



NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES **ON ENDING VIOLENCE** **AGAINST CHILDREN**

Official Government Submissions
to the Solutions Summit Series

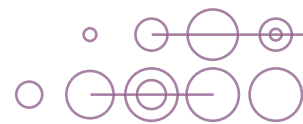


End Violence
Against Children

Together to
#ENDviolence

Solutions Summit Series





Letter from the Executive Director

In December 2020, the End Violence Partnership launched the **Together to #EndViolence** campaign to raise awareness, share solutions, and catalyse action and investment to end violence against children.

Since the launch, we have seen our c.750 partners from government, civil society, UN agencies and children come together for collective advocacy in all corners of the world to end all forms of violence against children.

One of the core components of the campaign has been the government-led National Policy Dialogues held in 21 countries that were designed to:

- Achieve consensus amongst national stakeholders on the key areas of progress, main gaps and priorities in scaling-up evidence-based strategies to end violence against children, informed by the WHO's **Global Status Report**;
- Identify key actions necessary from sectoral bodies to scale up priority programmes in line with National Action Plans and the INSPIRE strategies; and
- Share a formal statement summarising progress in ending violence against children since the country became a Pathfinder within the End Violence Partnership and setting out new commitments to accelerate progress.

National Policy Dialogues were held by the governments of Armenia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Georgia, Guinea, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The End Violence Partnership acknowledges the leadership of these governments and the important commitments made towards scaling-up and adequately funding and implementing their National Action Plans to end violence against children.

We are pleased to share in this booklet the statements of commitment from most of the governments which held National Policy Dialogues.



The statements are a snapshot of how governments are fulfilling their Pathfinding commitments and accelerating national action to end all forms of violence against children as part of their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The End Violence Partnership acknowledges the tireless efforts our partners – the governments, civil society organisations, faith groups, UN agencies, private sector organisations, foundations and academic institutions – to create change with and for children.

We look forward to continuing our close collaboration with governments and partners to translate commitments made into impact for children - so that every girl and every boy grows up in a safe, secure and nurturing environment – at home, at school, online and within the community.

Dr Howard Taylor, *Executive Director,*
End Violence Partnership





Countries' Statements



Armenia



Guinea



Romania



Cambodia



Mongolia



South Africa



Canada



Montenegro



Uganda



Finland



Nigeria



Zambia



Georgia



Philippines



Zimbabwe





Armenia

Armenia became a Pathfinding country in 2018. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit Series, the Council of Justice for Children had made commitments to end violence against children and issued a Leaders Statement.

Key highlights from the Leaders Statement are as follows:

1. Introduction of child-friendly forensic interviewing procedures, where child victims of violence will only be interviewed by trained and certified psychologists to avoid secondary victimization.
2. Adoption of legislative amendments to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings.
3. Establishment of Barnahus-type facilities for child victims of sexual violence and special training for social service workforce professionals working with child victims of sexual violence.





Council of Justice for Children

25 December 2021

Concluding meeting on National Policy Dialogue to End Violence Against Children in Armenia

Statement

Since its accession to the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children as a pathfinding country in 2018, we have recorded progress in various aspects of prevention and response to violence against children in Armenia. In particular, the Law on prevention of violence within the family, protection of victims of violence within the family and restoration of peace was enacted and respective state officials were trained, justice professionals were trained on violence against children and working with child victims of violence, Armenia signed and ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention), capacity of social service professionals was built on early identification and prevention of violence. However, a lot still needs to be done to ensure that every child in Armenia is protected from all forms of violence.

Taking note of all the positive developments, as well as the gaps and issues, identified by the Council of Justice for Children through analysis of available data, including administrative data, Human Rights Defender's Reports, reports of civil society organisations, reports and studies of international organisations, as well as discussions during Council sessions and events, we reinstate our commitment to continue efforts to reduce violence against children in Armenia, by putting in place effective mechanisms and strategies to identify, prevent and respond to violence against children, such as:

- Introduction of child-friendly forensic interviewing procedure, where child victims of violence will only be interviewed by trained and certified psychologists in the criminal procedure to avoid secondary victimization
- Adoption of legislative amendments to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, based on the result of the study already conducted by the government with support of international partners
- Establishment of Barnahus-type facilities for child victims of sexual violence and special training for social service workforce professionals, working with child victims of sexual violence

While these reforms are planned for 2022, the Council will be further analyzing and monitoring the situation to advise on other important steps to tackle violence against children in the Republic of Armenia.





Cambodia

Cambodia became a pathfinding country in October of 2019. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation of the Kingdom of Cambodia has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. Strengthen laws, policies and regulatory framework and ban all forms of violence against children.
2. Strengthen child protection data and monitoring.
3. Strengthen evidence-based strategies; Support Parents and caregivers to keep children safe as well as Make schools safe, non-violent and inclusive.
4. Make the internet safe for children.





Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans
and Youth Rehabilitation
No. 010 MOSVY

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

Phnom Penh, 2, Sep. 2021

**Cambodia's Statement of Commitment
To the
2021 End Violence against Children (EVAC) Solutions Summit**

Protecting children and adolescents from violence is critical for their long-term well-being and development, but also for the future of the nation.

Violence against children is avoidable. We have the evidence and the tools to prevent it, and we are strengthening political, legal and juvenile justice system to increase protection.

We will honor our existing commitments and continue accelerating progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, in particular 16.2 to end violence against children by 2030. To achieve this goal, we will:

1. Ban all forms of violence against children

The Royal Government of Cambodia has intensified its efforts in law, policies, and regulatory frameworks to address all forms of violence against children.

The National Child Protection System Policy 2019-2029 represent the government's commitment to further strengthen the national child protection system. These existing policies and legal frameworks support systemic prevention of all forms of violence, while responding to any children who have been victimized through abuse, exploitation and any form of violence. The draft Child Protection Law and Child Protection Standard Operating Procedure outline clear roles and responsibilities and list institutions that facilitate child protection cases, with explicit provisions for enforcement.

