

# 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



Kit Edition 2023



## 19 Days Activism Kit 1-19 November 2023 Prevention of Violence & Abuse against Children & Youth

The "WWSF Walk your Talk Campaign" is about accelerating action for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals - UN Agenda 2030 -Target #16.2 - to urgently implement the promises made to the Children & Youth of the world.



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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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## 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  
 2022 Twelfth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit: Introduction - WWSF 75% campaign Leadership Training  
 2023 Thirteenth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit "75% Leadership Training 4 Women & Youth" in GVA



Editorial

August 2023

Dear Campaign Partners and Friends,

We invite you, as every year since 2011, to use our annual **Campaign Kit “19 Days of activism for the Prevention of Violence and Abuse against Children and Youth - 1-19 November”** edition 2023, and commemorate the **19 November - World Day** (poster available on p.64).

As always, you are invited to choose from the selected 19 themes and ideas for action (not exhaustive) for your civil society action to turn the world around for better and more robust prevention measures to guarantee - one day - a world fit for children and youth.

### Why do these issues still exist today?

#### Why, in this modern world, do we find ourselves still fighting for basic rights for children in 2023?

With the introduction of the 19 Days campaign, WWSF started a dynamic way to draw attention to increase not only civil society activities, but also to increase action by Governments. How can we hold our Leaders to account is the question we must ask ourselves today and begin to strategize new ways to influence progress.

We wish to thank our registered members and partners who sent us their 2022 activity reports, which are always a gift to read, and which we mentioned in our official annual WWSF Activity Report, submitted to the Swiss government, and published on our website. [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

For 2023, we decided to give visibility to children from around the world reminding world leaders to “Walk their Talk” when it comes to implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. (most signed-on UN Convention to-date).



In solidarity and partnership, and collaboration with our secretariat team,

Maria Elfriede (Elly) Pradervand, WWSF President / CEO / UN Representative in Geneva and New York

Find us on social media and give us a follow, like, and/or a share!



# 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 on page 4. These Target have 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." <sup>1</sup>

## PREVENTION IS KEY



### 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

1- [http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/working\\_to\\_end\\_violence\\_against\\_children\\_french.pdf](http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/working_to_end_violence_against_children_french.pdf)

### 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

# Examples of 19 Days activities - 2022 Report



## FICE Romania 2022 - Campaign Activities

### **PREVENTING ABUSE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE,**

held between October 10 - November 19, 2022, initiated and sponsored by the International Federation of Educational Communities - Romania Section, in partnership with the Women's World Summit Foundation annual 19 Days Campaign: "Prevention of violence & abuse against Children & Youth 2022"

#### **Excerpts taken from the FICE report 2022**

The WWSF Kit 2022 was sent to all 41 county school inspectorates and the 6 school inspectorates of the sectors in the city of Bucharest, which, in turn, together with the national coordinators of the campaign forwarded the information and the request to participate in the campaign to all the schools in the country.

Both at the national level and in the localities participated in the campaign, with the purpose and objective of the campaign were presented through the mass media (printed press, central or local TV stations, on social networks - Facebook, Twitter) as well as on the website of FICE Romania.

#### **Participating "Actors"**

- 712 Educational units (with legal personality), from 36 counties of the country and from the municipality of Bucharest
- 714 local coordinators
- approximately 300,000 students
- more than 14'000 teachers
- school counselors, psychologists, doctors
- specialists from local institutions (public social assistance services within the more than 500 localities involved), county (General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection, County Police Inspectorates, County School Inspectorates, County Drug Prevention and Evaluation Centers), regional (Regional Centers for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings) and central (National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoptions/ANDPDCA, Romanian Institute for Human Rights)
- Representatives of NGOs active in the field of child protection DGASPC Directors Association/AD-DGASPC, Association of Romanian Municipalities/ACoR, Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Children/FONPC



#### **National Partners**

- Tribuna Invatamantului Magazine – role in disseminating the project/its results, Bucharest.
- National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoptions (ANDPDCA), Bucharest
- Association of Romanian Municipalities...
- Radio Romania - Romanian Broadcasting Society, Bucharest
- Association of Directors of the General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection
- National Anti-Drug Agency, Bucharest (the 19 Days Campaign for the Prevention of Abuse and Violence against Children and Young People was a particularly attractive way to organize actions for:

- identification and awareness of the factors that can determine abusive, passive, assertive or aggressive behavior, as well as solutions to these behavior
- changing social behavior and openness to dialogue
- educating and mobilizing children and young people in their involvement, together with institutions, organizations, and other partners of civil society in the prevention of abuse, neglect, bullying, school abandonment and absenteeism, the consumption of drugs and other harmful substances, human trafficking
- to contribute to the creation of a more prevention culture, to stop violence against children and young people, to support the implementation of UN recommendations and last, but not least, to achieve the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, so that we can unite in collaborative actions and cooperation.

# Excerpt of FICE National Conference, Romania, 2022

## Prevention of child abuse & violence reflected in public policies design

November 18, 2022, Bucharest, Romania

The International Federation of Educational Communities (FICE) Romania organized, on November 18, 2022, at The Palace of Parliament ("Dimitrie Cantemir" Hall), the National Conference on the topic of **Prevention of child abuse an violence reflected in the public policies design**, an event that concluded the Campaign **19 days of prevention of abuse and violence against children and young people**, initiated by the World Women's Summit Foundation (Geneva) and promoted, annually, by FICE Romania at the national level. The partners were the Association of Communes in Romania, the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA), Radio Romania, the Romanian Broadcasting Society, the Association of Directors of the General Directorates of Social Assistance and the "Tribune of Education" review.

The hosts of the Conference were Prof. **Toma Mareş**, president of FICE Romania, and Prof. **Gabriela Creţu** (senator, vice-president of FICE Romania), and moderators were Prof. univ. dr. **Ioan Neacşu** and deputy **Simona Bucura Oprescu**. A distinguished guest was Mrs. **Gabriela Fîrea**, Minister of the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities, to whom were added other political personalities (parliamentarians, senators, deputies, mayors), teachers, employees of the DGASPCs from Argeş, Ialomiţa, Iaşi, Neamţ and Vaslui counties, representatives of the Anti-Drug National Agency, the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Children, ANPDCA, the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights.

The main objective of the meeting was to bring to the fore the concrete ways in which various institutions, governmental and non-governmental, can collaborate to reduce (if not completely eradicate) the phenomenon of violence against children and through which they can influence, working together, **the design of public policies** favorable to the creation of a protective social environment for children. After approximately three hours of debate, the participants expressed their wish that, annually, to have meetings dedicated to ascertaining, analyzing and disseminating the concrete results obtained, the time horizon appointed, the year 2030, being considered an ambitious milestone on the path leading to the reduction/eradication of the violence against children and young people. Alongside the ideas expressed during the National Conference organized by FICE Romania, was discussed the necessity of a Resolution regarding the specialization of social workers who manage the cases of adolescents with behavioral disorders.

FICE Romania  
National Committee's Office



*The Parliament of Romania. "Dimitrie Cantemir" Hall. Alb Hall - level P1*

# 19 Days Campaign partners 2022



## 3) 19 Days of Activism for the prevention of violence and abuse against children and youth 1-19 November (Kit available online - link: )

WWSF updated the 2022 edition of the 19 Days Kit including news, statistics and ideas for action. We also added **personal Messages to World Leaders and Prime Ministers**, reminding them of their obligation to better protect children and youth from increasing abuse and violence against them in too many countries. A world fit for children and youth must become a priority. We thank all our 2022 partners for their interesting programs and reports.



## 2022 Registered 19 Days campaign partners

### Afghanistan

Peace Window Weekly - received their activity report

### Cameroon

- Global Unity of Greater Impact (G.U.F.G.I.)
- AGUI Foundation (AGFO)
- Inclusive Action for Peace and Development in Africa
- Organisation de jeunes qui luttent contre les vbg, la protection des enfants et les jeunes, et aussi l'environnement
- Youth and Child's Care Coalition
- Le Cavoah-CAM
- Centre D'ACCUEIL et de volontariat pour orphelins, abandonnes et handicapés du Cameroun « CAVOAH-cam
- Collectif des Femmes pour la protection de l'environnement et de l'Enfant
- Growing Together

### Gambia

Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women & Children (GAMCOTRAP)

### India

UDISHA

### Malawi

Youth Net and Counselling - YONECO

### México

Sistema para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia (SDIF)

### Nigeria

- Haven Initiative
- HOSEC Foundation
- People Environment and Sustainability Foundation (PEAS FOUNDATION)
- Treasure Builder Foundation
- Child Protection Network
- Beau Haven Farms

### Romania

- MIHAI EMINESCU", Highschool, Barlad
- FICE Romania

### Uganda

Amani Initiative

### United States

Child Advocacy Center of Rutherford County, Inc.

# Why 19 Days of Activism for prevention?

**Women's World Summit Foundation - Call to Action!**

**Prevention of violence against children & youth**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS** 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 child pornography	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

**Annual 19 Days Campaign Kit available [www.woman.ch](http://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 participate to increasing 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 & children – to become involved in prevention of one or more of the 19 abuse themes listed below. To help create a culture for better prevention, the end of violence against children and youth, support the implementation of the UN Study recommendations, and last but not least to reach the promised 2030 Sustainable Development 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 our proposal to focus in 2023 on "Igniting compassion, Inspire the world, to end violence and abuse against children & youth". (linked to the online how to create community Circle of compassion (p.67-70)

- 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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WWSF Secretariat - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) (2023)

# 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).

## 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 a risk of abusing." Examples of secondary prevention include young parent support services and respite services (Austrian Institute of Criminology Journal 2000).
- **Tertiary prevention** focuses on families and other settings where abuse has already occurred. Activities are focused on seeking to reduce the negative effects of abuse and to prevent its recurrence. These may include mental health services for children and families affected by the abuse and/or parent/mentor programs with non-abusing families (Child Welfare Information Gateway).

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

– Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro



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

(Excerpts of the CRC)

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 2022)

## 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 **178** State 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 **173** States 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: **53** signatories and **50** parties

Link to the Guide for Non-governmental Organizations  
[https://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Guide\\_OP\\_EN\\_web.pdf](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 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)



## Meet the new Chairperson: Ann Marie SKELTON Incoming Committee Chair on the Rights of the Child in 2023

Professor of Law at the University of Pretoria and the University of Leiden, South Africa, was elected as the new Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the 93rd session of the Committee in May 2023.

"MIKIKO OTANI, Outgoing Committee Chair, said she was humbled and honoured to serve as the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child for the past two years. She expressed gratitude to all members of the Committee for their collective wisdom and guidance, to members of the Secretariat for their support, and to United Nations Children's Fund and Child Rights Connect and other civil society colleagues and all children for collaboration and partnership in various forms.

Ms. Otani said one of the highlights of her tenure was making the Committee more active, vocal and visible. The Committee had issued 37 statements individually or jointly over the past two years on various thematic or country specific issues concerning children. Another highlight, she said, was promoting child rights mainstreaming. Ms. Otani had collaborated with other United Nations human rights mechanisms, bodies and agencies, to integrate a child rights perspective and mainstream child rights in the wider United Nations system. The Committee had played an active role in the drafting process of the Secretary-General's Guidance Note on Child Rights Mainstreaming.

The Committee then held elections for the new Chair and Bureau members of the Committee. It elected Ann Marie Skelton (South Africa) as Chair, and Rinchen Chopel (Bhutan), Sopio Kiladze (Georgia), Luis Ernesto Pedernera Reyna (Uruguay) and Bragi Gudbrandsson (Iceland) as Bureau members.

