes a serious issue

3 Encourage

pregnant mothers to increase their food and nutrient intake

4 Promote

physical activity

5 Offer

a nutritious meal at school to improve attendance and literacy rates and help poor children break out of poverty

6 Devote

funding to nutrition programs

7 Introduce

diet and exercise-related programs in schools to discourage over-nutrition

8 Uphold

the importance of maternal nutrition before and during pregnancy to prevent low birth weight

9 Promote

sustainable food production and consumption, as well as good hygiene practices and access to drinking water

10 Encourage

healthier food choices, such as fruits, vegetables, wholegrains, and lean meats

**Use**

and disseminate only official information about the Pandemic provided by government sites or the World Health Organization website.
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Learn about your right to dignity <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>
- Learn about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- Organize awareness raising and fundraising activities on eliminating malnutrition
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>

Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

Youth:
15 to 24
years.
1.2 billion
estimated
worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Invite your congregation members to unite those in need of food, especially during the COVID confinement, and distribute basic essentials to avoid malnutrition of children
- Support access to a nutritious meal at school to improve attendance and literacy rates and help poor children break out of poverty conditions
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity.



Read about "How to create community circles of compassion on p. 70 - 73

17 Prevention of ICTs Dangers



Updated version 2021

Definition

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) refers to the use and transmission of information. ICT encompasses computers, the Internet, mobile phones, television, radio, satellite systems, etc. ICTs are also tools for children's empowerment and participation but at the same time they may present a risk to children's safety and well-being. In many corners of the world, children and youth today grow up with ICTs as an integral part of their life, accentuating the need to teach children how to use ICTs and to protect them from the risks they are exposed to.

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 scams¹

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.²

What is child online protection?

Online technologies present many possibilities for children and young people to communicate, learn new skills, be creative and contribute to establishing a better society. But they can also bring new risks such as exposing them to issues of privacy, illegal content, harassment, cyberbullying, misuse of personal data, grooming and even child sexual abuse.

These guidelines develop a holistic approach to respond to all potential threats and harms that children and young people may encounter when acquiring digital literacy. They recognise that all relevant stakeholders have a role in their digital resilience, well-being, and protection while benefitting from the opportunities that the Internet can offer.³



The Importance of Monitoring and Improving ICT Use in Education Post-Confinement - 15 May 2020

<http://uis.unesco.org/en/blog/importance-monitoring-and-improving-ict-use-education-post-confinement>

"In the context of COVID-19 school closures, paper-based and digital distance education platforms have become essential to the continued provision of education for all. After more than a month of school closures across the world, many students are still struggling with remote learning. **Global estimates suggest that 826 million students are without a household computer**, 706 million lack internet access at home and another 56 million lack coverage by mobile 3G/4G networks."

1 - https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/documents/publications/6_releasing_childrens_potential_and_minimizing_risks_icts_fa_low_res.pdf 2 - <https://www.parent.com/how-to-tell-if-your-child-is-addicted-to-video-games-and-how-to-help/> 3 - https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/2020/itu_guidelines/itu_guidelines.pdf 4 - <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/594970e91b631b3571be12e2/t/5e86162a7b58d057ce833a2f/1585845803822/Youth+Online+Safety+Guide.pdf> 5 - <https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/PSMEVI98.PDF> 6 - <https://www.iwf.org.uk/report/iwf-2019-annual-report-zero-tolerance> 7 - <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/28/55> 8 - Center for Educational Neuroscience, 2018, <http://www.educationalneuroscience.org.uk/resources/neuromyth-or-neurofact/violent-video-games-make-children-more-violent/>.

What is sexting?

"Sexting" happens when someone sends sexually explicit photographs or messages to another person. Though it can seem harmless, there are many dangerous consequences and you should never send these images to any person.

- It is a crime to make, send or receive sexually explicit images of anyone under the age of 18.

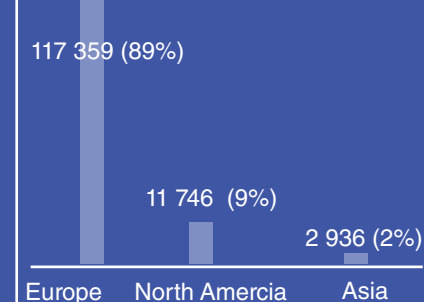
Some states have different penalties when both the person sending and person receiving the images are under 18, but it's always illegal.

- Once a sexually explicit photograph of you is sent to someone else, it's just about impossible to get it back. That image can be distributed to anyone or anywhere: your family, your friends, your school community, and your present or future employers. These images will stay online forever and, although it is a crime, there is a whole underground market of predators exchanging them.⁴

It is estimated that only 10% of children's viewing is spent watching children's television, the other 90% is spent watching programs designed for adults.⁵

10%

Continents hosting all child sexual abuse material URLs in 2019.⁶



Children who play violent video games, particularly for extended periods of time, might then engage in violent behaviour with their peers, or even copy acts of violence experienced during game play.⁸

ICTs are increasingly the means children choose to seek advice from child helplines, approach a children's ombuds person, report incidents of violence, ask for help and assistance, or promote child rights advocacy through websites, blogs and social networks.⁷



General Ideas for Action!