In response to COVID-19, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) has revised and sped up implementation of the Child Protection in Emergency Contingency Plan. New guidelines have been issued to protect children in residential care and to prevent unnecessary institutionalization, digital case management (Primero) has been introduced and remote referral and support via helplines have been strengthened ensuring continuity of services despite COVID-19 limitations.

2. Strengthen Child Protection Data and Monitoring

To improve the quality and availability of data related to VAC, the Child Protection Management Information System (CPMIS) was launched by MoSVY in June 2021, with a publicly available dashboard. This dashboard enables transparent tracking of Cambodia's progress in preventing and responding to child protection issues, and provides invaluable data to guide policy and action.

Additionally, Child Discipline questions have been integrated in the Household Questionnaires for Demographic and Health Survey in 2021, to be completed by end 2022. This survey will help the government track of types of Child Discipline found, and act on any Child Protection issues.



3. Enable parents and caregivers to keep children safe

In early 2020, MoSVY launched Cambodia PROTECT, a C4D communication campaign to end violence against children and prevent unnecessary family separation, using social media and mass media with national coverage. While the impact of COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the community-based campaign, supportive messages to children, adolescents, and parent/caregivers during the pandemic have been successful.

The Positive Parenting programme of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), which supports parents developing safe, stable and nurturing environments for their children was scaled up to ten provinces which supported by UNICEF, Save the Children and ChildFund Cambodia. Costing of Positive Parenting is underway and will help the MoWA to advocate for more budget to scale further.

4. Make the internet safe for children

Children are online more than ever. Cambodia will ensure they are protected from harm, while enjoying the internet's benefits.

In July 2021, a five-year Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Child Online Sexual Exploitation (2021-2025) was launched by the Cambodian National Council for Children with strong support from the government, development partners and NGOs for its implementation. To ensure internet service providers are actively protecting children online, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications developed guidance for them to protect children online during COVID-19. Additionally, Cambodia is one among 11 countries, globally, to support the Disrupting Harm Study, currently being finalized.

5. Make schools safe, non-violent, and inclusive

In July 2019, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) endorsed Safe to Learn and committed to implementing the Child Protection Policy in School Action Plan (2019-2023), reviewing the Policy on Child Friendly Schools, and revising curriculum for primary school teachers to include positive discipline and basic contents on gender and violence.

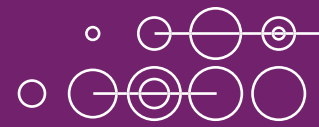
In August 2020, the MoEYS issued a Standard Operating Procedure for safe school reopening to provide guidance to schools on how to reengage in in-person learning, while keeping school personnel, teachers, and students safe in the context of COVID-19 and beyond. Early in the 2020-2021 academic year, MoEYS launched a nationwide "back to school" campaign to encourage a return to classrooms while preventing COVID-19. The campaign uses videos, posters, and images to promote safe and healthy practices among children, families and teachers. Support hotlines provide mental health and psychosocial support services.

On behalf of Minister
Secretary of State



MEN SOCHETH





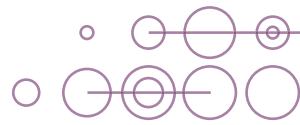
Canada

Canada became a pathfinding country in May of 2018. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the Leaders Statement.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. Canada is committed to eliminating child sexual exploitation. In 2019, Canada invested \$22.24 million over three years to increase prevention activities, reduce the stigma associated with reporting, enhance pursuing and investigating offenders, and deepen engagement with digital industry.
2. Develop tailored solutions to populations at higher risk of experiencing violence. In 2021, Canada committed to investing over \$2.2 billion to support efforts to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit and gender diverse people.
3. Taken action on the gendered dimensions of violence against children through Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence (GBV Strategy), launched in 2017 and develop a National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.
4. Promoting the safety of children in and around schools by ensuring that all provinces and territories in Canada have violence prevention plans in place.





Statement from the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions on Canada's Efforts to End Violence against Children- Global Partnership to End Violence against Children Pathfinding Statement

All children have the right to grow up in a safe environment, free from violence. Whether it takes the form of maltreatment by a caregiver, bullying by peers, sex trafficking or sexual exploitation, all forms of violence can have serious and lasting impacts on children's mental and physical health, both immediately and throughout the course of their lives. Canada condemns violence against children in all its forms and is committed to continuous efforts, locally and globally, to eradicate violence against children. We recognize the survivors, advocates, and community-based organizations, who work tirelessly every day to make a difference in the lives of children and youth.

Canada's *Criminal Code* contains a number of sections directly designed to protect children against violence and sexual exploitation. This includes online behaviours that target children as victims, as well as luring a child and making sexually explicit material available to a child. Recent amendments to the federal *Divorce Act* help parents, judges and others make safe and appropriate arrangements for children in instances of family violence.

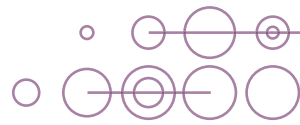
Canada opposes the use of corporal punishment. We support the development and delivery of parenting education programs and public information resources that discourage physical punishment and discipline of children and, instead, provide parents with positive parenting skills.

Furthermore, Canada is committed to eliminating child sexual exploitation. In 2019, Canada invested \$22.24 million over three years to increase prevention activities, reduce the stigma associated with reporting, enhance pursuing and investigating offenders, and deepen engagement with digital industry. This investment complements the *National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet*, created in 2004, which works with digital industry, federal partners, and others to combat online child sexual exploitation.

Canada recognizes the need to develop tailored solutions to those at higher risk of experiencing violence, particularly First Nations, Inuit and Métis, Black and other racialized children and youth, LGBTQ2+ youth, homeless and street-involved youth, and children and youth with disabilities. For example, in 2021, Canada committed to investing over \$2.2 billion to support efforts to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit and gender diverse people. The resultant 2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan, seeks to address root causes of such violence. Canada also provides funding to urban, Inuit, Métis and First Nation community based organizations to deliver programs that promote healthy child development and safe, stable, healthy relationships.

The Government of Canada has also taken action on the gendered dimensions of violence against children through *Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence* (GBV Strategy), launched in 2017. The GBV Strategy invested approximately \$220





Canada

million over 5 years, with \$40 million per year in ongoing funding, to fill gaps in supports for diverse populations, including children and youth. Building on the GBV Strategy's foundation, work is underway to develop a National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, which has included investing over \$600 million over five years starting in 2021 and \$539 million over five years starting in 2022.