ANN MARIE SKELTON, Incoming Committee Chair, said she was honoured to have been elected as Chair and undertook to work hard to deserve the trust placed in her. Children's rights were facing new challenges daily, and the task of protecting children's rights was vast. Numerous global issues were facing children, such as displacement, migration and climate change, and the Committee had witnessed backsliding in some areas of children's rights. There was thus much work for the Committee to do. (...)"

To read more about "Committee on the Rights of the Child Opens Ninety-Third Session, Elects New Chair and Bureau Members, Hears Solemn Declaration by Three New Committee Experts" :  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/05/committee-rights-child-opens-ninety-third-session-elects-new-chair-and-bureau-members#:~:text=ANN%20MARIE%20SKELTON%2C%20Incoming%20Committee.protecting%20children's%20rights%20was%20vast>

## The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

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

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

**The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** applies for children under 18. It recognises education as a legal right to every child on the basis of equal opportunity.

# Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid of Morocco Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children



## Dr. Najat MAALLA M'JID

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

## Annual Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children 31 March 2023

### Selected excerpts

#### I. Introduction

2. "In the present report, the Special Representative reviews actions she has taken at the global, regional and national levels to fulfil her mandate as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/141 and provides an overview of the results achieved. She emphasizes that the need to prevent and respond effectively to violence against children is more urgent than ever. Ending violence against children cannot wait, as violence continues to rise and becomes ever more normalized. Too many children are being left behind as a result of the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, just as ongoing humanitarian and climate crises have magnified children's exposure and vulnerability to violence. The Special Representative stresses that, with less than seven years remaining to keep the promise made through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals to end all forms of violence against children and to address its drivers, it is time to invest in an inclusive, resilient, healthy, just and safe recovery for all children worldwide, leaving no one behind."

3. "The present report, which is focused on violence against children in the digital environment, contains an outline of the diverse forms of violence to which children are exposed online, emphasizing their co-occurrence in that setting, as well as the continuum between violence online and offline. The Special Representative stresses the need for holistic responses to the challenges posed by violence against children in the digital environment, highlighting the crucial role of children as agents of positive change through identifying and implementing solutions. The Special Representative invited Member States to inform the report by submitting information on initiatives related to children's participation in decision-making processes, as well as measures to address children's rights in the digital environment and the risks they experience online. The Special Representative is grateful for all submissions received<sup>3</sup> and inputs from a wide variety of stakeholders."<sup>\*\*</sup>

#### 3. II. Accelerating action to end violence against children by 2030 A. Investment in child- and gender-sensitive protection and violence prevention is needed now more than ever

4. "Children's vulnerability to violence continues to be exacerbated worldwide by multiple and overlapping crises. These include increasing poverty, social and economic inequalities, forced displacement, conflict, climate change, environmental degradation, natural disasters, food insecurity, widespread violence and political instability."

5. "The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that about 1 billion children are in multidimensional poverty, while an estimated 356 million children live in extreme poverty. An additional 100 million children have been plunged into multidimensional poverty by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4</sup> Poverty drives various forms of violence, including through child labour, child marriage, trafficking in and smuggling of children, sexual exploitation of children and recruitment of children into criminal, armed and violent extremist groups. For example, UNICEF estimates that over the next decade, more than 10 million more girls are at risk of becoming child brides as a result of the pandemic.<sup>5</sup> UNICEF and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have warned that without mitigation strategies, the number of children in child labour could rise by 8.9 million by the end of 2022 as a result of higher levels of poverty and increased vulnerability.<sup>6</sup>"

See: [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_845351/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_845351/lang-en/index.htm).

6. "According to estimates by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of people who have been forcibly displaced worldwide may have reached 103 million by mid-2022 (...)"

7. "The impact of violence is devastating, immediate and lifelong. Violence against children impairs their brain development, their physical and mental health and their ability to learn. The economic costs are also staggering, as stressed in the annual report of the Special Representative to the Human Rights Council at its forty-ninth session.<sup>8</sup> A paradigm shift is needed in response. Throughout the reporting period, the Special Representative and key partners have stressed that spending on cross-sectoral child- and gender-sensitive protection and violence prevention yields high returns and must be viewed as an investment. Cost-effective prevention and response measures already exist and should be embedded in Governments' economic growth and development plans, supported by adequate resources, monitoring and accountability mechanisms."

To read more: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4002097>

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



## Virginia Gamba (Argentina)

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

Ms. Gamba brings more than 30 years of experience and professional leadership on issues relative to disarmament, peace and human security.

## Excerpts of the Report Children and armed conflict Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict 27 February - 31 March 2023

### I. Introduction

“1. The present report covers the period from December 2021 to December 2022 and is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/147, in which the Assembly requested the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to submit a report to the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda. The Special Representative further elaborates on her activities regarding the request of the Assembly in its resolution 72/245 to increase her engagement with States, United Nations bodies and agencies, and regional and subregional organizations, and to increase public awareness activities, including by collecting, assessing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned. In the report, the Special Representative outlines the multidimensional vulnerabilities of children to grave violations in armed conflict and the need for compliance with international law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### Excerpt - IV. Raising awareness, mobilizing global action and building partnerships

36. As the leading advocate of the United Nations for the protection of children affected by armed conflict, the Special Representative continued to use her voice to publicly raise awareness on the need to increase efforts to protect the rights and needs of children before, during and after conflicts. During the reporting period, the Office of the Special Representative issued more than 40 press releases and public statements, some jointly with partners, including other high-level United Nations officials and external partners, to highlight issues related to the mandate. For example, in February 2022, the Special Representative published a statement on the situation of children in Ukraine jointly with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children. The same month, she issued a joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child to mark the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December 2022, the Special Representative issued a joint public statement with the Special Rapporteur on disability and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### Excerpt - F. Building partnerships with civil society and academia

75. Civil society organizations and academia continued to be key partners for the implementation of the children and armed conflict mandate and engagement with them remained a priority for the Special Representative and her Office. The Special Representative continued to have regular interactions with non-governmental organizations based in New York and in Europe, facilitated through the Liaison Office in Brussels, and with civil society partners during her field visits, such as in South Sudan.

The Special Representative and her Office participated, in person or virtually, in dozens of events organized by civil society organizations and partners.

76. In December 2021, the Special Representative signed a partnership agreement with the All Survivors Project Foundation for the implementation of a project on the reintegration of boy survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. In January 2022, the Special Representative took part in a policy workshop on children and armed conflict organized by the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict and the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs at Fordham University.

77. In November 2022, the Special Representative participated in a workshop entitled “Conflict-related sexual violence against boys: from recognition to response” organized by the All Survivors Project, Norway and Princeton University. The same month she provided a video message for the fourth annual general meeting of the Association internationale de la mutualité. Also in November, the Special Representative delivered a keynote address at the fourth annual Knowledge for Prevention Symposium in Montevideo organized by Uruguay, the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security and Dalhousie University. The Special Representative also provided a video message for a conference on children and armed conflict organized in November 2022 by Save the Children, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the African Child Policy Forum in association with the African Union in Nairobi.

78. Engagement with academia remained a central focus of the Office of the Special Representative. In December 2021, the Special Representative and her Office were awarded a prize by the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict for her institutional commitment, as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, to the protection of conflict-affected children.(...)

To read more:

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4002091?ln=en>

# UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children



**Mama Fatima SINGHATEH (Gambia)**

**UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children (including Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and other Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), entrusted to her in March 2020 by the Human Rights Council Resolution 43/22.)**

"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."

**Statement by Mama Fatima Singhateh :  
Excerpt 52nd session of the Human Rights Council,  
Agenda Item 3 - 8 March 2023 - UN Geneva**

**Mr President,  
Excellencies,**

*Distinguished delegates,*

"It is an honour for me to address the Human Rights Council again in my capacity as the UN Special Rapporteur on Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children. At the outset, I would like to thank States, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, children, members of the academia and other relevant stakeholders who have engaged with me over the past year. I look forward to continued exchanges and cooperation.

I also wish to thank all the stakeholders who responded to my call for input for their valuable contributions, which helped enrich the present thematic report on Reparation for Child Victims and Survivors of Sale and Sexual Exploitation.

**This thematic study examines the scope and importance of reparation for children who have been affected by sale, sexual exploitation, and abuse both in conflict and non-conflict settings. It consists of an analysis of the overall issue of children's right to reparation and access to justice, current gaps and challenges, and the good practices and experiences of various stakeholders on this issue. It also provides a set of concrete recommendations for States and other stakeholders with a view to contributing towards the design and implementation of national and international frameworks on providing reparation to child victims and survivors of sale and sexual exploitation."**

**Mr President,**

I will also be presenting the report of my country visit to Mauritius in June 2022.

**Excellencies,**

"While it is not fully possible to return victims to their previous condition before the harm was suffered, reparation is nevertheless a crucial component of meaningful remedy and recovery for child victims and survivors of sale and sexual exploitation.

International human rights law provides for the right of children to reparation for violations of their rights, and the definition of reparation within the ambit of international law is continuously growing, improving, adapting, and adjusting to changing times. Reparative measures, therefore, vary across countries. It can include restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition, which can be symbolic, material, individual or collective in nature. Whatever the form reparation

takes, it should be proportional to the gravity of the violations and the harm suffered by the child victims and survivors.

Despite unified commitments under international legal norms and standards on reparative justice measures, only a handful of States have fully operationalized legal and regulatory frameworks, including the adoption of legislation and the implementation of child-friendly services. Gaps continue to exist in many national legislations that hinder child survivors' right to access reparation. These include the absence of provisions for reparations in violations such as child marriage, child labour, child abuse and child exploitation, including those that are sexual in nature.

Other barriers hindering child victims and survivors from claiming or accessing reparation include, limited access to information by child victims on where to seek assistance and advice, and statutes of limitations with narrow applications of the law and strict deadlines. Such barriers deny victims, the opportunity to come forward and claim reparation when they feel physically and psychologically ready to do so.

Access to justice can also be limited when victims have suffered a crime in another country, or when they are not legal residents of the country in which they are seeking compensation. Additionally, child victims and survivors may choose to avoid going through the legal process to gain access to compensation because they fear risking further stigmatization."

**Mr President,**

"There are however examples of good practices that highlight efforts to ensure victims and survivors access much needed reparative schemes and services. Some States have made important attempts and advances at integrating survivor-centred reparation schemes in their legislative frameworks. I cited the Yazidi Survivors Law in my report, as an example that promises a number of reparation measures, which includes financial, medical and psychological support, the provision of land, housing and education, and a quota in public sector employment for communities against whom acts of genocide and crimes against humanity were perpetrated.

The co-creation model of encouraging the participation of child victims and survivors in the process of determining harm suffered and reparation due with a view to restoring dignity, is also a prime example of a good practice worth emulating. Others include the development and implementation of interim relief measures such as that established by The Global Survivors Fund, which provides urgent interim reparative measures in situations where States or other parties are unable or unwilling to provide support to ensure transformative and sustainable impact on the lives of victims and survivors, including children. (...)"

To read the full Statement, follow the link below:

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/children/sr/SR-sale-sexual-exploitation-children-HRC52-Statement.pdf>



# 1-19 Novembre 2023

# 19 Days Activism



Photo © Claude Noguès - WWSF

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



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

**#19DaysWWSF**

[www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

# 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



# Who is the 19 Days Prevention Kit for?



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

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

## How to Use the Kit?

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

## What the Kit is not

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

## A bit of history:

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

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

✓ **Our first Call to action** went to our network partners and a launching event was organized at the Geneva Temple de Fusterie on 19 November 2000, which was well attended and supported. This was the beginning of a long journey and we have not arrived yet.