1 Lobby

your government to evaluate and control media content for age appropriate use

2 Promote

filtering technologies to prevent child abuse content online from being accessed

3 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.

4 Raise awareness

of the risks associated with ICTs among children, their parents and caregivers

5 Encourage

the development of effective policy responses, appropriate monitoring tools, counseling and complaint mechanisms

6 Promote

training of law enforcement officials, teachers, child protection officers and other professionals working with children

7 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 http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/SR/A.HRC.28.56_en.pdf

8 Highlight

the role of the corporate sector to introduce measures to enhance online safety http://www.itu.int/en/cop/Documents/bD_Broch_INDUSTRY_0909.pdf & <http://www.unicef.org/csr/215.htm>

9 Ensure

helplines exist in your country <http://www.childhelplineinternational.org>

10 Establish

hotlines to allow the reporting of exploitative practices, such as the INHOPE network <http://www.inhope.org/gns/home.aspx>



Guide to Online Safety During The COVID-19 Outbreak

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/594970e91b631b3571be12e2/t/5e86162a7b58d057ce833a2f/1585845803822/Youth+Online+Safety+Guide.pdf>



Limit

screen time, and monitor their children's access online, while also ensuring that children are safe online



Follow

who your children meet and befriend online. Ensure children's devices have the latest software updates and antivirus programs; have open dialogues with children on how and with whom they are communicating online; work with children to establish rules for how, when, and where the internet can be used; be alert to signs of distress in children that may emerge in connection with their online activity, and be familiar with school district policies and local reporting mechanisms and have access to numbers of support helplines and hotline handy. <https://www.end-violence.org/online-safety-technical-note>



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Speak out about the harmful content that you encounter on the internet; Learn basic internet safety
- Engage in social media campaigns to promote awareness against sharing personal information or photos with strangers
- Promote a regulated use of the internet
- Involve children and youth in advocating against the dangers of ICTs through interactive theatre, art projects, and the production of guidelines, manuals, and videos. Mark 10 February Safe Internet Day
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>
- ICTs provide an opportunity for young people with disabilities to learn about their rights, campaign without barriers, and increase visibility

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Inform your congregation of online protection measures
- How to deal with video games addiction: A manual for parents and professionals: <http://www.sectorconnect.org.au/assets/28-2-How-to-deal-with-Video-Game-Addiction-A-manual-for-parents-and-professionals-edition1.pdf>

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventDangersICTs

**Definition**

Abduction (or kidnapping) is the taking away or transportation of a person against that person's will, generally by force, and usually to hold the person in false imprisonment.

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.

Non-parental abduction can occur when children are abandoned because their families cannot care for them, when children run away from home from an unstable environment or child abuse, or when lost from their parents such as during travel, natural disasters, or displacement from conflict.

Yet, in most cases children are abducted by close relatives. International parental child abduction occurs when a parent (or legal guardian) takes his/her child(ren) to a country other than their country of residence, without prior permission from the other parent. This definition also applies to international cases in which pre-arranged child custody visits are not respected.¹

In order to assist in the resolution of abduction cases in a swift and consistent manner, legal and social systems must be improved.



**International Centre
FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN**

The NGO "International Centre for Missing and Exploited 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/>



**Children and armed conflict
Report of the Secretary-
General
6 May 2021**

<https://unric.org/en/unric-info-point-library-newsletter-july-2021/>

"The year 2020 has been particularly somber for conflict-affected children with more than 19,300 boys and girls directly suffering one or more grave violations against them, highlights the Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC), covering the year 2020.

The overall number of grave violations remained alarmingly high at 26,425. To make matters worse, the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic took an additional toll on children in situations of armed conflict and complicated the United Nations' efforts to reach those most in need.

The pandemic increased the vulnerability of children to abduction, recruitment and use sexual violence and attacks on schools and hospitals, while isolation and measures put in place to combat the pandemic also complicated the work of United Nations child protection monitors and experts, as detailed in a study by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict published in May 2021."²

**CONVENTION ON
THE CIVIL ASPECTS
OF INTERNATIONAL
CHILD ABDUCTION.³**

98

countries are
signatories to the Hague
International Child
Abduction Convention.⁴

In 2019, some 1,683 children (vs 2,493 in 2018) were abducted, notably for the purpose of recruitment and sexual abuse, with the highest verified cases in Somalia, DRC and Nigeria.⁵

Mass abduction of children have been on the rise for recent years as a tactic to terrorize or target political, ethnic and religious groups.⁸

1 - <http://www.childfocus.be/fr/parents/disparition/enlevements-parentaux-internationaux>, 2 - <https://unric.org/en/unric-info-point-library-newsletter-july-2021/> 3 - <https://assets.hoch.net/docs/e86d9f72-dc8d-46f3-b3bf-e102911c8532.pdf> 4 - <https://www.icmec.org/global-missing-childrens-center/international-parental-child-abduction/> 5 - https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/15-June-2020_Secretary-General_Report_on_CAAC_Eng.pdf 6 - <https://www.icmec.org/> 8 - <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/six-grave-violations/abduction-of-children/>

1,000,000

Over 1 million children are
reported missing every
year.⁶

**Relevant Sustainable
Development Goals
by 2030**



General Ideas for Action!