In Canada, education is primarily the responsibility of provincial and territorial governments. To ensure the safety of children in and around schools, all provinces and territories in Canada have violence prevention plans in place.

Improved data is integral to supporting initiatives to eliminate violence against children. Canada draws on national self-reported surveys, surveys of proxy informants, and administrative data to monitor the prevalence of child maltreatment. In the past decade, Canada has accelerated its development of longstanding data collection solutions to improve monitoring and detection of changes in prevalence in child maltreatment.

To protect children globally, particularly in humanitarian settings, Canada is working with partners including United Nations organizations, the Red Cross Movement, and other non-governmental organizations to provide multi-sector assistance to children and families in need. Between 2018-2021, Canada has contributed \$236 million to support UNICEF's humanitarian activities, and in 2021, Canada provided \$94.9 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to support refugees, stateless persons, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons. Activities supported through this funding include child protection services, such as addressing violence, exploitation and abuse against children and adolescents, GBV risk mitigation and prevention. Internationally, Canada has supported the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, aimed at eliminating child, early and forced marriage in countries where rates of the practice are among the highest, with additional support provided since the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure sustained progress. Canada firmly and unequivocally denounces Female Genital Cutting/Mutilation as a human rights violation that threatens the physical and mental health and well-being of women and girls around the world. Since 1997, Canada's Criminal Code has explicitly recognized the practice as a form of aggravated assault.

Canada has made great advances towards eradicating violence against children both at home and abroad. As a Pathfinding Country, Canada is committed to continuing to accelerate our efforts. By working with partners and stakeholders from all sectors as well as by sharing knowledge and learning from other Pathfinding Countries, we can protect the rights, safety and well-being of children and youth in Canada and around the world.

Hon. Carolyn Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P.
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health





Finland

Finland became a Pathfinding country in May of 2020. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Ministry of Family Affairs and Social Services has made commitments to end violence against children and issued a Leaders Statement.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. Implementation of the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence Against Children 2020-2025, comprising 93 actions and based on the INSPIRE framework.
2. Publication of a national action plan for the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention, including new measures to prevent online violence against children.
3. Commitment to ending all violence against children globally, with one of the highest proportions of Official Development Assistance budgets directed specifically to ending violence against children.



National Policy Dialogue: Country Statement: Finland

Ending violence towards children is a national priority for Finland. The Government of Finland recognises that the only way to achieve this goal is through collective efforts that create lasting change. This is why Finland has joined the network of Pathfinder countries, becoming the 30th Pathfinder country in May 2020.

In 2019, Finland launched [Non-Violent Childhoods](#), a National Action Plan for the prevention of violence against children in 2020–2025. The Action Plan is firmly based on WHO's Inspire strategies. It contains 93 pertinent, measurable actions for preventing violence against children (VAC) and youth under 18 years of age. Created in close collaboration between academic researchers, practitioners and policy makers, it has a solid foundation in children's rights, recent scientific findings and evidence-based practice. The actions focus on preventing all types of violence in different contexts and take into consideration children in vulnerable situations with regard to violence.

A broad group of experts from various organisations, ministries and NGOs has compiled the Action Plan as well as the adjacent implementation plan. A steering group nominated by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare is responsible for monitoring and directing the work. A mid-term review will be published in 2022.

Implementing the Action Plan's goals is a key national priority. Some examples of actions currently in place are:

Chapter 6. Multidisciplinary collaboration and exchange of information

- *Action 3.* Special training in investigating crimes against children will be a permanent part of the continuing education offering of the Police University College. This action was already implemented in 2020, when special training in the investigation of crimes against children became a permanent part of the training of the Police University of Applied Sciences.

Chapter 8. Domestic violence in the family

- *Action 1.* Child and family services (for example maternity and child health clinic services and schools) will systematically address the prerequisites for children's safe growth and growth environment and will identify risk factors for violence together with families. Services will take account of the needs for culturally sensitive information among parents from immigrant and refugee backgrounds and support for good parenting.
 - The *Finnish Institute of Health and Welfare* (THL) is responsible for distributing [the violence filter and mapping form](#), which is systematically used with both parents in maternity and child health care services. The introduction of the form is intensified in

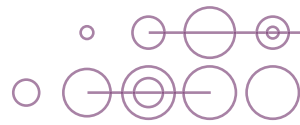
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school health services. The implementation of other tools developed to address violence-related themes with children will be continued.

- The *Finnish National Agency for Education* is preparing an online portal to support work against bullying, violence and harassment, which will help to strengthen the competence of teaching staff and other staff in study care services in identifying various forms of violence and speaking up.
- *Action 5*. Primary-level services will provide families with psychosocial support and care without delay. For example, positive parenting practices and evidence-based parenting support programmes (e.g. Incredible Years, Strongest Families) will be promoted at the municipal level. The parties and operators responsible for this action are the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Finnish Institute of Health and Welfare, primary healthcare, specialised medical care, municipalities and NGOs.

After becoming a Pathfinder country, Finland launched a [National Child Strategy](#) in 2021. The strategy aims to strengthen the inclusion of children and young people. In the strategy, Finland emphasises the need for effective and multidisciplinary methods to prevent child abuse. The implementation plan, prepared during 2021, will take into account the content of the Non-Violent Childhoods Action Plan for 2020–2025.

Finland has *ratified the Lanzarote Convention* and will publish a national action plan for its implementation in 2021. Since an increasing proportion of sexual harassment and violence is taking place in the digital environment, new measures for preventing online crimes against children will be introduced. The fast-changing digital world creates new challenges for crime prevention and requires the development of innovative methods.

Addressing the fragmentation of service provision and ensuring an equal access to services for child victims of violence is an important challenge for Finland. Sustainable interagency measures to be applied by professionals from law enforcement, justice and the health and social sectors are the cornerstone of the Barnahus-model, which is gaining a stronger foothold in Finland through the national [Barnahus project \(2019–2023\)](#).

