



## **CALL TO ACTION for attendees to the Agenda 2030 for Children:**

### **End Violence Solutions Summit Stockholm, Sweden: 14-15 February 2018**

On 14th February, the Government of Sweden together with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, and We PROTECT Global Alliance, will host **Agenda 2030 for Children: End Violence Solutions Summit**. The Summit will bring together governments, the UN, civil society, the private sector, foundation partners, academics and children themselves. Together, participants will raise awareness about the vital importance of children's protection from violence; increase commitments to end violence against children; showcase solutions from around the world, such as the INSPIRE framework and the Model National Response; celebrate pathfinding countries' successes; and encourage new partners to join the global movement to end violence against children.

To live free from violence is a human right, yet new estimates tell us that globally at least 1 out of 2 children have experienced violence in the last year – as many as 1.7 billion children globally. Millions of children worldwide, from all socio-economic backgrounds, across all ages, religions and cultures, suffer violence, exploitation and abuse every day. Such violence takes place in homes and within families, in schools and educational settings, in institutions, online and on city streets; in these settings they experience beating, bullying and emotional abuse, corporal punishment, child marriage, sexual violence, trafficking and exploitation, or even murder.

Children are particularly vulnerable to violence in humanitarian crisis settings. Millions of children are caught up with armed forces and groups, forced to flee from war or to participate in armed conflicts, exposed to abuse and neglect in refugee camps, or trafficked into labour or sexual exploitation. In 2016, 230 million children lived in areas affected by armed conflict. More than 30 million children were displaced by conflict<sup>1</sup>. For many children, there is no safe place.

Ending violence against children is a global imperative. In 2015, world leaders acknowledged epidemic levels of violence against children, and committed to end all forms of violence against children by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is crucial for All States to honour their commitments to achieve this goal and take concrete steps at country levels to strengthen social protection systems and to increase child budgeting, amongst other measures.

Civil Society welcomes the Solutions Summit as an important space to share learning on what works to end violence against children, and to raise awareness about children's rights to be protected from violence. The Summit is a crucial opportunity to increase political and financial commitments to

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, A Familiar Face: Violence in the lives of children and adolescents, UNICEF, New York, 2017.

ending violence against children from all stakeholders, including Civil Society. We are therefore calling for a breakthrough in our efforts as partners in End Violence:

1. We urge all parties represented at the Summit to pledge increased political commitment and concrete actions to end violence against children, and be champions for this agenda in their countries, institutions, and communities once the Summit is over.
2. If we are committed to end violence against children, adequate financial resources must be made available. Yet, only 0.6 per cent of total international aid for 2015 was spent on ending violence against children<sup>2</sup>. We urge governments and donors to commit increased national budgets and Official Development Assistance towards solutions to end violence against children.
3. Children are at significantly increased risk of violence in times of conflict, emergency and humanitarian crisis. We therefore urge all parties to prioritize ending violence against children in humanitarian contexts and to fund child protection in emergencies as a lifesaving intervention.
4. We welcome the commitment to ensuring children are represented at the Summit, able to meaningfully participate in discussions concerning their lives and contribute to decision-making. We urge all parties to continue to ensure that children and young people's voices are heard, and that they are engaged and consulted in decision-making at all levels following the Summit.
5. We welcome and encourage the focus on gender-transformative approaches to ending violence against children. We urge all parties to ensure that gender-transformative approaches are mainstreamed in all implementation of responses to ending violence against children. We know that girls and boys experience different forms of violence, differently, at different stages of their childhood. Understanding the gender dynamics that drive violence, and implementing gender-responsive approaches to ending violence against children, are therefore crucial to ensuring an effective response.
6. We recognise that the Summit presents an important opportunity to learn about proven approaches to ending violence against children from around the globe and across sectors. We urge all actors to scale up what works, and to ensure that progress on ending violence against children is measured, monitored, and shared. End Violence should support this process by setting up a viable monitoring and accountability mechanism for Pathfinding countries.
7. Ending violence against children is a critical step towards building and sustaining peace. We urge National Governments to be accountable for their actions through the SDGs and other mechanisms at global, regional and national level. In particular, we urge pathfinding countries to conduct a voluntary national review on SDG 16 and share progress ahead of the 2019 session of the High-Level Political Forum.
8. Upon return from the Summit, we urge Governments to take the following concrete actions:
  - Convene a conversation, meeting or forum with all relevant stakeholders, including children, to share the outcomes of the Summit;
  - Review the relevant national plans and policies to incorporate the lessons learned, recommendations, and commitments made at the Summit; and,
  - Conduct a review of the national budget (including aid expenditure where relevant) to identify resources for scaling up solutions to end violence against children.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://childfundalliance.org/resources/publications/counting-pennies/document/download/1460>

## Civil Society: Our Pledge

As members of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, and as child rights organisations, we take our responsibility to contribute to ending violence against children globally very seriously. Civil Society outlines here our own contribution towards this aim:

1. We pledge to keep ending violence against children at the top of our organisational agendas, prioritising this in our development and humanitarian work and in our advocacy.
2. We pledge to continue to support children in their efforts to end violence, while recognising that adults are accountable. We will involve children as agents of change, and support children and citizens to monitor and follow up on commitments by all those who have a responsibility to act.
3. We pledge to continue to offer our support to End Violence, working closely with it in order to contribute CSO experience, resources and evidence to support it in achieving its objectives.
4. We pledge to continue to work collaboratively to end violence against children at national and global levels and with all stakeholders and sectors, recognising that we will have larger impact when we work together.
5. We pledge to maintain or increase our financial commitment to ending violence against children, dedicating significant resources to this issue over the coming five (5) years.
6. We pledge to continually strive to improve the quality of our programmes and to build on existing evidence-based solutions to the obstacles to ending violence against children.
7. Children who come into contact with civil society as a result of our activities must be safeguarded to the maximum possible extent from harm. We pledge to ensure that this duty of care is enshrined in our organisations where we will abide to our Child Safeguarding Policies and Codes of Conduct.

This document is signed by the Civil Society Forum of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. This group comprises:

African Child Policy Forum, Arigatou International, Child Helpline International, ChildFund Alliance, CPC Learning Network, ECPAT International, Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, *Girls Not Brides: The Partnership to End Child Marriage*, ISPCAN, One Third, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, World Vision International