1 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

2 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>

3 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

4 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

5 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

6 Contribute

to the diffusion of emergency helplines among children as well as adults

7 Join

the global child abduction prevention leaders in support of implementing the "International Travel Child Consent Form" http://www.stopchildabduction.org/Child_Travel_Consent_Form.html IDs



Use

and disseminate only official information about the pandemic provided by government sites or the World Health Organization website. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Know and promote safety regulations in your community
- Create trust circles in your communities where youth could communicate challenges they face
- Never go anywhere with someone you and your parents do not know and trust
- Set a good example for younger children and assist them if they are in danger
- Mark the International Missing Children Day, 25 May with public events, activities, projects aiming at raising awareness among your communities and authorities
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>



Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

Youth:
15 to 24
years.
1.2 billion
estimated
worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Participate in the Missing Children Day, 25 May
- 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.
- Promote a culture of peace and tolerance in families and assist those experiencing abduction of their children
- **Tips for parents:** How to prevent child abduction. <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-topics/ue5155>
- Link to Faith and Children's Rights: A Multi-religious study on the Convention on the Rights of the Child: https://arigatouinternational.org/images/zdocs/files/209_CRC-Full-Study-Publication-web_compressed_v2_r3.pdf

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #StopAbduction

2021 Call to 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 - wdpca@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch

Theme 19 Juvenile Justice and Children deprived of liberty

Commemoration of the
World Day for prevention of child abuse
19 November



Updated version 2021

Background Information

The Global Study is 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

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.¹ 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.¹

Excerpts of the Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Najat Maalla M'jid, to the Human Rights Council 22 February-19 March 2021

<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/40>

"Follow-up to the global study on children deprived of liberty

24. Under the leadership of the Special Representative, and in support of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 74/133 and the recommendations contained in the report on the global study (A/74/136), the United Nations task force on the global study on children deprived of liberty was recently reconstituted with new terms of reference focused on follow-up to the recommendations that resulted from the study. Its work is underpinned by a commitment to coordinated action that promotes synergies, avoids duplication of effort and promotes closer cooperation with United Nations entities, the NGO Panel for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, academics, Member States and other relevant key stakeholders. (...)

25. In December, the Special Representative represented the task force at the presentation of a report by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/75/183) in which the Special Rapporteur identified good practices for ending detention of children for migration-related reasons.

26. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided an opportunity to re-engage in child justice reforms and bring about sustainable long-term change. UNICEF data indicate that at least 31 countries have released children from detention due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19."

To read more: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/40>

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, administrative or other public authority

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

More than 7 Million Children are Deprived of Liberty in the World

Data collected for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty 2019 and well-grounded scientific approximations indicate that, altogether, roughly **1.5 million** children are currently deprived of liberty per year on the basis of a judicial or administrative decision. Most children are deprived of liberty in institutions (**670,000**), followed by those in the administration of justice (**410,000**), in immigration detention (**330,000**), in armed conflict situations (**35,000**) and for national security reasons (**1,500**). An additional **19,000** children are living with their primary caregivers (usually mothers) in prisons. I wish to stress, however, that those figures, although arrived at on the basis of scientifically sound methodologies, remain highly conservative owing to the scarcity of official and reliable disaggregated data.²

1 - <https://www.hrw.org/topic/childrens-rights/juvenile-justice#> 2 - <https://omnibook.com/view/e0623280-5656-42f8-9edf-5872f8f08562/page/691>



Excerpts from the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty 2020

Executive Summary

"More than 7 million children are suffering in various types of child-specific institutions, immigration detention centres, police custody, prisons and other places of detention. It is a reality that stands in direct contrast to the requirement of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which clearly states that the detention of children must only be used as a measure of last resort. This means that children should in principle not be detained and States should always look first for non-custodial solutions. While some progress has indeed been made in recent years, the Study highlights a dire need to do much more in terms of deinstitutionalisation, diversion, ending migration-related detention and other measures in order to comply with the Convention. It is evident from the views expressed by children in the Study that for them deprivation of liberty essentially means deprivation of their childhood. From this perspective, the Global Study argues that depriving children of their liberty is a form of structural violence, which States actually committed to eliminate under SDG 16.2. Since every child has the right to grow up in a family environment surrounded by love and care, it is the responsibility of States to invest more resources to support families and child welfare systems. Ultimately, children deprived of liberty are invisible to the large majority of society and their fate constitutes the most overlooked violation of the Convention. As an initial step, this Global Study thus aims to help ensure that no child is left behind, and in particular, that no child is left behind bars.