Finland already has a considerable knowledge base and data on VAC; for example, large-scale victim surveys have been collected since the 1980s. As part of the implementation of Non-Violent Childhoods, the database will be further extended by 2025. We will secure and harmonise the knowledge base on violence against and experienced by children and young people and compile information from different sources on a regular basis. Data is collected and used to inform policies and programmes in relation to poverty, violence, children with disabilities, minority and immigrant children and children deprived of a family. The responsible organisations are THL, the University of Helsinki Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy (Krimo) and the National Police Board (POHA).

The implementation of the 93 measures of Action Plan is, as a rule, promoted as part of the work of different organisations. Various programmes and projects and the calls for funding applications organised by ministries and different organisations also support the implementation.

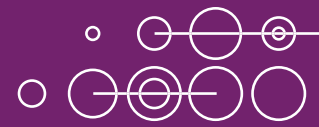
Finally, Finland is committed to ending all violence towards children globally. The proportion of our Official Development Assistance directed specifically to ending violence against children is among the highest in the world, as stated in the most recent Counting Pennies 2 report. Finland acknowledges the importance of global efforts that promote children's wellbeing, protection and safety both now and in the future.

Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services



Krista Kiuru





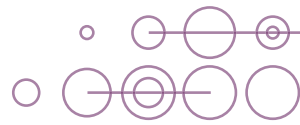
Georgia

Georgia became a Pathfinding country in May 2018. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit Series, the Human Rights Secretariat on behalf of the Government of Georgia had made commitments to end violence against children and issued a *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders Statement are as follows:

1. In 2022, the second National Human Rights Strategy and its implementation action plan will be approved, including concrete actions for tackling violence against children, based on the INSPIRE methodology.
2. A 2022-2026 strategy and 2022-2024 action plan to protect children living and working on the street will be approved.
3. In 2022, the center for psychological and social services for child victims will become operational.
4. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, awareness raising campaigns will be carried out on the prohibition of violence and child protection mechanisms.





საქართველოს
მთავრობის ადმინისტრაცია



ADMINISTRATION
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA



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06/05/2022

To the secretariat of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

Statement of the Government of Georgia on ending violence against children

Eliminating violence against children remains one of the top priorities for the Government of Georgia (hereinafter the GoG). Over the last few years, Georgia has made significant progress in identification, prevention and response to the facts of child abuse.

Georgia is a party to all relevant international treaties and agreements aimed towards eliminating all forms of violence against children. The country: signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse; Committed to implementing the Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals directly related to strengthening children’s rights; In 2017, became a partner of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

The international standards recognized by Georgia are reflected in national legislation. In 2015, The Juvenile Justice Code was approved, aimed at protecting the best interests of a child in juvenile proceedings. In 2016, the GoG approved Child Protection Referral Procedures to facilitate protection of children from all forms of violence through the robust coordinated system. After receiving a Pathfinder status, the country adopted Law on Social Work and the Code on the Rights of the Child.

The GoG prioritizes fights against sexual exploitation of children. In 2020, the Law on Fighting Crimes Against Sexual Freedom and Sexual Inviolability was adopted, that deprives persons convicted of crimes related to sexual abuse, to approach to or interact with children.

To promote the fulfillment of national and international obligations the GoG established the Interagency Commission for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Children’s Rights Issues. The measures to combat all forms of violence against children are integrated in the Georgia’s National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plans. Georgia is currently finalizing its work on the second national strategy, which includes key provisions for the protection of children’s rights.





Georgia has established the effective mechanisms of violence prevention and response. Police is entitled to issue a restraining order against a perpetrator. In addition, victims have the right to apply for a protective order, issued by the court.

The GoG permanently works on strengthening institutions responsible for protecting children's rights and carries out relevant structural reforms. In 2018, the Human Rights Protection Department was created under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which monitors the quality of investigation of crimes committed by and against children. Additionally, in 2020, the Juvenile Affairs Main Division was established, staffed with certified investigators, responsible for investigation of crimes committed by/against juveniles.

The Witness and Victim Coordinator Services were established to provide information and support to citizens, including juveniles.

In 2020, a Juvenile Referral Center was established, to implement rehabilitation and re-socialization programs for children in conflict with the law (below the age of criminal responsibility) and with difficult behavior.

To strengthen the juvenile coordination mechanism at the local level, multidisciplinary council meetings are held in the regions of Georgia on a regular basis, to discuss existing challenges and plans.

Since 2021, intensive trainings on crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability have been provided for specialized prosecutors and investigators. Furthermore, infrastructure projects are ongoing to set up child friendly environment in law-enforcement structural subunits.

With the support of UNICEF, the Agency for State Care and Assistance for the Victims of Human Trafficking launched a helpline for children – 111.

In 2020, the GoG approved the concept of a center for psychological and social services for the children victims of violence. The aim of the Center is to provide child victims with short and long-term psychosocial rehabilitation, prevent secondary victimization and conduct effective investigation.

The GoG puts great emphasis on raising awareness on prohibition and prevention of corporal punishment and bullying. In order to prevent bullying in schools, post conflict restorative approaches are being introduced to teachers and students. The whole-school model was piloted in 11 schools. Safety and public order in schools is ensured by resource officers. School Mediation concept has been developed and piloted.

Professionals working with children are dedicated to identifying cases of violent and response properly; their competence is continually enhanced through targeted trainings on destructive/violent behavior and prevention of bullying; positive parenting classes are offered as well.

Despite COVID-19 pandemic, relevant agencies continue to fight against child abuse. Remote services were implemented and a relevant protocol elaborated for professionals working with children (teachers, social workers).