✓ **From that day on, the World Day 19 November went viral**, and we continued in developing the Campaign and send out our annual Campaign poster to registered members.



The **World Day** serves as a focal point for governmental and non-governmental bodies, institutions, organizations and NGO networks, educators, experts & professionals.

✓ **In 2004: WWSF launched a Prize for prevention of child abuse** (63 organization have since received our prize all published online)

✓ **In 2005: WWSF launched a yellow Ribbon sticker campaign**, which could be ordered on line or reproduce locally in local languages.

✓ **In 2007: WWSF created a clearinghouse** for selected good practice examples to inspire more action.

✓ **In 2008: WWSF published its "Guide for NGO and citizen action – PREVENTION IS Key!"** for the elimination of violence against children and youth."

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

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

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

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

We believe that civil society is the prime actor for change and without it nothing would really move forward. For us, civil society is the leader and change-maker in their communities and countries. We honor them and are grateful for their courage to stay committed.

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

In 2023, we revived our the "WWSF Walk your Talk Campaign" to remind World Leaders that the world is waiting for results.

We remain hopeful, especially since the new campaign **"Together to #END violence - Leaders' Events"** which rallies VIPs and world leaders to the cause, is gaining momentum and we hope they can produce a turning point. WWSF is a member, and our work is wind in their sale.

<https://www.end-violence.org/>

I hope that this short background text explains our common journey.

# 1 Prevention of Children in Armed Conflict



Updated version 2023

## This is the first Day of the 19 Days Campaign 1-19 November 2023!

*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 agencies, UN Special Representatives, and civil society actors to help us to better understand the complexities of the problem and to help end using children in armed conflict, our theme for the first day of the Campaign 1 November.*

### 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."<sup>1</sup>

### 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<sup>2</sup> :**

- 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

## Children and Armed Conflict Report by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, 31 March 2023

### Excerpts:

**"Between January - December 2022 there were 27,180 grave violations committed against children caught up in war in the 26 conflict situations assessed, making this the highest number ever verified by the UN."**

### **"III. Challenges, trends and progress in ending and preventing grave violations A. Progress in ending and preventing grave violations**

**Para. 8.** During the reporting period, thousands of children endured horrific conditions in conflict zones. Conflict escalation, the multiplication of armed actors, the use of mines, improvised explosive devices, explosive remnants of war and explosive weapons in populated areas, intensified humanitarian crises and violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law had a severe impact on the protection of children. Cross-border conflicts and intercommunal violence, in particular in the central Sahel and Lake Chad basin regions, affected children, while coups and takeovers aggravated their situation.

The first nine months of 2022 were marked by a sustained high number of grave violations against children, which was further underscored by the decision of the Secretary-General to add three new situations of concern in his latest report on children and armed conflict – namely in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Ukraine. Of the six grave violations against children in armed conflict, the highest number of verified cases were for recruitment and use of children, followed by killing and maiming and abduction. Attacks on schools and hospitals continued to increase and verified attacks were particularly high in Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Myanmar. While cases of sexual violence continued to be underreported, 2022 saw a sustained high number of verified incidents of sexual violence affecting girls and boys." (...)

To read full Report :

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4002091?ln=en>



**"It is estimated that there are tens of thousands of children in armed groups around the world.**

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

**The recruitment and use of boys and girls in armed conflict is one of the most horrific violations of children's rights."<sup>3</sup>**

**The notion of schools as zones of peace is challenged in many conflicts. Schools are used for military purposes and students, teachers and schools are targeted. Conflict and insecurity can result in the closure or disrupted functioning of schools and hospitals, preventing access to education and health care for boys and girls.<sup>4</sup>**

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

# Courtesy of Watch List, WWSF shares with you their May 2023 Newsletter



## Foreword

*"At the time of publishing this report, 1 in 6 children – or about 449 million – live in a conflict affected area worldwide. The ability for girls and boys to enjoy their most basic rights is significantly impacted by the activities of State and non-State parties to armed conflicts. In 2022 alone, the United Nations (UN) verified over 24,000 grave violations against children. These included killing and maiming, sexual violence, use and recruitment, and abductions. Schools and hospitals were destroyed, and humanitarian access was denied. Almost 3,000 children were also detained for actual or alleged association with armed groups. These alarming patterns raise significant concerns about the adherence to international law, in particular international humanitarian and human rights law, by parties to armed conflict, be they States or non-State armed groups.*

*In this context, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict has persevered in its endeavors to promote the UN's children and armed conflict (CAAC) agenda and safeguard the rights of children affected by war. This report demonstrates the significant efforts Watchlist undertook towards this goal, and how critical these efforts continue to be. Watchlist's advocacy helped influence Security Council resolutions. It also provided timely information on the situation of children affected by the conflict in Ukraine, and published key research pieces on handover protocols and the denial of humanitarian access. The achievements Watchlist made in 2022 are only possible because of the extraordinary commitment of the team, Watchlist's network of peer organizations working around the world to increase the protection of children in armed conflict, and its supporters and allies."*

To read the Annual Report: <https://watchlist.org/wp-content/uploads/2022-annual-report-final.pdf>



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**About Watchlist on  
Children and Armed Conflict**



Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict is a New York-based coalition of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that seeks to end violations against children in armed conflict and guarantee their rights. For more information, please visit: <https://watchlist.org/>.

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

# Prevention of Children in Armed Conflict

## 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 not 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 countries that still allow the recruitment of children in armed forces
- 11 Ensure**  
child victims of grave violations are treated primarily as victims\*
- 12 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.



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

### ACTION FOR DUTY BEARERS

- Empower youth leaders to drive social innovation in communities to change regulations and help to end violence against children and youth
- Learn about your rights and about this topic and become a Human Rights Defender: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/Defender.aspx>
- Understand and share that the battlefield is not a place for young people and do not think of war as a game
- Create a culture "walk your talk"
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Check the Summary [https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UNCRC\\_summary-1\\_1.pdf](https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UNCRC_summary-1_1.pdf)  
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
- Learn about the WWSF 75% Campaign (Women, Children, & Youth represent 75% of the world population) rise and claim a seat at the decision making Table



### CREATING A NEW ERA

- Your duty is "to criminalize recruitment and use of children in armed conflict". Unicef, action plan
- Join the **WWSF 75% Campaign: Women, Children and Youth, represent 75% of the World population (6 billion), unite, and claim a seat at the decision-making Table to speed up the creation of a new era for Children's Rights to be promoted and respected.**  
<https://www.woman.ch/concept-note-vision-mission-and-objective/>

**Youth:**  
15 to 24 years.  
1.2 billion estimated worldwide

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #Childrennotsoldiers #75%CampaignWWSF

**2023 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](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

# Prevention of Child Sexual Violence & Abuse (CSEA)

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



Updated version 2023

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.<sup>1</sup>

**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 World Leaders & Ministers,

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

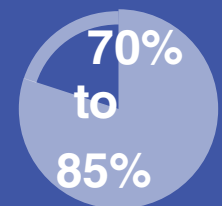


**4 April 2023**  
UN Geneva Human Rights Council adopts **Eight Resolutions.**  
Excerpt:

"The Human Rights Council and **extends the mandates on the sale and sexual exploitation of children**, Iran, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Belarus, and Syria. (...)

In a resolution (A/HRC/51/L.40) on the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, adopted without a vote (as orally revised), the Council decides to extend the mandate of the **Special Rapporteur, for a period of three years, under the title of the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation** and sexual abuse of children, on the same terms provided by the Human Rights Council in its resolutions 7/13, 34/16 and 43/22; requests the Special Rapporteur to support States in developing legal and policy frameworks and child protection strategies to effectively prevent and eradicate new and emerging forms of the online and offline sale and sexual exploitation and abuse of children, in accordance with international human rights law; also requests the Special Rapporteur to continue to report annually on the implementation of the mandate to the Council and the General Assembly, in accordance with their respective programmes of work; and decides to continue its consideration of this question in accordance with its programme of work." <sup>2</sup>

Still today, we learn that "every year, at least a billion children are ex-posed to violence. Every five minutes, a child dies a violent death (Hillis et al.2016) somewhere around the world." <sup>3</sup>



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



## 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. (...)" <sup>5</sup>

1 - WHO, Report on the Consultation of Child Abuse Prevention, 1999 2 - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/04/human-rights-council-adopts-eight-resolutions-extends-mandates-sale-and-sexual> 3 - <https://www.humandignity.foundation/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/The-Global-Partnership-Strategy.pdf> 4 - [http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/1in5/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/1in5/default_en.asp) 5 - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/09/28/us/child-sex-abuse.html> 6 - <https://www.unicef.org/end-violence>

# 2 Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse & Violence

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 Initiate

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

## 8 Support

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

## 9 Support

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

## 10 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



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- Learn from the UN Policy Brief 3 about "Our Common Agenda" Meaningful Youth Engagement in Policymaking and Decision-Making Processes <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-youth-engagement-en.pdf>
- Speak up if you see, hear or experience any form of sexual abuse
- Request sex education in your school, and participate 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/>

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

ACTIONS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

- "Young people should be **informed and educated about their rights** and empowered to hold duty bearers accountable for respecting, protecting and fulfilling those rights.(...)" UN Policy Brief 3 about "Our Common Agenda 2023"
- **Promote** the creation of community Circles of compassion to increase action and to achieve the **SDG Goal #16.2** (see p.67-70)

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide



#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventChildSexualAbuse

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### 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.<sup>1</sup>

### 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.<sup>1</sup>
- **"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 suicide <sup>2</sup>

### What are signs that a child is bullying others?

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

**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.

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

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

**3. 6%** of children 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. <sup>7</sup>

### Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



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



1 - <https://www.unicef.org/egypt/bullying> 2 - <https://www.stopbullying.gov/at-risk/warning-signs/index.html> 3 - <https://www.pacer.org/bullying/> 4 - <https://cyberbullying.org/2019-cyberbullying-data> 7 - [https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Project\\_deSHAME\\_Dec\\_2017\\_Report.pdf](https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Project_deSHAME_Dec_2017_Report.pdf) 8 - UNICEF, 2016 [https://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_92086.html](https://www.unicef.org/media/media_92086.html)





## 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>
- 9 Limit**  
screen time, and monitor their children's access online, while also ensuring that children are safe online
- 10 Check out**  
the Child Online Safety Universal Declaration The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development.  
[https://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/working-groups/ChildOnlineSafety\\_Declaration.pdf](https://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/working-groups/ChildOnlineSafety_Declaration.pdf)



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

### ACTIONS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- Learn about the WWSF 75% Campaign (Women, Children, & Youth represent 75% of the world population) rise and claim a seat at the decision making Table  
<https://www.woman.ch/concept-note-vision-mission-and-objective/>
- 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/>

**Youth:**  
15 to 24 years.  
1.2 billion estimated worldwide

- **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
- **Young People** should be recognized as equal partners in decision-making processes and their engagement should be facilitated.