"More than 1 in 6 children worldwide live in a conflict zone. In many of these conflict areas, armed forces and armed groups recruit children to serve as combatants, guards, spies, messengers, cooks, and for other roles, including sexual exploitation. Where such recruitment takes place, children face a heightened risk of detention for suspected involvement with fighting forces. 35,000 children are detained in the context of armed conflict, often being held for weeks, months, or even years without charge. This phenomenon runs counter to international law, which treats children recruited in the context of armed conflict primarily as victims who are entitled to rehabilitation and reintegration. Particularly in conflicts with so-called 'terrorist' or violent extremist groups, governments are more likely to detain – and often prosecute – children than to provide them with rehabilitation.

Pathways to Detention

"Children are separated from their families and placed in institutional care based on various grounds:

Poverty: Poor economic conditions are one of the root causes leading to institutionalisation of children, with some States being more likely to place children in institutions than to provide family support. Poverty, and neglect based on poverty, is an inadequate justification to separate children from their family and deprive them of their liberty.

"Disability: Children with disabilities tend to be over-represented in care institutions. Stigmatisation, lack of State support for parents, lack of caregiving capacity of families, misdiagnosis, and an exclusive focus on the medical model of disability lead to the overuse of institutionalisation.

Belonging to an ethnic minority: Indigenous children and child-

ren belonging to ethnic minorities are also significantly overrepresented in care and justice systems, such as Roma children in Central and Eastern Europe.

"Violence in the home: Experiencing violence in the family, including neglect and psychological, physical and sexual violence, is often a primary cause for children to be placed in institutions. Situations of natural disasters or armed conflict also contribute to the institutionalisation of children, as well as pandemics such as HIV/AIDS. In addition to these causes leading to the institutionalisation of children, States often contribute further causes through their lack of effective policy measures. Where there is no access to social services, families are increasingly vulnerable and find it more difficult to keep children at home. Thus, family and community-based solutions are essential in preventing deprivation of liberty in institutions, including day care, respite care, community based health workers, child and youth care workers, and social workers, inclusive community schools, therapeutic services, financial aid, and community or foster care.

"All over the globe, children are living in unregistered institutions, such as orphanages. This increases the risk of unlawful or arbitrary placement of children. A range of private actors, including NGOs and faith-based organisations, run such institutions. While this is often done with good intentions and to meet underspending of States, acting outside of State oversight and monitoring, caregivers are often unqualified (including high levels of 'volunteerism' at orphanages), and children are sometimes actively recruited where facilities are understood as lucrative business models.

Children deprived of Liberty in Institutions

"5.4 million children live in institutions worldwide. This fate can easily be avoided as these children could very well be reunited with their parents, primary caregivers or live in a family-based setting given the right support. These children are separated from their families and deprived of their liberty in institutions for various reasons. Contrary to popular belief, 80% of children in orphanages have at least one living parent. Effects of child separation and institutionalisation are grave and may last a lifetime. Being largely invisible, such children are particularly vulnerable to violence, neglect and abuse. The removal of a child from his or her family should only occur where the child cannot be allowed to remain there on the basis of a best interests determination. Despite international provisions, the majority of States are failing to provide preventive, protective and supportive mechanisms to reduce the number of children living in institutions."

Countries Known to Detain Children on Grounds of National Security

"AUSTRIA, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ETHIOPIA, FRANCE, GERMANY, JORDAN, MALAYSIA, TAJIKISTAN, THAILAND, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES."

Source: Literature review conducted for the Global Study

To read more: <https://childrendeprivedofliberty.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Executive-Summary-GSCDL.pdf>

General Ideas for Action!

- 1 **Support and promote**
the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty
<http://www.childrendeprivedofliberty.info>
- 2 **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
- 3 **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
- 4 **Lobby**
your government to install alternative measures to deprivation of liberty, in legislation and in practice
- 5 **Promote**
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
- 6 **Promote**
efficient coordination between all justice actors (the police, social welfare, schools, NGOs, local mediators and community volunteers)
- 7 **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 practices with child-sensitive justice
http://srsq.violenceagainstchildren.org/story/2015-01-28_1219
- 8 **Join**
the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and participate in their activities at local, national and international levels <http://www.worldcoalition.org/>



Listen to the children with patience, compassion and to open up hearts and empathize with their feelings, emotions and COVID-19 challenges.