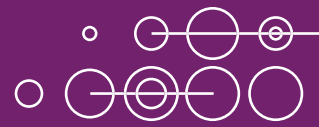
Despite the progress made, prevention of corporal punishment, sexual violence and other forms of violence, children living and working in street remains a challenge for Georgia. In light of the aforementioned, the GoG intends to carry out the following measures:

- In 2022, the second National Human Rights Strategy and its implementation action plan will be approved, which contain concrete actions for tackling violence against children, based on the INSPIRE methodology;
- With the aim to protect children living and working in the street from all kinds of violence, including trafficking, 2022-2026 strategy and a relevant 2022-2024 action plan will be approved;
- To improve coordination between professionals the existing referral mechanism will be enhanced;
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs will continue to establish juvenile divisions within its structural units;
- The infrastructure project for creating child friendly environment will continue;
- More investigators and prosecutors will go through intensive courses on crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability;
- In 2022, the center for psychological and social services for the children victims will become operational;
- The Juvenile Referral Center's scope will be expanded and rehabilitation programs – upgraded;
- School mediation programs will be fully established for conflict resolution among students;
- New trainings and resources will be produced on prohibition of violence against children and bullying for professionals and parents;
- In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, awareness raising campaigns will be carried out on the prohibition of violence and child protection mechanisms.

Respectfully,

Administration of the Government of Georgia
Head of the Human Rights Secretariat
Peradze Maka





Guinea

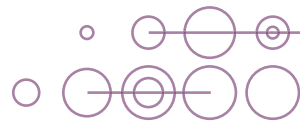
Guinea became a pathfinding country in July of 2021. As part of the Together to #EndViolence So-lutions Summit series, the Ministry for the advancement of women, children and vulnerable people

of Guinea has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. Effective implementation of the Children's Code relating to prohibition of corporal punishment in families, in the community and in schools.
2. By 2025, reduction of child marriage rate by 2 per cent.
3. By 2025, reduction of Female Genital Mutilations by 10 per cent.





REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE

Travail-Justice-Solidarité



**Ministère de la Promotion Féminine, de l'Enfance et
des Personnes Vulnérables**

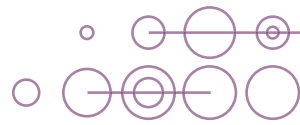
(MPFEPV)

Direction Nationale de l'Enfance

**ENGAGEMENTS DU GOUVERNEMENT DE LA
REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE POUR METTRE FIN
AUX VIOLENCES FAITES AUX ENFANTS**

Décembre 2021





REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE

Travail-Justice-Solidarité



ENGAGEMENTS DU GOUVERNEMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE POUR METTRE FIN AUX VIOLENCES FAITES AUX ENFANTS

Considérant que la République de Guinée a ratifié la Convention Internationale relative aux Droits de l'Enfant en 1990 ainsi que la Charte Africaine des Droits et du Bien-être de l'Enfant en 1999 ;

Considérant les dispositions de la Charte de la Transition en ses articles 10 et 11 interdisant toutes formes de violences ;

Considérant l'engagement du Gouvernement de la République de Guinée à inscrire au centre de ses préoccupations les mesures appropriées visant à bannir les violences faites aux enfants à travers l'adoption d'une Loi spéciale révisée portant Code de l'Enfant Guinéen en 2019 ;

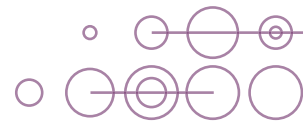
Considérant l'admission de la Guinée comme pays pionnier du Partenariat mondial pour mettre fin aux violences faites aux enfants ;

En application des principes et dispositions des instruments juridiques susmentionnés et prenant en compte les mesures institutionnelles mises en place ;

Le Gouvernement de la République de Guinée réaffirme solennellement son engagement à adopter, conformément à son statut de pays pionnier, toutes les mesures devant mettre fin aux violences faites aux enfants avec l'implication de toutes les parties prenantes.

A ce titre, la République de Guinée prend les engagements ci-après :





Engagement N° 1 : La Guinée s'engage à appliquer avec rigueur les dispositions du Code de l'Enfant, relatives aux violences physiques notamment les châtiments corporels en famille, dans la communauté et à l'école ; mais aussi à promouvoir des mesures susceptibles de faire du milieu scolaire un environnement sûr qui favorise la culture de la non-violence.

Engagement N° 2 : D'ici 2025, la Guinée s'engage à diminuer de 20% le taux de mariage des enfants afin qu'ils (filles et garçons) jouissent de leurs droits, vivent dans une société qui promeut l'égalité des sexes et décident de retarder leur mariage tout en étant soutenus dans leur choix (base : 46,4% EDS 2018).

Engagement N° 3 : La Guinée est déterminée à promouvoir l'abandon des Mutilations Génitales Féminines (MGF) et à prendre des mesures appropriées pour mettre en application le cadre légal aux MGF pour réduire de 10% d'ici 2025, les pratiques des mutilations génitales féminines (base : 94% EDS 2018).

Engagement N° 4 : La Guinée s'engage à accroître progressivement, au cours des planifications programmatiques, les investissements sensibles en faveur des enfants dans les secteurs sociaux prioritaires.

Engagement N° 5 : D'ici 2025, la Guinée s'engage à renforcer la protection des enfants dans l'utilisation de l'internet, des plate formes, réseaux, produits et services numériques.

Conakry, le 15 Décembre 2021

POUR LE GOUVERNEMENT

LE PREMIER MINISTRE

Monsieur Mohamed BEAVOGUI





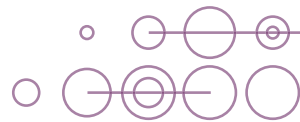
Mongolia

Mongolia became a pathfinding country in October of 2018. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. Strengthen and promote child safeguarding at all levels including preventing children from alcohol abuse, violence, school and cyber bullying.
2. Strengthening service delivery systems to develop family-centred services for children including programs for supporting families of children at-risk.
3. Strengthen legal environment and implementation of policies and regulations to reduce violence against children including adopting and implementing child protection policies.
4. Continue to provide Training and capacity building for family doctors and health workers. Introduce home visit and safe schooling programs outlined in the INSPIRE strategies.