**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](http://www.woman.ch)

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventBullying

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# 4 Prevention of Neglect



Updated version 2023

## 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.”**<sup>1</sup>

## 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.<sup>2</sup>

### 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 school <sup>3</sup>

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

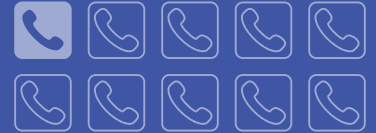
- are in care
- seeking asylum
- live with a parent who has problems with drugs or alcohol
- suffers from mental health problems
- is in a domestically abusive relationship
- living in poverty, unsuitable housing or a deprived area
- having parents who were abused or neglected themselves. <sup>10</sup>

## 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.

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 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-maltreatment> 7 - World Health Organization, Child Maltreatment 2017 Infograph. [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/child/Child\\_maltreatment\\_infographic\\_EN.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/child/Child_maltreatment_infographic_EN.pdf?ua=1) 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.<sup>4</sup>

"Nearly 3 in 4 children - or 300 million children - aged 2–4 years regularly suffer physical punishment and/or psychological violence at the hands of parents and caregivers."<sup>5</sup>

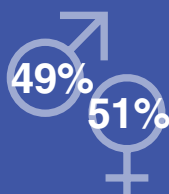
"120 million girls and young women under 20 years of age have suffered some form of forced sexual contact."<sup>5</sup>

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

## Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



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



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



## 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
- 11 Parental support and stress release measures:**  
Civil society and organisations supporting children and adolescents can facilitate healthy parenting. In the long-run, resources are needed to support basic mental health and psychosocial services.<sup>3</sup>
- 12 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 DUTY BEARERS

### Help Families in Crisis:

Children living in homes with substance abuse issues are at greater risk for child abuse and neglect.

Opioid abuse is spreading like wildfire. No town is too small. No family is immune.

Be a church that shows up to help neglected children. The community will notice that your church cares about kids.



#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventChildNeglect

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# Theme 5 Prevention of Child Labor



Updated version 2023

## Honorable World Leaders 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

## How many child Labourers are there in India?

There were 16.8 million more children aged 5 to 11 in child labour in 2020 than in 2016. Child labour increases unless urgent mitigation measures are taken. New analysis suggests a further 8.9 million children will be in child labour by the end of 2022 as a result of rising poverty driven by the pandemic.

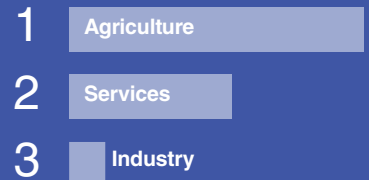
[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms\\_800278.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_800278.pdf)

« 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."



Child labor is concentrated primarily in agriculture (70%), 20% in Services; and 10% in the Industrial sector, including mining. <sup>2</sup>

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).<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>

## 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).<sup>7</sup>

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

## Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



## "160 million children are still in child labor"

Amina Mohammed - UN Deputy SG



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

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](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/fp=NORMLEXPUB:11300:0:NO::P11300\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:312283](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/fp=NORMLEXPUB:11300:0:NO::P11300_INSTRUMENT_ID:312283) 6 - <https://www.iuf.org/news/world-day-against-child-labour-2022-169-million-children-denied-their-right-to-childhood/> 7 - <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm>

"On World Day against Child Labour we commit to strengthen organizing in agriculture; to negotiate agreements with companies not to use child labour, to ensure decent work throughout their supply chains and not to source from operations which use child labour; and to campaign for the ratification of ILO Conventions key to eliminating child labour in agriculture."<sup>6</sup>

# 5 Prevention of Child Labor



## 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

### 9 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](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_745287.pdf)



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- Empower youth leaders to drive social innovation, communities, to change regulations and help to end child labor
- Learn about the WWSF 75% Campaign (Women, Children, & Youth represent 75% of the world population, unite & claim a seat at The Table <https://www.woman.ch/concept-note-vision-mission-and-objective/>)
- 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/>

### • Ensure:

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

## ACTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

- 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

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #NoChildLabor

2023 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](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

**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 80 - 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."<sup>1</sup>

**"Enormous numbers of children experience corporal punishment in their homes, schools, care and work settings and the penal system in all regions of the world.**

3 in 4 young children are regularly subjected to violent discipline by their caregivers. Around 600 million children under the age of 5 live in countries where the practice is legal in their homes."

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

punishment. Violent forms of discipline may also be experienced differently by boys and girls and may be used to reinforce gender norms:"

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

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

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

**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**

"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 (Source: 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>. 3 - <https://endcorporalpunishment.org/countdown/> 4 - UNICEF : Monitoring the situation of Children and Women, 2017 <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence/violent-discipline/> 5 - <https://ecdan.org/posts/news/international-day-to-endcorporalpunishment-2023-and-new-report-on-school-corporal-punishment/#:~:text=The%20International%20Day%20to%20%23EndCorporalPunishment,need%20non%2Dviolent%20childhoods%20now!>

**30 April**

The International Day #EndCorporalPunishment on 30 April is an important, global moment to advocate for protecting children from violent punishment – in all settings. Children deserve and need non-violent childhoods now! in all schools.<sup>5</sup>

**25**

states have full prohibition of corporal punishment

**67**

more states have committed to reforming their laws to achieve a complete legal ban.<sup>3</sup>

**Relevant Sustainable Development Goal by 2030**



**#16.2**



Close to 300 million children aged 2 to 4 world-wide (3 out of 4) experience violent discipline by their caregivers on a regular basis.<sup>4</sup>

# 6 Prevention of Corporal Punishment

(cont'd.)



## 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](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](http://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.churchesforon-violence.org](http://www.churchesforon-violence.org)

## 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."

## 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.



# 6 Prevention of Corporal Punishment

## 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
- 10 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
- 11 Learn about the "WWSF 75% Campaign":**  
75% of Women, Children & Youth represent 75% of the world population, need to rise and claim a seat at all decision-making tables to create a more just world for all.



### 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
- Read UN Policy Brief 3 (2023) - Meaningful Youth Engagement <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-youth-engagement-en.pdf>

**Youth:**  
15 to 24 years.  
1.2 billion estimated worldwide

### IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND DUTY BEARERS

- Promote the meaning of "discipline" as guidance, not as physical punishment; offer support and resources for parents.
- "Duty bearers must ensure that measures, including referral systems, to protect youth from threats and attacks are established and strengthened."  
UN Policy Brief 3 (2023)
- Create Community Circles of Compassion (p.67-70)

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventCorporalPunishment

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### Honorable World Leaders and Ministers,

**The Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Pornography (OPSC) requires "States to criminalize the sale of children, in particular, the offering, delivering or 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/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.<sup>1</sup>

### Excerpts from the Human Rights Council Discusses, Reparations for Child Victims and Survivors of Sale and Sexual Exploitation

UN Geneva - March 2023

"Mama Fatima Singhateh, Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children, including Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and other Child Sexual Abuse Material, said her thematic study examined the scope and importance of reparation for children who had been affected by sale, sexual exploitation, and abuse both in conflict and non-conflict settings.

It provided a set of concrete recommendations for States and other stakeholders with a view to contributing towards the design and implementation of national and international frameworks on providing reparation to child victims and survivors of sale and sexual exploitation. Reparation was a crucial component of meaningful remedy and recovery for child victims and survivors of sale and sexual exploitation."

**The Special Rapporteur also spoke of her visit to Mauritius as a country concerned.** In the discussion on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, speakers said that integrated child protection systems where all relevant services cooperated according to a coordinated and multidisciplinary approach, in the best interests of the child, were the best tools to ensure prevention, protection and remedy for child victims.

Sale and sexual exploitation of children had a long-term impact on victims, and strong policies should be implemented that focused on goals, such as a path of care and strengthening psychosocial care, whilst also integrating a gender perspective. States should adopt and undertake restorative justice measures in order to provide a life of justice to child survivors of sexual exploitation, allowing the child to participate in decision-making processes on all matters, including reparation. All efforts should be made to ensure that there was no secondary victimisation. (...)"

"In the ensuing discussion, speakers said, among other things, that integrated child protection systems where all relevant services cooperated according to a coordinated and multidisciplinary approach, in the best interests of the child, were the best tools to ensure prevention, protection, and remedy for child victims. (...)"

To read more : <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/news-media/meeting-summary/2023/03/le-conseil-dialogue-avec-la-rapporteuse-speciale-sur-la-vente-et>

1 - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/opsccrc.aspx> -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>

### 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... »<sup>4</sup>



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.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup>

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.

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



## 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/adoquide\\_e.pdf](http://www.hcch.net/upload/adoquide_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/ipec/areas/Traffickingofchildren/WCMS\\_111537/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/ipec/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/>



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Learn about the WWSF 75% Campaign (Women, Children, & Youth represent 75% of the world population) rise and claim a seat at the decision making Table <https://www.woman.ch/concept-note-vision-mission-and-objective/>
- 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
- 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 DUTY BEARERS

**“The Handbook on the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography aims to promote understanding and effective implementation of the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.****

The publication describes the genesis, scope and content of the Protocol, and provides examples of measures taken by States Parties to fulfil their obligations under this instrument.

This essential guide is addressed principally to public officials, UN organizations, child rights advocates and others who work with and for children, and whose duties and activities can enhance the protection of children from exploitation, whether on the national or local level.“

<https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/547-handbook-for-the-optional-protocol-on-the-sale-of-children-child-prostitution-and.html>

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #NotForSale

2023 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](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

# 8 Prevention of Child Prostitution



Updated version 2023

## Honorable World Leaders 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/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/optional-protocol-convention-rights-child-sale-children-child>

**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 Child Prostitution 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 UN 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  
10 July 2023

**III. Thematic study on the exploitation and sexual abuse of children in the context of travel and tourism; a closer look at the phenomena of voluntourism**

## B. International legal instruments and policy frameworks

"28. The existing body of international law devoted to protecting children include the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

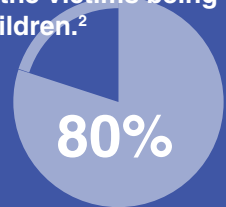
These international laws protect children's right not to be separated from their family unless it is in their best interests (article 9 of the Convention); their right not to be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence nor to unlawful attacks on their honour and reputation (article 16 of the Convention); their right to protection from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse (article 19 of the Convention); their right to special protection and assistance if deprived of their family environment (article 20 of the Convention); their right to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development (article 27 of the Convention); their right to protection from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be harmful to their psychosocial, emotional or spiritual development (article 32 of the Convention); their right to protection from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (article 34 of the Convention); and their right to protection from trafficking (article 35 of the Convention).

Further, a State party is required to establish jurisdiction over these crimes when the offender is a national of that State or a person who has his or her habitual residence in its territory, even if these crimes are committed outside the State's territory (article 4 of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography)."

To read more: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/report-special-rapporteur-sale-sexual-exploitation-and-sexual-abuse-children-mama-fatima-singhateh-a78137-enarruzh>

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

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



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

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.



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.)



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

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

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

## IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- The **SDG target #16.2** could be used to remind duty bearers that all governments have agreed in 2015 "to End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children by 2030" <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>
- Encourage congregations to use innovative approaches, which encourage children to share their views, ideas and concerns ([www.oikoumene.org/resources-children](http://www.oikoumene.org/resources-children))
- The Children are waiting, "Walk your Talk"

CREATING  
A NEW ERA

- Join the **WWSF 75% Campaign: Women, Children and Youth represent 75% of the World population (6 billion), unite, and claim a seat at the decision-making Table to speed up the creation of a new era for Children's Rights to be promoted and respected.**

<https://www.woman.ch/concept-note-vision-mission-and-objective/>

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #childProstitution

2023 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](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

# 9 Prevention of CSAM

(Child Sexual Abuse Material)



Updated version 2023

## Honorable World Leaders and Ministers,

**The Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography (OPSC) requires States to criminalize producing, distributing, disseminating, importing, exporting, offering, selling or possessing child pornography. The prevention of child pornography involves both strong legislation, full implementation by 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))**

### 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/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/optional-protocol-convention-rights-child-sale-children-child>

**Excerpts from the UN 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 Singhatoh  
10 July 2023

### II Activities carried out by the Special Rapporteur:

#### A. Conferences and engagement with stakeholders

"5. Information on the activities carried out in this area by the Special Rapporteur in 2022 can be found in her annual report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/52/31), submitted to the Council at its fifty-second session.