Create a Circle of Compassion



It takes compassion to end violence against children & youth

SDG Target #16.2 needs our contributions.
How to Create your Circle of Compassion & contact us
www.woman.ch



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Mark the World Day Against the Death Penalty, 10 October, with activities, events, projects, etc.
- 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 and use the 19 Days Campagne themes to speak out about violence and how to end it. Use the 20 November to remind everyone of children's rights
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child,
<http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>

Youth:
15 to 24
years.
1.2 billion
estimated
worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- For the role and action of Faith-based Leaders and NGOs to the global study
<https://childrendeprivedofliberty.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Executive-Summary-GSCDL.pdf>
- Read the report on Children Deprived of Liberty 2020 and find ideas for action
<https://childrendeprivedofliberty.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Executive-Summary-GSCDL.pdf>

19
Nov.
2021

**WORLD DAY Prevention of
violence against children &
youth - **SDG Target # 16.2****

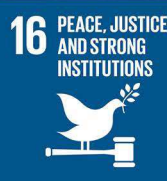
*In synergy with
Universal Children's Day*

20
Nov.
2021



Photo credit © Marat Garafutdinov - Girls from Laos

Journée Mondiale prévention violence envers les enfants
Día Mundial Prevención del violencia contra los Niños
Welttag Vorbeugung von Gewalt an Kindern



- "1 in 10 children is sexually abused before the age of 18
- Child online sexual abuse reports to NCMEC* has grown from 1 million in 2014 to 45 million in 2018
- Violence against children affects more than 1 billion children around the world & costs societies up to US\$ 7 trillion a year
- 50% of the world's children experience violence every year
- Every 5 minutes, somewhere in the world, a child is killed by violence
- 9 in 10 children live in countries where corporal punishment is not fully prohibited, leaving 732 million children without legal protection." (UN stats)

* (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children)

- You are invited to use this poster and this space to publish your activity 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».
- **Endorsement from the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate**
"I support the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse – 19 November. Tragically thousands of children are abused daily, often by those closest to them. I endorse this campaign enthusiastically and hope that many more will offer their support." (2005)

Organisation: Women's World Summit Foundation / Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes - www.woman.ch



The world is waiting for our contributions and compassion to help end violence against children and youth by 2030.

CALL TO ACTION 2021: Commemorate the World Day – 19 November **In synergy with the Universal Children's Day – 20 November 2021**

We call on all our coalition members, partners and friends around the world to participate again with local and national activities in the realization of the **UN Sustainable Development Goal Target #16.2** « *End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children* » to speed up urgent prevention of violence against children and youth in our world today.

We invite you to use the campaign poster, add your name, logo and program of action and thereby increasing participation in creating a world fit for children and youth. With every 5 minutes a child dying as a result of violence around the world, we need to mobilize not only governments, but also all citizens – adults and youth - to commit to the full implementation of children's right to dignity and non-violence.

For those of you who are new to the 19 November World Day for prevention of child abuse, please note that the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) inaugurated this Day in the year 2000 with endorsements from many dignitaries, including Kofi Annan, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, Desmond Tutu, Her Majesty 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; Najat Maalla M'jid, elected UN Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on violence against children, to mention some of them.

We propose to use our annual **campaign Kit "19 Days of activism for the elimination of violence and abuse against children and youth 1-19 November"**, presenting 19 themes and ideas for action, including for faith-based leaders and youth activists, and create community circles of compassion. You can register your participation via email wdpca@wwsf.ch and send us a copy of your program and poster, which we will share on social media.



In solidarity, Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) Geneva -Switzerland - www.woman.ch

Convener of the 19 Days campaign 1-19 Nov. and the World Day for prevention of violence against children and youth 19 November



APPEL À L'ACTION 2021 : Commémorez la Journée Mondiale pour l'élimination de la violence envers les enfants et les jeunes - 19 nov. en synergie avec la Journée mondiale de l'enfance - 20 nov. 2021

Nous appelons tous nos partenaires et amis de la coalition à travers le monde à participer à des activités locales et nationales pour la **réalisation de l'objectif 16.2 des Objectifs de Développement Durable de l'ONU** « *Mettre fin aux abus, à l'exploitation, au trafic et à toutes les formes de violence à l'égard des enfants et à la torture* » pour accélérer la prévention de la violence à l'égard des enfants et des jeunes dans le monde.

Nous vous invitons à utiliser l'affiche de la campagne, à ajouter votre nom, logo et programme d'action pour accroître la participation mondiale à la création d'un monde digne des enfants et des jeunes. Avec toutes les 5 minutes, un enfant mourant des suites de la violence dans le monde entier, nous devons mobiliser non seulement les gouvernements, mais également tous les citoyens - adultes et jeunes - pour qu'ils s'engagent à appliquer pleinement les droits des enfants à la dignité et à la non-violence.