**МОНГОЛ УЛСЫН
ХӨДӨЛМӨР, НИЙГМИЙН
ХАМГААЛЛЫН САЙД**

15160 Улаанбаатар хот, Чингэлтэй дүүрэг,
Нэгдсэн үндэстний гудамж 5, Утас: 26-15-53,
Факс: 32-86-34, Цахим шуудан: mlsp@mongolnet.mn
Цахим хуудас: www.mlsp.gov.mn

**“ХҮҮХДИЙН ЭСРЭГ ХҮЧИРХИЙЛЛИЙГ
ТАСЛАН ЗОГСООХ ДЭЛХИЙН
ТҮНШЛЭЛД**

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**Хүүхдийн эсрэг хүчирхийллийг
бууруулах чиглэлээр**

Монгол Улсын Засгийн газар нь хүүхдийн эсрэг хүчирхийллийг урьдчилан сэргийлэх Дэлхийн түншлэлд нэгдэж, INSPIRE стратегийг хэрэгжүүлэгч орон болж сонгогдсоны хувьд эх орныхоо ирээдүй болсон хүүхдүүдийг аюулгүй, амар амгалан гэр бүл, хүүхдэд ээлтэй нийгмийн орчинд өсөж эрүүл энх, эрдэм мэдлэгтэй иргэн болгон төлөвшүүлэхийн тулд салбар бүрт хүүхэд хамгааллын бодлогыг дэмжин ажиллаж байна.

Хүүхдийн эсрэг хүчирхийллээс урьдчилан сэргийлэхэд манлайлал, хамтын ажиллагаа, салбар дундын зохицуулалтыг ханган ажиллахын зэрэгцээ, гэр бүлд түшиглэсэн хүүхэд хамгааллын үйлчилгээг хөгжүүлэхэд чиглэсэн эрх зүйн болон үйлчилгээний шинэчлэлийг хийж байна.

Бид үйлчилгээг хүүхдэд ээлтэй болгох ажлын хүрээнд эрсдэлт нөхцөлд байгаа хүүхэд түүний гэр бүлд дэмжлэг үзүүлэх, кейс менежментийн үйлчилгээ үзүүлэх чадавхыг сайжруулах, залуу гэр бүлийг ажил хөдөлмөрт холбон зуучлах, хөгжүүлэх, эцэг эхийн үүрэг хариуцлагыг нэмэгдүүлэх, гамшиг, онцгой байдлын үед хүүхэд хамгааллын бодлого стандартыг тодорхойлж, хүүхэд гэр бүлд хүрэх үйлчилгээний санхүүжилтийн нормативыг батлан хэрэгжүүлж байна.

Монгол улсын Засгийн Газраас хэрэгжүүлж байгаа eMongolia хөтөлбөртэй уялдуулан “Нийгмийн ажлын мэдээллийн сан”, “etustamj” зэрэг программыг хөгжүүлж статистик мэдээллийн чанарыг сайжруулахыг зорьж, хүүхэд хамгааллын үйлчилгээг цахимжуулж байна.

Хүүхдийн эсрэг хүчирхийллийг бууруулахтай холбоотой бодлого, эрх зүйн зохицуулалт хийх аливаа хүчирхийлэл, хүний наймааны эрсдэлд хүүхэд өсвөр үеийнхэн өртөхөөс урьдчилан сэргийлэх, зөрчлийг илрүүлэх ажилд олон нийтийн оролцоог нэмэгдүүлэх, хүүхэд хамгааллын бодлогыг батлан мөрдүүлэх, сурагчид сургууль дээрээ нийгэм-сэтгэл зүйн дэмжлэг авах, эрүүл мэндийн салбарын ажилтнууд хүүхдийн эсрэг хүчирхийллийг мэдээлэх, яаралтай хариу арга хэмжээ авахад эмч, эмнэлгийн ажилтнуудыг сургах, чадваржуулахын зэрэгцээ INSPIRE стратегид дурдагдсан гэрийн эргэлтийн хөтөлбөр, аюулгүй сургууль аргачлалыг анхан дунд шатны байгууллагаар дамжуулан хийнэ.

Цаашдаа нийгмийн бүхий л орчинд хүүхдийг хамгаалахад анхаарал хандуулж архидалт, хүчирхийлэл, сургуулийн болон цахим орчинд гарч байгаа дээрэлхэлтээс урьдчилан сэргийлэх, тэднийг нийгмийн харилцааны болон амьдрах ур чадварын сургалтад хамруулж зорилтот бүлгийн хүүхдийг нийгэмшүүлэх зорилтот

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хөтөлбөрүүдийг хэрэгжүүлэх замаар эрсдэлээс урьдчилан сэргийлэх нөлөөллийн ажлыг хэрэгжүүлнэ.

Монгол Улсын Засгийн Газар хүүхдийн эсрэг хүчирхийллийг таслан зогсоох чиглэлээр манлайлах үүргээ биелүүлж, дэлхийн хэмжээнд та бүхэнтэй хамтын ажиллагааг үргэлжлүүлэн ажиллах болно.



А.АРИУНЗАЯА

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TO THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TO END
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Re: Government of Mongolia actions to end violence against children

As a member to the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and one of the path finding countries of the INSPIRE Strategy, the Government of Mongolia is dedicated to promote child safeguarding at all levels of socio-ecological environment to guarantee a safe and peaceful family and child-friendly environment for children so that they grow up as healthy and educated members of the society.

Besides ensuring leadership and inter-sectoral coordination to prevent violence against children, our Ministry has been working to reform a legal environment and service delivery systems to develop family-centred services for children. We carry out the programs for supporting families of children at-risk; conduct capacity building trainings for effective case management; provide employment services for young families and income generating activities; and promote positive parenting. The National Standards on Child Protection in Emergencies and the Standard Operating Procedure on Financing Child Protection and Family Services have been approved.

The Government of Mongolia prioritizes a digital transition and implements an E-Mongolia program. In line with this, we are in a process of digitalizing child protection services and social workers' information database, and developing the "E-Assistance" software in order to improve quality of child protection services data.

Moreover, we take measures to implement policies and regulations to reduce violence against children; prevent children and adolescents from being exposed to the risks of violence and human trafficking; increase public involvement in reporting child maltreatment; adopt and implement child protection policies; and provide students with MHPSS at schools. We provide training and capacity building for family doctors and health workers so that they fulfil their obligations to mandatory reporting about violence against children and providing appropriate responses. We plan to introduce home visit programs and safe schooling programs outlined in the INSPIRE.