6. On 19 January 2023, the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, participated in an online event hosted by ECPAT International entitled "Disrupting harm: conversation with young survivors about online child sexual exploitation and abuse". She presented opening remarks on the importance of child participation.

7. On 1 February 2023, the Special Rapporteur addressed the 37th meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee) and presented a summary of her report entitled "A practical approach to addressing the sale and sexual exploitation of children" (A/HRC/49/51) and a checklist for use by States and other stakeholders as a concrete and user-friendly tool in their work.

8. On 22 February, during a virtual meeting of the Advisory Board of the Artificial Intelligence for Safer Children initiative, the Special Rapporteur was invited to serve on the Advisory Board. At the meeting, she delivered a presentation on her work and the issues addressed under her mandate.

9. On 8 March 2023, the Special Rapporteur presented her annual report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/52/31) at its fifty-second session, focusing on reparation for child victims and survivors of sale and sexual exploitation.(...)"

To read more:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/report-special-rapporteur-sale-sexual-exploitation-and-sexual-abuse-children-mama-fatima-singhatoh-a78137-enarruzh>

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.<sup>1</sup>

## 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. (...)"<sup>5</sup>

"Current international and national laws that do address OSEA lack clear definitions of what constitutes "harmful content" and generally rely on community policing to identify perpetrators"<sup>2</sup>

1 - <https://www.thom.org/child-pornography-and-abuse-statistics/> 2 - <https://equalitynow.storage.googleapis.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/13160736/Ending-OSEA-ExecutiveSummary.pdf> 3 - <https://www.thejakartapost.com/seasia/2020/05/21/philippines-tops-world-for-online-child-sex-abuse-study.html> 5 - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/09/28/us/child-sex-abuse.html>



## General Ideas for Action!

### 1 Educate

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

### 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 CSAM; 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 CSAM 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](http://www.iwf.org.uk) / [www.inhope.org](http://www.inhope.org) / [www.cybertipline.org](http://www.cybertipline.org)



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

## IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- 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)
- 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/>
- Learn about the WWSF 75% Campaign (Women, Children, & Youth represent 75% of the world population) rise and claim a seat at the decision making Table  
<https://www.woman.ch/concept-note-vision-mission-and-objective/>

**Youth:**  
 15 to 24 years.  
 1.2 billion estimated worldwide

- 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>
- Religious leaders have a unique opportunity to firmly condemn all forms of child pornography
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity
- Promote the creation of community Circles of Compassion to find solutions to child pornography (see p. 67-70)
- **Is your Home Internet safe? Answer the Quiz**  
<https://protectyoungeyes.com/>

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #EndCSAM



### Honorable World Leaders and Ministers,

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

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

**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.<sup>1</sup>

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.

Excerpt of the 2023 UN Human Rights Council Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms. Siobhán Mullally

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to development.

Visit to Bangladesh,

"IX. Conclusions and recommendations

69. The Special Rapporteur stresses that effective action seeking to prevent trafficking in persons and to protect victims of trafficking is critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (in particular, Goals 1, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 8th five-year action plan and the strategic priorities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022–2026. It is also closely linked to graduation from the list of least developed countries, particularly through strengthened rule of law institutions.

Highlighting the legal obligations of partnerships arising under international human rights law and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (article 9 (3)), the Special Rapporteur stresses the importance of an enabling environment for civil society, trade unions and lawyers to combat trafficking in persons. (...)"

To read more: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G23/083/04/PDF/G2308304.pdf?OpenElement>

**"Anti-trafficking leaders at the 23rd Conference of the Alliance against trafficking in Person urged the 57 participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to strengthen their response to prevent and eradicate human trafficking by generating the necessary political will to tackle the issue."**

<https://www.osce.org/cthb/541569#:~:text=VIENNA%2C%2019%20April%202023%20%E2%80%93%20Anti.trafficking%2C%20by%20generating%20the%20necessary>

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

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.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup>

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

"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."<sup>7</sup>

94% of trafficking victims are women and girls.<sup>5</sup>

1 - ILO, Combatting trafficking in children for labor exploitation: A resource kit for policy makers and.

3 - <https://www.worldwithoutexploitation.org/> 4 - [https://www.equalitynow.org/what\\_is\\_sex\\_trafficking\\_intro](https://www.equalitynow.org/what_is_sex_trafficking_intro) 5 - <https://www.equalitynow.org/trafficking> 6 - [https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/equalitynow/pages/266/attachments/original/1527182554/Equality\\_Now\\_Sex\\_Trafficking\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf?1527182554](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/equalitynow/pages/266/attachments/original/1527182554/Equality_Now_Sex_Trafficking_Fact_Sheet.pdf?1527182554) 7 - <https://www.worldwithoutexploitation.org/>

8 - <https://www.worldchildren.org/child-trafficking-statistics/#:~:text=27%25%20of%20trafficking%20victims%20are%20children.&text=Labor%20trafficking%20involves%20the%20use, and%20nearly%204%20million%20children.> 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/>





## 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](http://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
- 8 **Encourage**  
schools to create thoughtful, well-informed campaigns to inform youth about sex and labor trafficking.



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

### IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- Learn about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take action 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

#### Excerpt:

#### JOINT STATEMENT WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS - 30 July

“The international community must strengthen prevention and accountability for trafficking in persons in conflict situations. A group of United Nations and regional human rights experts, on the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons raise serious concerns at the risks of trafficking for those displaced by conflict, including increased risks of trafficking of children...”

More: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/joint-statement-world-day-against-trafficking-persons-international-community-must-strengthen-prevention-and-accountability-trafficking-persons-conflict-situations>

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #StopChildTrafficking

2023 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](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

# 11 Prevention of Child Sex Tourism



Updated version 2023

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

Victims of CST are often:

- Caught in poverty, from minority groups, dependent on seasonal economies
- Working children
- Children living on the street
- Children abused or neglected in the home
- AIDS orphans<sup>2</sup>

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.

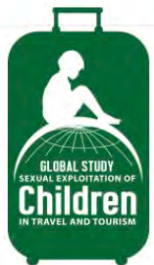
Excerpt of the virtual conference

"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."

"According to ECPAT members across the world, restrictions imposed by governments worldwide to curb the virus heavily impacted on children. Today, ECPAT is present in 102 countries, through 118 members."<sup>6</sup>



### 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/>

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](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.



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

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



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.<sup>4</sup>

Profits from forced sexual labor are es-timated at \$99 billion worldwide.<sup>8</sup>

13 sex trafficking statistics that explain the enormity of the global sex trade.<sup>7</sup>

### Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



**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](http://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>



## 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
- 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/>

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

## IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- The SDG target #16.2 can be used to remind your governments that they have agreed in 2015 "to End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children by 2030." <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>
- Promote Community Circles of Compassions and discuss the issue.(see p. 67-70)



# 12 Prevention of Harmful Traditional Practices (4 pages)



Updated version 2023

## 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 systems<sup>1</sup>

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](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, female infanticide, and honor killings.

## 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 imamas 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.theguardian.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:  
76% Niger  
61% Central African Republic  
61% Chad  
54% Mali  
53% Mozambique  
52% Burkina Faso  
52% South Sudan  
51% Bangladesh  
47% Guinea  
43% Nigeroa  
42% Malawi  
41% Eritrea  
40% Ethiopia  
40% Madagascar  
37% Mauritania  
36% Dominican Republic  
36% Liberia  
36% Somalia  
36% Suriname  
35% Nicaragua.<sup>2</sup> (2020)

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

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/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/atlas/> 3 - FGM Factsheet, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, [https://www.wagggs.org/documents/1065/FGM\\_page\\_2.pdf](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.>

27% of girls in India are married before their 18th birthday and 15% are married before the age of 15.<sup>6</sup>

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

## Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030





## WWSF presents below 5 selected harmful traditional practices

### 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.<sup>1</sup> The procedure has no health benefits for girls and women, and instead causes severe bleeding, problems urinating, later cysts, infections, and complications in childbirth.<sup>2</sup> The practice is often carried out by traditional circumcisers, who often play other central roles in communities, such as attending childbirths.<sup>3</sup> 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 out-break.

There are far-reaching consequences to the continuing practice of child marriage. Girls are often stripped of educational opportunities and subjugated to lives of chores, childbearing, and domestic violence, UNICEF says. The World Health Organisation also says the leading causes of death for girls ages 15 to 19 are complications from pre pregnancy or childbirth.<sup>5</sup>

45% of first-time adolescent mothers are children themselves — that is, 17 years and younger.<sup>6</sup>

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

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

5 - UNICEF <https://data.unicef.org/resources/child-marriage-and-education-data-brief/> 6 - UNFPA, State of the World Population, 2022, [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/EN\\_SWP22%20report\\_0.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/EN_SWP22%20report_0.pdf) 8 - <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation/>



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 \(actiononchildearlyandforcedmarriage.org\)](https://www.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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> Although neglect is the rule, in extreme cases son preference may lead to selective abortion or female infanticide.<sup>4</sup>

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 honor. It's difficult to get precise numbers on the phenomenon of honor killing; the murders frequently go unreported, the perpetrators unpunished, and the concept of family honor justifies the act in the eyes of some societies. Most honor killings occur in countries where the concept of women as a vessel of the family reputation predominates.

"So-called "honor" crime is rooted in a global culture of discrimination against women, and the deeply rooted belief that women are objects and commodities, not human beings entitled to dignity and rights equal to those of men. Women's bodies, particularly, are considered the repositories of family honor, and under the control and responsibility of her family (especially her male relatives). And large sections of society share traditional conceptions of family honor and approve of "honor" killings to preserve that honor."

That's the narrative that is used to justify these brutal attacks on women and girls.

The murder of women in the name of "honor" is a gender-specific form of discrimination and violence and should be regarded as part of a larger spectrum of violence against women, as well as a serious human rights violation. Violence against women in a global epidemic, and it effects women in every country, at every level of society.

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

1 - UNFPA, Child Marriage, 2018 <https://www.unfpa.org/child-marriage> 5 - Unite To End Violence Against Women 6 - [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/GSH2018/GSH18\\_Gender-related\\_killing\\_of\\_women\\_and\\_girls.pdf](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 percent of young women (20-24 years old) around the world were child brides.<sup>1</sup>

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

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

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.<sup>7</sup>



- 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
- 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
- 9 **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.
- 10 **Empower** African youth leading the way on ending harmful practices, and organize civil society discussions based on this topic



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- Learn about the WWSF 75% Campaign (Women, Children, & Youth represent 75% of the world population) rise and claim a seat at the decision making Table <https://www.woman.ch/concept-note-vision-mission-and-objective/>
- 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)
- 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

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

## ACTIONS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

- Create a Community Circle of Compassion to help eliminate all forms of harmful traditional practices against women and children still prevailing today (p.67-70)
- Encourage children and youth to speak to you. It can transform harmful practices such as FGM and early forced marriages

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

2023 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](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)



### Honorable World Leaders 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.**

#### 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.”<sup>1</sup>

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.