Pour celles et ceux qui sont nouveaux à la Journée mondiale de la prévention de la violence envers les enfants - 19 novembre, veuillez noter que la Fondation du Sommet Mondial des Femmes (WWSF) a inauguré cette journée en 2000 avec l'aval de nombreuses personnalités, parmi lesquelles Kofi Annan, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, Desmond Tutu, Sa Majesté la reine Rania de Jordanie, Jean Zermatten et le professeur Yang-hee Lee, tous deux ex-présidents du Comité des droits de l'enfant des Nations Unies; Marta Santos Pais, ancienne Représentante spéciale du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies sur la violence à l'encontre des enfants; Najat Maalla M'jid, actuellement Représentante spéciale du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies sur la violence à l'encontre des enfants, pour ne citer que quelques-uns d'entre eux.

Nous proposons d'utiliser notre Kit «19 jours d'activisme pour l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des enfants et des jeunes du 1 au 19 novembre», traitant 19 thèmes avec des idées d'action, y compris pour les leaders religieux, jeunes activistes et comment créer des cercles de compassion. Vous pouvez enregistrer votre participation auprès de la WWSF par e-mail à l'adresse wdpca@wwsf.ch et de nous envoyer une copie de votre programme et affiche, que nous partagerons sur les médias sociaux.



En solidarité, Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes (FSMF/WWSF), CP 1504, 1211 Genève 1, Suisse – www.woman.ch

Organisation de la campagne 19 Jours d'activisme 1-19 nov. et de la Journée Mondiale pour l'élimination de la violence envers les enfants et les jeunes - 19 novembre

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

(4 pages)



How to Create a Circle of Compassion

A strategy for a world fit for children and youth

Making the Sustainable Development Goal Target 16.2 a reality:



"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 the NGO community at large the idea of creating **community Circles of Compassion** to change the world compassionately, especially now, when we are all caught up in a world-wide pandemic. 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 realize **SDG # 16.2**.

Community Circles of compassion

Participating groups would work towards goals set by themselves for the creation a compassionate society that helps rebuild after the damage of the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the need on the ground this will give many an opportunity to become change makers, and building back compassionately. We hope to inspire more participation, and work with local partners and grassroots organizations to strengthen the idea of creating circles of compassion.

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

Achieving the 2030 SDG agenda, in any measure, will require a deliberate approach to knowledge sharing and continued learning and a service to community.

Below you will find a list of examples of violence against children and youth in the world today to empower you to select one or two issues you may wish to adopt as a change-maker in our world that desperately needs innovative solutions.

Violence against children - Facts & figures 2021 (source: UN SDG Target #16.2)

- **1 in 10 children is sexually abused before the age of 18.**
- **Child online sexual abuse reports to NCMEC* has grown from 1 million in 2014 to 45 million in 2018.**
- Violence against children affects more than 1 billion children around the world and costs societies up to US\$ 7 trillion a year.
- 50% of the world's children experience violence every year.
- Every 5 minutes, somewhere in the world, a child is killed by violence
- 9 in 10 children live in countries where corporal punishment is not fully prohibited, leaving 732 million children without legal protection.
- 1 in 3 internet users worldwide is a child and 800 million of them use social media. Any child can become a victim of online violence.
- 246 million children worldwide affected by school-related violence each year.
- 1 in 3 students has been bullied by their peers at school in the last month, and at least 1 in 10 children have experienced cyberbullying. *(NCME: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (USA))

How to create a Circle of Compassion to achieve SDG #16.2 - cont'd



What is a 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 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 help alleviate the feeling that we stand alone against the harshness and violence of modern society. They remind us that we are all one.

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 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 Circle discussions; respect the trust relationship about what is shared
- Feel free to add other guidelines should Circle members find it useful to do so
- Close with fixing the date for your next meeting

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

Create your own Circle of compassion

Invite your friends, colleagues and acquaintances and make sure to ask that people make a commitment to working within the circle 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 and making it your rallying point. You are however free to choose the theme(s) according to your community needs.



It takes compassion to end violence against children & youth
SDG Target 16.2 needs our contributions ! www.woman.ch - wdpca@wwsf.ch

How to create a Circle of Compassion to achieve SDG #16.2 - cont'd



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 Circle(s)

We invite you to send a brief report on your Circle(s) of Compassion (name, place, theme and email) to wdpca@wwsf.ch. It is planned to monitor the spread of Circles of compassion around the world, which will be published on our website and to inspire others to participate in ending violence against children & youth.

For how many months or years a circle meets depends on many factors, like the quality of energy in the circle, its objectives, 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 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 – 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 circle guidelines with the mention:

@CirclesOfCompassionWWSF2021

<https://www.woman.ch/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/training-workshops-creating-circles-of-compassion/>

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 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/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/training-workshops-creating-circles-of-compassion/>

Once we have received your circle program, we will grant you the use of the "Circle of Compassion" logo

@CirclesOfCompassionWWSF2021 - and include you in the WWSF Circle list. Your Circle will be mentioned in our annual Global Impact reports, with your organizational logo + website.