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>

They may also be at greater risk of sexual and other violence, exploitation, drug use, etc.”<sup>2</sup>

“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.”<sup>3</sup>

“According to UN sources there are up to 150 million street children in the world today, who, for one reason or another, spend most of their lives on the streets. Some live there with their families in temporary or insecure environments, others spend their days begging, hawking or selling to make money and go back to family homes at night, while for some the street is their only home where they spend day and night.

“There are many reasons why a child might end up on the streets.

In some countries war and conflict cause children to become separated from their families or left alone following the death of family members. Illness or disability are other common factors, while in some areas the HIV/ AIDS pandemic has left many children orphaned or stigmatised. For many children, violence or abuse at home has led them to find sanctuary elsewhere, or they have been driven from their homes by poverty. ”

<https://www.compasschildrenscharity.org.uk/about-us/street-children-worldwide/>

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.<sup>4</sup>



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.<sup>5</sup>



We invite you to support this organization based in London [info@streetchildren.org](mailto:info@streetchildren.org) to empower them to giving street children a voice for change.<sup>5</sup>





### 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

<https://www.right-docs.org/doc/a-hrc-res-16-12/>

### 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

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

### 6 Train

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

### 7 Support

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



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- 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
- 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

- Engage in the public discourse about creating structures for street children to leave the street and learn a trade.
- Encourage duty bearers and civil society actors to create a strategy for a new era where no child has to live on the street, an idea whose time has come.
- What if instead of exploring space, billionaires raced each other to see who could be first in ending children living in the streets? (*Idea from Robert Greenwald*)

## ACTIONS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

- 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
- 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

2023 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](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

# 14 Discrimination based on health conditions

(4 pages)



Updated version 2023

## 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.”<sup>1</sup>

## 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.”

**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.

## 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.”<sup>8</sup>

## Children with disabilities

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

<https://www.unicef.org/media/128976/file/UNICEF%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Children%20with%20Disabilities.pdf>

## Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



1 - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Art. 2. 3 - <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/nearly-240-million-children-disabilities-around-world-unicefs-most-comprehensive> 4 - UNICEF, Including Children with disabilities in humanitarian action, 2018 <http://training.unicef.org/disability/emergencies/index.html> 5 - [https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/children\\_disability\\_rights.pdf](https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/children_disability_rights.pdf) 7 - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-persons-disabilities> 8 - <https://www.right-docs.org/doc/a-hrc-res-40-14/> 9 - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-comment-no3-article-6-women-and-girls>

1 / 10

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



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.<sup>5</sup>

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



# 14 Discrimination based on health conditions (cont'd.)



cont'd.

"According to article 23 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, there is the obligation of States to ensure the assistance required by children with disabilities for achieving their fullest possible social integration and individual development."<sup>1</sup>

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

3 DECEMBER

## International Day of Persons with Disabilities – IDPS

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

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

"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."<sup>3</sup>

## "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."<sup>4</sup>

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/>

# 14 Discrimination based on health conditions (cont'd.)



## "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.<sup>1</sup>

## 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."<sup>2</sup>

## "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."<sup>3</sup>

**"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."<sup>4</sup>

1 - <https://www.verywellfamily.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-disabilities-4142349> 2 - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-persons-disabilities> 3 - <http://www.dinf.ne.jp/doc/english/asia/resource/apdri/z13fm0300/z13fm0309.html> 4 - <https://www.unicef.org/disabilities/files/Assistive-Tech-Web.pdf>

**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.)

**7 Keep**

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

**8 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](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_A_Gender_Lens_Guidance_Note.pdf)



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- 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 should be recognize as equal in decision-making processes and their engagement should be facilitated. UN Policy Brief 3 (2023)

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

**Objectives of policies on inclusive education**

The governments have to give the highest policy and budgetary priority to improve their education systems to enable them to include all children regardless of individual differences or difficulties.

<https://www.dinf.ne.jp/doc/english/asia/resource/apdrj/z13fm0300/z13fm0309.html>

## ACTIONS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Teach children kindness and compassion towards children with disabilities.

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-disabilities-4142349>

# 15 Prevention of Addiction and Substance Abuse



Updated version 2023

## "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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

1 - [http://www.incb.org/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR2013/English/AR\\_2013\\_E.pdf](http://www.incb.org/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR2013/English/AR_2013_E.pdf) 4 - [https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/NPS\\_Report.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/NPS_Report.pdf) 5 - <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/unodc-world-drug-report-20226> 6 - [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC\\_2017\\_ENG\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC_2017_ENG_WEB.pdf) 7 - [https://www.unodc.org/pdf/youthnet/who\\_street\\_children\\_module3.PDF](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>

## 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. <http://mentorinternational.org>

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

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

[http://mentorarabia.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2017/07mentor\\_international\\_parenting\\_resource.pdf](http://mentorarabia.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2017/07mentor_international_parenting_resource.pdf)

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

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

Look for opportunities to start the conversation.

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

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

**284 million** people aged 15-64 used drugs worldwide in 2020.<sup>5</sup>

Victims of cyberbullying are more likely to use alcohol and drugs.<sup>6</sup>

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

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)



List of frequently used substances: Alcohol, Nicotine, Opioids, Hallucinogens, Cannabis, Hypnotosedatives, Stimulants, Amphetamines, Cocaine and Inhalants.<sup>7</sup>



## General Ideas for Action!

## 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



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- Learn about the WWSF 75% Campaign (Women, Children, & Youth represent 75% of the world population) rise and claim a seat at the decision making Table <https://www.woman.ch/concept-note-vision-mission-and-objective/>
- 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>
- 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

Develop national drug prevention systems that reach children as early as possible in their development and focus on building resilience in accordance with the UNODC/WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, helping the children of today grow into the healthy adolescents of tomorrow.  
[https://www.unodc.org/res/wdr2022/MS/WDR22\\_Booklet\\_1.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/res/wdr2022/MS/WDR22_Booklet_1.pdf)

## ACTIONS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Share the guide for families:

<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

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventAddiction

2023 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](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

# Theme 16 Prevention of Malnutrition



Updated version 2023

## 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).<sup>1</sup>

**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.<sup>2</sup>

**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.

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%20203.1%20million%20children%20die,disease%20\(UNICEF%2C%202018a\).](https://www.worldhunger.org/world-child-hunger-facts/#:~:text=Approximately%20203.1%20million%20children%20die,disease%20(UNICEF%2C%202018a).) 7 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition> 8 - <https://dppa.un.org/en/west-africa-and-sahel-food-insecurity-malnutrition-set-to-reach-10-year-high>

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

## SDG Target 2.2



End all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

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

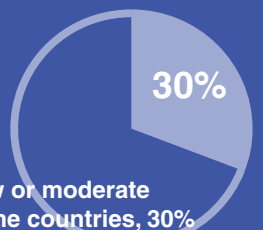
Healthy children learn better. People with adequate nutrition are more productive and can create opportunities to gradually break the cycles of poverty and hunger.

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

[https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/topics/sdg-target-2\\_2-malnutrition](https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/topics/sdg-target-2_2-malnutrition)



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



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

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.<sup>7</sup>

**Child malnutrition rising.** WFP alongside the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNICEF and the UN humanitarian affairs office, OCHA, have renewed their call for greater support to Governments in West Africa.

Their numbers represent 83 percent rise in global acute malnutrition compared to 2015 to 2022 average.<sup>8</sup>

42,000,000+

children worldwide are overweight.<sup>5</sup>

3,000,000

It is estimated that around 3 million children die each year due to undernutrition.<sup>6</sup>



# Theme 16 Prevention of Malnutrition



## 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 Introduce**  
diet and exercise-related programs in schools to discourage over-nutrition
- 7 Uphold**  
the importance of maternal nutrition before and during pregnancy to prevent low birth weight
- 8 Promote**  
sustainable food production and consumption, as well as good hygiene practices and access to clean drinking water
- 9 Encourage**  
healthier food choices, such as fruits, vegetables, wholegrains, and lean meats



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

### IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- 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
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>
- Engaging youth in decision-making processes should be formally mandated to prevent an ad hoc approach and to ensure that youth perspectives are integrated throughout the full decision-making process. UN Policy Brief 3 (2023)

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

"It is not too late to get countries and regions on-track; but as they move further away from the target with each passing year, the window for enabling acceleration grows smaller. Countries must act now to shift course – through bold leadership, investments, programme scaleup and the support of development partners – to drive faster progress towards an end to malnutrition for children everywhere."

<Users/children/Downloads/9789240073791-eng.pdf>



**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](http://www.woman.ch)

Read about "How to create community circles of compassion on p.67-70



## 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 scams<sup>1</sup>

### 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.<sup>2</sup>

### The impact of ICT on children & teenagers Last update by UNESCO: April 21, 2022

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/impact-ict-children-and-teenagers>

"There is no doubt that information and communication technologies (ICT) play an increasingly important role in the lives of the new generations, however there are still inequalities between genders, which go beyond access.

... The effects of these technologies are holistic in the everyday life of the population of children and adolescents: they affect their schooling, physical and mental health, entertainment, socio-cultural development, political life, among other aspects. And while public initiatives are often structured to integrate these effects, the perceptions, assessments and experiences of children and adolescents are not often taken into account.

... The findings of the study show how girls and boys' online interactions are marked by gender problems, as well as gaps in the enjoyment of opportunities, the great concern for self-introduction in social networks, the privacy threats and abuse they face in digital environments." This article is related to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals



1 - [https://www.unodc.org/documents/Cybercrime/Study\\_on\\_the\\_Effects.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/Cybercrime/Study_on_the_Effects.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](https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/2020/itu_guidelines/itu_guidelines.pdf) 4 - <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/teens/bullying-safety-privacy/all-about-sexting> 5 - <https://protectyoungeyes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/The-PYE-Home-Internet-Safety-Quiz.pdf> 6 - <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4002097> 7 - <https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/content/safer-digital-environment-children-now-time-act>

## What is sexting?

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

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

## Annual Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children - 2023

"The report is focused on the protection of children in the digital environment, contains an outline of the diverse forms of violence to which children are exposed online, emphasizing their co-occurrence in that setting, as well as the continuum between violence online and offline."<sup>6</sup>

**Is your Home Internet safe? The Quiz!** Answer the 10 questions to identify areas of potential risk that someone in your home could be exposed to inappropriate online content.<sup>5</sup>

"An adequate response to the full risks that children face online requires leadership and an even deeper commitment from every component of the ecosystem."<sup>7</sup>

Guidelines for parents and educators on Child Online Protection.<sup>3</sup>

# 17 Prevention of ICTs Dangers



## 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

### 8 Highlight

the role of the corporate sector to introduce measures to enhance online safety <http://www.itu.int/en>

### 9 Ensure

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

### 10 Limit

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

### 11 "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/>



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

## IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- 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 and opportunity for young people with disabilities to learn about their rights, campaign without barriers, and increase visibility

- How to deal with video games addiction?  
A manual for parents and professionals is available: <https://sectorconnect.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/28-2-How-to-deal-with-Video-Game-Addiction-A-manual-for-parents-and-professionals-edition1.pdf>
- Why is combating online child abuse important?  
More than 30% of all internet users are children and with the expansion of the broadband it will radically increase.  
**Child safety is everyone's business!**

[https://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/working-groups/ChildOnlineSafety\\_Declaration.pdf](https://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/working-groups/ChildOnlineSafety_Declaration.pdf)

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventDangersICTs

2023 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](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

# Theme 18 Prevention of Abduction



Updated version 2023

## 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.** Intl. 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.<sup>1</sup>

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/>

## UN Report Fails to Recognize Major Child Abductions in Parts of Nigeria

August 1, 2022

by Damilola Banjo - PassBlue, Independent coverage of the UN

“LAGOS, Nigeria — The United Nations verified the abduction of 4,278 children in 21 countries last year in its recent annual report on children and armed conflict, but it failed to acknowledge widespread kidnappings throughout northwest and north-central Nigeria that were recorded by one of its own agencies in 2021.

Almost a quarter of abductions last year — 1,030 — were reported in Somalia, the country with the highest toll, according to the report compiled by the UN's Children and Armed Conflict office. The office was mandated in 1996 by the General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children unwittingly caught up in wars. Virginia Gamba, who has specialized in disarmament in her previous work at the UN and in her native Argentina, leads the office as a special representative of Secretary-General António Guterres. Her team does the research for the report, but it goes out under his name.

Although Somalia's numbers are documented in the study, at least 1,004 kidnappings from 25 school raids across northwest and north-central Nigeria, recorded by Unicef as of November 2021, did not make it into the report.”

[www.passblue.com/2022/08/01/un-report-fails-to-recognize-major-child-abductions-in-parts-of-nigeria/?utm\\_source=PassBlue+List&utm\\_campaign=40e91ebe3a-RSS\\_PassBlue&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_4795f55662-40e91ebe3a-55023501](http://www.passblue.com/2022/08/01/un-report-fails-to-recognize-major-child-abductions-in-parts-of-nigeria/?utm_source=PassBlue+List&utm_campaign=40e91ebe3a-RSS_PassBlue&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4795f55662-40e91ebe3a-55023501)

# 103

countries are signatories to the Hague International Child Abduction Convention.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup>

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



1 - <http://www.childfocus.be/fr/parents/disparition/enlevements-parentaux-internationaux> 3 - <https://assets.hcch.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](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 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](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



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

## IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- Learn about the WWSF 75% Campaign (Women, Children, & Youth represent 75% of the world population) rise and claim a seat at the decision making Table <https://www.woman.ch/concept-note-vision-mission-and-objective/>
- 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/>

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

- 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/>
- 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](https://arigatouinternational.org/images/zdocs/files/209_CRC-Full-Study-Publication-web_compressed_v2_r3.pdf)

# Theme 19

## ✓ Juvenile Justice & Children deprived of liberty

## ✓ Commemoration: WWSF World Day of Violence against Children & Youth - 19 November Poster (p.64-65)

### 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

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

### Background Information

#### UN Study on violence against Children

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

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

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

#### What are the key focus areas?

- I. Children deprived of liberty within the administration of justice
- II. Children deprived of liberty for migration-related reasons
- III. Children living in places of detention with their parents
- IV. Children deprived of liberty in institutions

V. Children deprived of liberty in the context of armed conflict

VI. Children deprived of liberty on national security grounds."<sup>1</sup>

**"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.<sup>1</sup> 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."<sup>2</sup>

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

**"States Parties shall ensure that:**

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

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

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

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

Updated version 2023

**2,496 children were deprived of liberty for their actual or alleged association with parties to conflict, mostly through detention, where they can face further physical, sexual and psychological violence. There were attacks on 1,163 schools and 647 hospitals.<sup>3</sup>**

"Grave violations" include the recruitment and use of children by armed groups, killings, maiming and injuries, sexual violence, abductions and attacks on schools and hospitals. Last year, 18,890 suffered these violations, some by more than one type. Around 8,630 children were either killed or maimed, 7,622 were recruited and used in combat, and 3,985 were abducted.





## 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** efficient coordination between all justice actor (the police, social welfare, schools, NGOs, local mediators and community volunteers)
- 6 **Encourage** informal justice systems, mechanisms such as religious authorities, traditional leaders, customary courts, tribal/clan social structures and community forums to align traditional conflict resolution practice with child-sensitive justice
- 7 **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.



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

### IDEAS FOR DUTY BEARERS

- 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 Campaign themes to speak out about violence and how to end it. Use the 20 November to remind everyone of the Children's Rights Convention
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>
- Learn about the WWSF 75% Campaign (Women, Children, & Youth represent 75% of the world population) rise and claim a seat at the decision making Table <https://www.woman.ch/concept-note-vision-mission-and-objective/>

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

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



**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](http://www.woman.ch)

19  
Nov.  
2023

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

In synergy with  
**Universal Children's Day**  
*Respect for Children's Rights*

20  
Nov.  
2023



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



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



- You are invited to use this poster 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 late Revered 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)
- (UN stats) "1 in 10 children is sexually abused before the age of 18
- In 2022 NCMEC's CyberTipline received more than 32 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation
- Violence against children affects more than 1 billion children around the world & costs societies up to US\$ 7 trillion a year
- SDG Target 16.2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against, and torture of, children".
- Every five minutes, a child dies as a result of violence.
- Only 14% of the world's children are legally protected from corporal punishment.

Women's World Summit Foundation / Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

Create your Circle of compassion

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

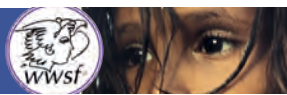
Private Swiss Foundation



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

It takes compassion to end violence against children & youth. The SDG Target # 16.2 needs our commitment!





## **CALL TO ACTION 2023: Commemorate the World Day – 19 November** **In synergy with the Universal Children’s Day – 20 November 2023**

We call on all our coalition members, partners and friends around the world to participate again with our local and national activities for 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.

We invite you to use the campaign poster, add your name, logo and program of action and increase 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 rights 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 duty bearers and youth activists, and create community Circles of compassion. You can register your participation here: <https://www.woman.ch/registration-form-for-the-19-days-campaign/> and send us via email [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) 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](http://www.woman.ch)

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



## **APPEL À L’ACTION 2023 : 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. 2023**

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. *Toutes les 5 minutes, un enfant meurt des suites de la violence dans le monde, 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 et comment créer des cercles de compassion. Vous pouvez enregistrer votre participation via le formulaire en ligne : <https://www.woman.ch/registration-form-for-the-19-days-campaign/> et nous envoyer une copie de votre programme et affiche par email [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) que nous partagerons sur les médias sociaux.

# 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>

1 DEFINITION OF A CHILD	2 NO DISCRIMINATION	3 BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD	4 MAKING RIGHTS REAL	5 FAMILY GUIDANCE AS CHILDREN DEVELOP	6 LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT	7 NAME AND NATIONALITY
8 IDENTITY	9 KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER	10 CONTACT WITH PARENTS ACROSS COUNTRIES	11 PROTECTION FROM KIDNAPPING	12 RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS	13 SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY	14 FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION
15 SETTING UP OR JOINING GROUPS	16 PROTECTION OF PRIVACY	17 ACCESS TO INFORMATION	18 RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS	19 PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE	20 CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES	21 CHILDREN WHO ARE ADOPTED
22 REFUGEE CHILDREN	23 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	24 HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT	25 REVIEW OF A CHILD'S PLACEMENT	26 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP	27 FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME	28 ACCESS TO EDUCATION
29 AIMS OF EDUCATION	30 MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION	31 REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS	32 PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL WORK	33 PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS	34 PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE	35 PREVENTION OF SALE AND TRAFFICKING
36 PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION	37 CHILDREN IN DETENTION	38 PROTECTION IN WAR	39 RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION	40 CHILDREN WHO BREAK THE LAW	41 BEST LAW FOR CHILDREN APPLIES	42 EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
43-54 HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS	<b>CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD</b>					

# Annexes:

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



### How to

### Create Community Circles 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 (Source 2021: 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 piece 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](http://www.woman.ch) - [wdpca@wvswf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wvswf.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](mailto: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:

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<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](http://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](http://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](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) – [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) – Tel. +41 (0) 22 738 66 19

# Circles of Compassion to achieve

## SDG #16.2 (cont'd)

# CHARTER FOR COMPASSION Introduction



WWSF 19 themes banner 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



### Brief introduction

*We are sharing the Charter for Compassion to inspire more people to use it & 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." <https://charterforcompassion.org/images/menus/charter/pdfs/CharterFlyer-2019.pdf>*

## 2. 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"

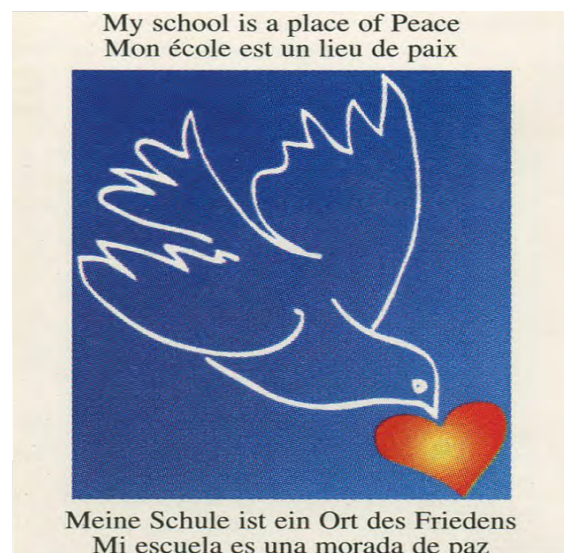
Dear Friends,



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](http://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@wssf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wssf.ch) - Internet [www.woman.ch](http://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.**

## 3. World Days to inspire your advocacy work

### List of selected relevant United Nations and Civil Society World Days

(complete list of UN World Days: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/list-days-weeks>)

#### 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

## 4. 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.***

# Advertising your event(s)

(cont'd.)

## How to answer media questions

Where possible, give very short and concise answers, especially for radio and TV. Talk slowly, especially if someone is taking notes. Sharing how the issue resonates with you on a personal level can have a strong impact on your message. Remember that personal examples are appreciated.

Make sure that if you are talking about someone else, you have his/her permission. When you speak on behalf of the "19 Days of Activism Campaign", avoid giving your personal opinion in order not to modify the essence of the WWSF international campaign.

If a journalist asks you about your personal opinion, you can present your ideas by nuancing them. If he/she insists and you are not sure about the answer to a question, be firm and do not answer it. Don't get drawn into arguments. A reporter might use an argument to get you to say things you wouldn't particularly want to say.

There's no harm pausing to compose your thoughts. You do not have to answer a question if you do not want to. Make sure you get in the points you want to make. Avoid sarcasm, irony, or jokes that could be misconstrued if taken out of context.

As your initiatives move forward, a growing grass-roots interest can be expected to attract the attention of media people. Journalists, editors, T.V. and radio commentators will begin to include you in their coverage of various issues. The involvement of the media will provide important, complementary input into raising public awareness and encouraging mobilization.

## Fundraising

We also encourage you to raise funds for your local project(s). To do so you can, for example, ask for non-monetary donations, e.g. persuade local newspapers to print free ads and radio and TV stations to run free public-service announcements. You can also organize events such as concerts, gala dinners, art auctions, etc. to raise funds.

Try to keep your own expenses as low as possible. If you need an office or workspace, find a local group to 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.fundsformgos.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](http://www.ehow.com/how_15341_fund-raise-effectively.html)



### FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

WWSF is also fundraising for the coordination, research and publishing of its annual Prevention Kits and follow-up work with active coalition members. Every donation, no matter the size, will help advance the building of a culture for prevention of violence and achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030.