About WWSF www.woman.ch

WWSF, a not-for-profit, international NGO, created in 1991, serves with its annual campaigns, world days, prize awards & Round tables the realization of the UN Development Agenda and the advancement of women's and children's human rights. WWSF has United Nations consultative status with ECOSOC, UNFPA+DPI. Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)
POB 1504 – 1211 Geneva 1 – wdpca@wwsf.ch – www.woman.ch – Tel. +41 (0) 22 738 66 19

Circles of Compassion to achieve SDG #16.2 - cont'd

Learn about the Charter for Compassion



WWSF 19 themes banner introduced in the 2021 Campaign Kit: <https://www.woman.ch/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/>

"19 Days of activism for prevention of violence against children & youth 1-19 November" campaign



Annual 19 Days Campaign Kit available www.woman.ch

The children are waiting for our contributions. It takes compassion to end violence against children.

Women's World Summit Foundation - Call to Action!

Prevention of violence against children & youth



SDG Target # 16.2

Children in armed conflict	Prevention of sexual abuse	Prevention of bullying	Prevention of neglect
Prevention of child labor	Prevention of corporal punishment	Prevention of the sale of children	Prevention of child prostitution
Prevention of CSAM	Prevention of child trafficking	Prevention of child sex tourism	Prevention of harmful traditions
Street children	Disabilities	Prevention of substance abuse	Prevention of malnutrition
Prevention of ICTs Dangers	Prevention of abduction	Juvenile Justice	19-20 Nov. World Days Circles of Compassion



Brief introduction - link: <https://charterforcompassion.org/images/menus/charter/pdfs/CharterFlyer-2019.pdf>

We are sharing the Charter for Compassion to inspire more people to use it and participate in making it 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 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."

20 November - Universal Children's Day



United Nations Universal Children's 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.

Universal Children's Day offers each of us an inspirational entry-point to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights, translating into dialogues and actions that will build a better world for Children."

"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>



OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

A WWSF Global Peace Seal Campaign for Homes and Schools

Building cultures of peace & non-violence - 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 the 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.

The campaign "My home is a place of peace" has now been expanded to include "My school is a place of peace", and "My web site is a site of peace".



1) Start with 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 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 campaign team

For further information and to order your seals contact Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)

P.O.Box 1504, 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland - Email: wdpca@wwsf.ch - Internet www.woman.ch

Cost: min. 20 seals US\$ or CHF 25.00, handling and mailing costs included.

• Swiss Francs IBAN: CH1900788000050701412

• US dollars IBAN: CH8900788000050701413

We thank you for your order and pre-payment.

Ideas to plan your activities and events for the 19 Days Campaign

CHOOSING AN ISSUE

Once you have chosen the issue(s) that interest you, do further research online. Most importantly, before campaigning ask yourself questions such as:

- What sparked your interest in the 19 Days Campaign?
- What type of abuse(s) or violence do children in your community usually face?
- What are the laws in your country protecting children against any type of abuse or violence?
- Are there organizations in your country or community involved in the 19 Days Campaign already? Use this as an opportunity to collaborate in creating local and/or national action. It is in collaboration with such networks that you can increase your mobilization efforts and catalyze social change.

PLANNING

Once you have made your choices, you can start planning an activity or an event on a particular day (or on several days in November). We encourage you to be creative and bold in your approach. Your activities can take various forms. You should take this opportunity to build links and reach a maximum number of people. Remember that the object is for you to convey your message within your community. Below is a list of ideas, some of which are from activities organized by WWSF coalition partners over the past years.

1. Raise awareness

- Increase public consciousness and education about the why, what, and how about prevention and protection measures concerning abuse and violence
- Download the 19 Days Campaign logo, banner and poster which are found in the 19 Days Campaign Kit
- Build links through outreach programs, presentations, conferences, seminars and webinars, articles, books, media presentations, plays, marches, social networks, etc.
- Create banners, art, sketches, songs, talks; bring them to be displayed in schools and youth centers
- Prepare TV and radio spots or use the WWSF TV spot available online:
English version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-lbghNKFEA>
French version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfUarr4T5S4>
- Implement safety rules in schools
- Organize information caravans in rural areas
- Translate the Prevention Kit into your national language and distribute it (contact WWSF for guidelines)
- Recreate/distribute the "WWSF Yellow Ribbon Campaign" to promote prevention

2. E-activism

- Introduce young people from your community/country to the campaign
- Empower young people to become prevention actors, write a blog, create art, etc.

3. Build skills

- Train parents to respect the opinions of their children
- Train children in good prevention measures, and make sure they know who to turn to or call in case of problems
- Introduce a 'Code of Ethics' with guidelines for prevention of abuse and violence against children and young people

4. Honor and involve new partners

- Become a candidate for the annual WWSF Prize for Prevention of Child Abuse by submitting your activity report at the end of the 19 Days Campaign from which candidate laureate organizations will be selected
- Involve the police, local authorities and the media in your activity

5. Fundraise

- Organize a lottery, a show, or a gala dinner and transfer the benefits to a local NGO or charity working for prevention, or to help end a particular type of abuse

6. Organize concerts

- Involve famous local singers and artists and encourage them to support your cause
- Invite other groups to join you in publicizing your initiative and make it effective

7. Organize a Circle of Compassion

- It takes compassion to end violence against children and youth. For more information, see pages 70 - 73

8. Political activities

- Hold your leaders accountable and lobby your government to ratify the Optional Protocols if they have not yet done so and to take all necessary measures for full implementation
- Launch a "Walk the Talk campaign" and regularly remind leaders to implement their promises made at numerous UN international conferences and national sessions
- Organize youth meetings with government members
- Implement new laws and prevention programs at the grass-roots level
- Learn lobby techniques and distribute information to state- and non-state actors
- Raise public and media awareness so that others join your initiative or launch a campaign of their own.

This list is non exhaustive. Add you own ideas fro activities!

World Days to inspire your advocacy work

List of selected relevant United Nations and Civil Society World Days

Jan.

24 January International Day of Education

Feb.

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

Mar.

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

Apr.

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

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

Aug.

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

Sept.

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

Oct.

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

Nov.

1-19 November	19 Days of Activism for Prevention of Violence Against Children and Youth
2 November	World Day for Circles of Compassion (In support of SDG Target 16.2)
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development
19 November	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

Dec.

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

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 campaign.

How to advertise

Here are some ideas:

- Email your network and ask your contacts to forward your email within 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 networks; remember Facebook or Twitter can enable you to mobilize a large number of people in a short amount of time
- Hand out leaflets, flyers, stickers, etc.
- Hang posters across your neighborhood/city
- Create a YouTube video and broadcast it
- Broadcast your event on the radio or television
- Send out press releases, articles, newsletters
- Create press releases and 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/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" in collaboration with WWSF.

From time-to-time, contact journalists to let them know what is happening. Tell them you have heard that in other cities, local papers or radio/TV stations are putting out special reports at the beginning of the 19 Days of Activism (1-19 November).

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 of 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.

***"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."
– Martin Luther King Jr.***

Cont'd. Advertising your event(s)

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 donate space and find businesses or groups to donate furniture and basic 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 spend, 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: <http://fdncenter.org/>
- eHow – How to Fund Raise Effectively for a Nonprofit Organization
http://www.ehow.com/how_15341_fund-raise-effectively.html
- Better-fundraising.ideas.com
<http://www.better-fundraising-ideas.com/>
- About.com – Nonprofit Charitable Organizations
<http://nonprofit.about.com/od/fundraising/u/happydonors.htm>

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

WWSF is also fundraising for the coordination, research and publishing of its annual Prevention Kits and follow-up with active coalition members, and writing a Global Impact Report. Every donation, no matter the size, will help advance the building of a culture for prevention of violence and achieve the UN Sustainable Development 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.

WWSF Bank account No.: Swiss francs IBAN: CH1900788000050701412

US dollars IBAN: CH8900788000050701413

19 Days Activity Report Guidelines for 2021

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 wdpca@wwsf.ch (deadline: 31.01.2022).

WWSF will include a summary of your activities in the 19 Days Global Impact Report 2021 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: The 19 Days Campaign Activity Report will be the basis for WWSF to select the 2021 Laureate organizations for the Annual Innovation Prize for Prevention of Violence and Abuse against Children and Youth. To date, 60 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. Link: <https://www.woman.ch/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/wwsf-innovation-prize-19-days-activism-for-prevention-of-violence-against-children-and-youth/>

Please be sure to address the following points in your 2021 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, trainings and seminars, awareness-raising sessions, public events, film screenings, etc.)
- Description of activities (max. 1 page)
- 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 and towards preventing violence and abuse against children and youth in your target area

Additional information you may wish to send

We thank you in advance for sending to wdpca@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 you created for your campaign, which we will share via our network, including Facebook and Twitter after our selection process.

For your information, the Annual Global Campaign Impact Report is published on our website at:

<https://www.woman.ch/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/global-impact-reports-campaign-19-days-of-activism-for-prevention-of-violence-against-children-and-youth-1-19-november/>



Brief summary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

<http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-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 responsibility, 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 survival 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-establish 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 reunion 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 maltreatment 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 encourage 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 cooperation 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 psychotropic 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 Convention, 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 covered 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-governmental 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:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/>

Link to Child Rights Now!

A Second Revolution: Thirty years of child rights, and the unfinished agenda

https://child-rights-now.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/A-Second-Revolution_ENG.pdf

Children's Rights are Human Rights



Thank you for your participation in the 2021 campaign for prevention of violence against children and youth, and to commemorate the World Day for prevention of violence against children and youth - 19 November.

Convener: WWSF-Women's World Summit Foundation Children-Youth Section

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