We thank you in advance for investing in the creation of a world fit for children and youth  
an idea whose time has come. We all have a role to play.

WWSF Bank account No.: Swiss francs IBAN: CH1900788000050701412  
US dollars IBAN: CH8900788000050701413 / PayPal WWSF

# 5. 19 Days Activity Report Guidelines for 2023

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](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) (deadline: 31.01.2024).

WWSF will include a summary of your activities in the 19 Days Global Impact Report 2022 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 2023 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](mailto: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 WWSF Activity Report is published on our website at: [woman.ch](http://woman.ch)

# 6 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 re-union 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/>

# 7. Update: Developments of the WWSF - 75% Campaign



Abbreviated version:

“... I herewith share with you some updates of our additional campaign (work in progress) taken from my talk at a **WIN conference** (at the United Nations in Geneva - 11 May 2023) where I introduced the **WWSF 75% campaign: Women, Children & Youth represent 75% of the world population, claiming a seat at the Table.**

“**75% of the world population represent the largest constituency in the world** with little, or NO Say in decision-taking processes in co-designing our economic, social, and political environment we live in. The time has come for the recognition of civil society’s contributions in the form of good will, generosity, creativity, services, aid, skills, care, talent, new ideas and our lived experiences and deep aspiration to achieve harmony and lasting peace on this beautiful planet.”

**We have a Leadership crisis.** And WWSF is proposing that women, children and youth - 6 billion of us - have a seat at Decision-making Tables. **Because it is time that "Women and youth belong in all places where decisions are being made..."**

## 1) Let's take a brief look at who are the women of the world

who give birth to all humanity and deserve a seat at the decision-making Tables. There is no indication in Nature that women should be restricted to her home only! “Verily, she is the mother and Custodian of the world. Hence, there is not a single domain of life where men should rule alone. It is this discrimination of one Element that has created the many gender-based problems. Creativeness is given equally to both genders. “Women & youth in Leadership need to become the norm”.

## 2) Let's have a quick look at who are the Children of the world

who have started sending world leaders postcards and letters sharing their anxieties about other children dying of hunger and in wars. They started to address the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva at the “Child Rights session” last March, where the Special Representative of the UN SG on violence against children, Ms. Najat Maalla M'jid, said the urgency of ending violence had not diminished since she last addressed the Council. On the contrary, it had increased due to the impact of the pandemic and multiple humanitarian crises caused by conflict, climate change and natural disasters.

## 3) And let's look at who are the Youth of the world

(Age 19-25, girls & boys) who are rising more and more and becoming a ‘game changer’ with their meaningful participation at the UN and in communities. The UN ECOSOC convened its annual Youth Forum recently - a platform where young people can engage in a dialogue with UN Member States and others to bring forth their views and concerns, guided by the SDGs, galvanize actions to “transform the world into a fairer, greener and more sustainable place”. They shared recommendations and innovative ideas in preparation for the **UN High-level Political Forum in July and the SDG Summit in September 2023.**

**We can now clearly see that women, children and youth are on the way and must transform our world.** Our **global 75% movement** can be created in every country for the **inclusion and co-leadership** with elected leaders and be represented at Decision-making Tables. **“When 75% unite and rise to create a new era for the common Good, it will be a force such as the world has never known.”**

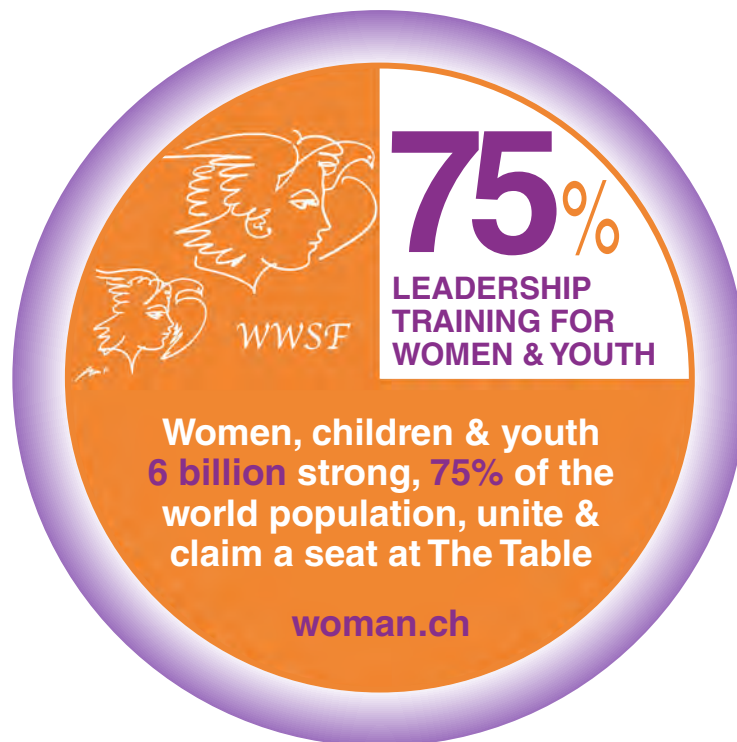
This is why WWSF sees an opportunity in launching in international Geneva regular **LEADERSHIP TRAINING FORUMS FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH** to support our current world leaders to accomplish their obligations, but also of their promises, which have not produced expected results because of other priorities such as defense budgets, military interventions, climate change, and health pandemics which sidelined the needs and rights of the people.

**A few words about the WWSF Leadership Training Forums,** which will be organized in collaboration with registered international Partnership organizations working in the field of women’s and children’s rights, sustainable development goals and Human Rights, as well as with UN experts, leadership trainers, artists, writers and visionaries who empower the world to serve the common Good...

**You are invited to register your organization online as a Partner organization of the 75% Campaign which will inform you of the date for the first LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH in Geneva, March 2024.**

Link to the 75% concept note and registration Form: <https://www.woman.ch/concept-note-vision-mission-and-objective/>

**Women, Children & Youth**  
**75% of the world population**  
**— 6 billion strong —**  
**Claim a seat at The Table !**



**75% can no longer be ignored in creating  
a new era for sustainable development,  
gender equality and peace**

**Join the WWSF 75% Campaign / [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)**

*Campaign launch in December 2021 at International Geneva, Switzerland*



**Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) Geneva CH**  
**Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes (FSMF) Genève CH**

[www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) – [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) – Tel. +41 738 66 19

Concept Note + Registration <https://www.woman.ch/concept-note-vision-mission-and-objective/>







## About Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)

Mission & objectives of annual campaigns briefly described below and on our website: [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) is a not-for-profit, international, humanitarian, lay, and non-governmental organization with UN consultative status (ECOSOC, UNFAP and DPI). Since 1991, WWSF serves with its annual campaigns, action kits, prize awards & Round Tables for the advancement of women and children's rights, and advocates for a world where 75% of the world population has a seat at the Table.

Via its international network and annual Calls for action, WWSF contributes to the empowerment, capacity building, and education for better prevention measures to eliminate violence against women, children, and youth, and ending rural poverty, and moving civil society actors into greater partnerships with governments to increase activism and ensure that the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 is realized.

WWSF activities are coordinated by a secretariat based in International Geneva that deals with program development, management, fundraising, communications and relationships with members, donors, NGOs, staff, the media, and the United Nations. The secretariat also manages relations with Board Directors, Advisory members, Prizewinners, and active campaign coalition member organizations and networks, as well as with Swiss White Ribbon Campaign actors, who pledge the elimination of violence against women and youth by 2030.

WWSF convenes 4 annual campaigns, 2 prize awards, and 2 World Days, described briefly below.

### 1) 75% Campaign-Actors for the common Good (launched in 2021) Leadership Training for Women & Youth

**75%** Women, children & youth represent 75% of the world population, and claim a seat at the Table  
 Les femmes, enfants & jeunes représentent 75% de la population et revendiquent le droit à la parole  
 Las mujeres, niños & jóvenes representan el 75% de la población y reclaman un puesto en la mesa  
 Frauen, Kinder & Jugendliche machen 75% der Bevölkerung aus & haben Anspruch auf einen Platz am Verhandlungstisch  
 8 March

We are expecting from world leaders to change course so that our children and grandchildren will not inherit the unstable and fragile world we live in. Women who give birth to all humanity deserve a seat at the Table to organize for a more equitable world community by including 75% in co-designing, together with men, the space in which we can live without fear and pain. WWSF invites "Actors 4 the common Good" to share their work, inspire the world and create an unstoppable movement for the inclusion of women & Youth leadership at all decision-making Tables.

### 2) 17 Days of activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities (1-17 October)

**17** Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities  
 Jours d'Activisme pour l'autonomisation des femmes rurales et leurs communautés  
 Días Activismo para el empoderamiento de las mujeres rurales y sus comunidades  
 Tage Aktivismus für die Stärkung der Frauen im ländlichen Raum und in ihren Gemeinden  
 1-17 October

WWSF seeks to mobilize via its **17 Days of activism Kit** (17 themes) women leaders in rural areas and communities. This annual empowerment campaign is designed to increase local and national activities and stimulate rural women's claim for their basic right to development while connecting their local campaigns with the relevant SDG targets Agenda 2030. WWSF awards an annual Prize (US\$ 1000 per prizewinner) to creative rural women leaders and grassroots groups, giving credit where it's due. Prizewinners are published at [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) (486 Laureates awarded to date). A Rural Women Movements Prize was launched in 2017 and honored SEWA (India) with a first award in International Geneva (US\$ 10'000). WWSF co-created at the Beijing Women's Conference (1995) the International Day of Rural Women-15 October, declared an official UN Day.

### 3) 19 Days of activism for prevention of violence and abuse against children and youth (1-19 November)

**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

WWSF identifies & mobilizes via its **19 Days Prevention Kit** (with 19 themes) organizations and grassroots groups working for the implementation of the rights of the child and encourages coalition members to organize annual events for better prevention. The campaign is designed to increase local and national civil society action and encourages the implementation of the relevant UN Sustainable Development **Goal # 16.2**. WWSF also awards active coalition member organizations with an annual Innovation award for creative prevention programs (61 awards to-date)

### 4) 365 Days of activism for the elimination of violence against women and youth in CH (all year around)

**365** Jours d'activisme (16 thèmes) pour l'élimination de la violence envers femmes/jeunes - CH  
 AktionsTage (16 Themen) für die Abschaffung von Gewalt an Frauen & Jugendliche - CH  
 giorni di attivismo (16 temi) per l'eliminazione della violenza contro le donne i giovani - CH  
 days of activism (16 themes) for the elimination of violence against women and youth - CH  
 Campagne annuelle/Jahres Kampagne/Campagna annuale/Year long Campaign

WWSF convenes since 2009 the Swiss White Ribbon Campaign, which aims to eliminate violence against women & youth by 2030. Its Toolkit "365 Days of Activism (including 16 themes) seeks to mobilize men, women and youth to sign on online: "I pledge not to commit, excuse, or remain silent about violence against women & youth", and introduce the campaign into schools, universities, businesses & families. (Rev.2023)

# Children's Rights are Human Rights



Thank you for your participation in the 2023 campaign for prevention of violence against children and youth, and for commemorating the World Day for prevention of violence & abuse against Children and Youth - 19 November.

**Convener: WWSF-Women's World Summit Foundation  
Children-Youth Section**

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For donations: (PayPal - [info@wssf.ch](mailto:info@wssf.ch)) and/or

IBAN Swiss francs: CH1900 788 0000 5070 1412 / IBAN US dollars: CH8900 788 0000 5070 1413

[www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)