In the near future, we will focus on safeguarding children in all social environments, preventing them from alcohol abuse, violence, school and cyber bullying through advocacy and social and life skills training programs for target groups of children.

The Government of Mongolia is committed to continue its leading role in ending violence against children and is looking forward to strengthening our cooperation with the Global Partnership.

Sincerely,

ARIUNZAYA AYUSH

MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION





Montenegro

Montenegro became a Pathfinding country in 2017. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit Series, the Ministries of Labour and Social Welfare, Education, Health, Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Justice together made commitments to end violence against children and issued a Leaders Statement.

Key highlights from the Leaders Statement are as follows:

1. Development of a new Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children against Violence for the period 2023-2027 addressing bullying, safe use of internet, promotion of non-violent discipline and establishing the national Children's House (the Barnahus Model) for child victims of severe violence.
2. Enhanced capacity in the Centres for Social Work, police, courts, prosecution offices, teachers and healthcare workers to provide support to children.
3. Enhanced efforts to ensure access to justice for children and child-friendly justice, including new data systems for children in contact with the law.
4. Continued awareness raising campaigns targeting parents, teachers and all experts working with children to change attitudes and entrenched patterns related to violence against children.





“Together to End Violence against Children” – the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (EVAC) initiative

Montenegro’s pledge / priorities

Violence against children, present in all countries around the world, with Montenegro being no exception, requires urgent joint action of all partners at the national and local level to support the implementation of laws and policies aimed to prevent and protect children against violence, ensure multidisciplinary, multiagency and comprehensive response and secure adequate funding towards creating a healthy environment for children to develop and thrive. New challenges arising from the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly affected children and their rights, particularly the most vulnerable children who are at a greater risk of violence.

Over the last decade Montenegro had this issue very much in its focus, intensifying efforts at a high political level to adopt positive social norms and improve policies, legal and institutional frameworks towards more effective prevention and protection of children against any form of violence, abuse and neglect. Moreover, Montenegro is continuously working on the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Status Report on Preventing Violence against Children, as well as the INSPIRE package. We welcome the Global Partnership’s initiative to launch the campaign “Together to End Violence Against Children”, in conjunction with the national dialogue as an opportunity to take stock of the achievements so far, identify the remaining challenges and gaps in implementing current policies and strategies to prevent and protect children against violence, and set new country’s priorities, tasks and commitments towards eradicating all forms of violence, abuse and neglect of children.

We are aware that exposure to violence has far-reaching consequences for child’s mental and physical development. It causes social exclusion, lower academic achievements, adverse economic implications, and often increased levels of poverty. Hence, prevention and protection of children against violence is deemed a priority in the area of child rights in Montenegro. To that effect, we have been working in continuity on improving the legal and regulative frameworks, building capacities of professionals responsible for providing support to children, strengthening the national system by introducing multidisciplinary, multiagency and multi-thematic response, and changing societal norms and raising public awareness on this significant matter.



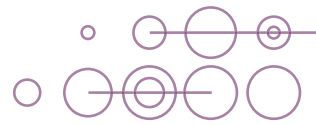


We are proud of the results achieved in terms of prevention and protection of children against violence, including: the 2016 amendments to the Family Law introducing for the first time the ban on corporal punishment of children by their parents, caregivers and all other persons who provide care or come into contact with a child; the first ever 2017-2021 Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children against Violence, with a multi-agency team in charge of its implementation, and the 2019-2023 Strategy for the Exercise of the Rights of the Child, as an overarching cross-sectoral document addressing the preconditions for the exercise of child's rights; the Guidelines For Health Service Providers Acting With A View To Protecting Children And Adolescents From Violence, Abuse And Neglect; enabling support services for parents and caregivers of children with disabilities; promoting positive parenting since 2018 through the Parenting for Lifelong Health programme. Regarding awareness raising efforts, in 2016, the Government of Montenegro, in partnership with UNICEF, conducted a campaign to end violence against children, including cyber violence, while in its second phase conducted in 2017 the campaign focused on domestic violence and the relationship between parents and children.

Towards achieving the shared goal of ending violence, abuse and neglect of children, additional efforts will be invested in implementing the policies concerning prevention and protection of children against violence. Some of the specific steps to be taken by the Government of Montenegro include: developing a new Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children against Violence for the period 2023-2027 to set priorities for the relevant sectors, covering bullying, safe use of Internet, promotion of non-violent disciplining, establishing the national Children's House (the Barnahus Model) for children victims of severe forms of violence including sexual abuse and exploitation, additional administrative and professional capacity building for Centres for Social Work, the police, courts, prosecution offices, teachers, healthcare workers to provide adequate support to children, step up the activities to ensure access to justice for children and child-friendly justice, and build data systems for children in contact with the law. Given a high level of tolerance of all forms of violence present in Montenegrin society, we will continue with the awareness raising campaigns targeting parents, teachers and all experts involved in working with children to change attitudes and entrenched patterns. We will continue to cooperate with the Ombudsperson and the nongovernmental organisations that play an important role overseeing and monitoring the state of human rights.

We wish to stress that the progress made so far, the recommendations made and the plans now in place are a result of the commitment of national institutions, and the support provided in continuity by our international partners such as UNICEF, WHO and EU through financial and expert assistance.





We reiterate the strong commitment of the Government of Montenegro to continue and strongly advocate ending all forms of violence, abuse and neglect of children and promote child's rights. We deem it crucial to reinforce and cherish cooperation among all countries, and with the international organisations and the private sector alike, to jointly define programmes that will help address this major challenge, while at the same time ensuring the exercise of rights for each child.

Minister of Labour and Social Welfare

Admir Adrović

Minister of Education

Miomir Vojinović

Minister of Health

Dragoslav Šćekić

Minister of Internal Affairs

Filip Adžić

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ranko Krivokapić

Minister of Justice

Marko Kovač

Podgorica, June 2022





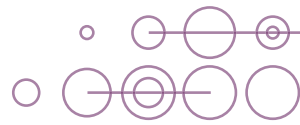
Nigeria

Nigeria became a pathfinding country in February of 2017. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Federal Government of Nigeria has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. Allocation of 10 per cent of the country's annual budget to child protection and social protection systems and programmes.
2. Enforcement of a ban on corporal punishment in both the federal and states school systems.
3. Development of appropriate laws and policies relating to cybersecurity, safety and data protection relating to children.





FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA'S STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Our children represent our future, and the way we treat them, the investments we make today, will determine who and what they will become tomorrow. Our commitment to ending violence against children can be seen from the various government policies we have put in place to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children. The Survey on Violence Against Children commissioned by the National Population Commission in 2014 gave us, for the first time, the data to fully understand the magnitude of the problem. The adoption of a National Priority Agenda for Vulnerable Children 2013 – 2020 and the Declaration of a year of Action to End Violence Against Children in 2015, and the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Violence Against Children (VAC) bear eloquent testimony to our pledge to end violence against children in Nigeria. In 2017, Nigeria became a pathfinding country within the Global Partnership to end violence against children.

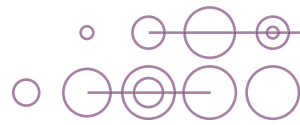
We welcome the publication of the 2020 Global status report on preventing violence against children. We are happy to observe that Nigeria's performance in promoting positive norms and values has increased significantly in recent times, including the provision of preventive and responsive support services to survivors. We acknowledge the need to improve the implementation and enforcement of laws, promote safe environments for girls and boys, strengthen parental and caregiver support.

Restatement of commitment to Ending Violence Against Children in Nigeria

Recalling our commitment to protect children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and violence under Goal 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, we remain fully committed to collective action at all levels to end all forms of violence against children. We therefore use the opportunity presented by the National Policy Dialogue to restate our continued commitments:

1. The Federal Government will support efforts of the ten remaining northern states that are yet to domesticate the Child Rights Act of 2003. Where laws have been passed, these states will be supported to develop and roll out implementation plans and ensure that the laws are enforced, and perpetrators held accountable for acts of violence committed against children.





2. **Budgetary allocation and release of funds are critical to the avowed commitment to ending VAC. The government will ensure that the Ministry of Budget and National Planning allocates 10per cent of the country's annual budget to relevant agencies in a bid to strengthen child protection and social protection systems and programmes.**
3. **The government will redouble efforts towards achieving universal birth registration in order to improve the lives of our country's most vulnerable children who remain invisible and without legal identity. We will continue to work with relevant agencies to plan and implement a digital universal birth registration system. .**
4. **The government will implement the recommendations of its recent convening on financing Safe Schools in Nigeria. We will work to enforce a ban on corporal punishment in both the federal and state schools systems. This ban will be extended to all other settings to reduce the use of violent discipline on children.**
5. **Recognising the need to keep children safe in the digital classrooms and the need to ensure that every child is free from sexual exploitation and abuse, the government will demonstrate leadership and commitment by developing appropriate laws and policies relating to cybersecurity, safety and data protection with a view to putting in place a robust Child Online Protection System that involves regulatory agencies, law enforcement agencies, development partners, telecommunication companies and internet service providers. This is particularly important with the increase in online learning by students occasioned by the COVID 19 pandemic.**
6. **We will invest in support services to protect and support children affected by violence: not only will children be able to report incidents of violence, but when they report, the services will be available to them. We will encourage more states to establish Sexual Assault Referral Centres and One-Stop Centres to ensure that victims receive all appropriate services. This will be followed by the setting up national and state Child Helpline services to ensure that referral services are available to children who need them.**
7. **We will scale up household economic strengthening policies and programmes that improve the well-being and protection of our children and caregivers.**

The Federal government acknowledges the support of our development partners towards ending violence against children and uses this opportunity to solicit your continued technical and material support towards the realization of this noble objective.

I thank you for your kind attention.





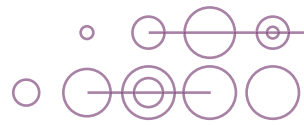
Philippines

Philippines became a pathfinding country in October of 2016. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the government of Philippines has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. Use scientific evidence-based strategies to prevent and respond to violence against children including Strengthening laws and policies to end violence against children.
2. Ensure programs to prevent and respond to violence against children are funded through different government sectors.
3. Strengthen good governance, enhance coordination and provide technical support to local government units.
4. Increase preventative and protective measures to address online violence including online sexual abuse and exploitation of children.





MS. NATASHA JAVED
Partnership Officer
Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

Dear **Ms. Javed**:

The Philippine Government through its representative, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is sharing the Outcome Statement on ending violence against children.

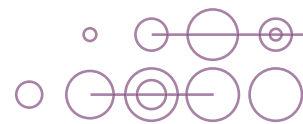
The Outcome Statement was crafted after the High Level Dialogue with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children, Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid on April 8, 2021 which was led by the DSWD Secretary Rolando Joselito D. Bautista.

Should you have further clarifications, you may email the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Statutory Programs through oaasstatutory@dswd.gov.ph.

Very truly yours,


GLENDA D. RELOVA
Assistant Secretary
Operations Group





**OUTCOME STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE
END VIOLENCE SOLUTIONS SUMMIT SERIES
May 2021**

Since the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, the Government of the Philippines has shown strong commitment to uphold and protect the rights of children, as also reflected in the laws, national plans of actions and programs developed and implemented during the last decades. The Philippines have further strengthened its commitment to eliminate violence against children through the following declarations and treaties:

- The Declaration on the Commitment for Children in ASEAN (2001);
- The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN (2013);
- The ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children 2016 – 2025;
- The Declaration on Culture of Prevention (CoP) for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society (2017); and
- The ASEAN Plan of Action on Culture of Prevention.

As part of the Government's commitment to End Violence against Children (End VAC), the Philippines, has been accelerating efforts to achieve Target 16.2 along with other related SDG targets (SDG 4,5, and 16). Part of this is the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAEVAC) 2017-2022, which was developed by the Government of the Philippines in close coordination with civil society, international organizations, and communities following the completion of the National Baseline to End Violence against Children, sets out the main principles, goals, objectives and prioritized actions and mechanisms for preventing and addressing Violence against Children.

Three years into the implementation of the Plan, the landscape where children operate and revolve has changed. The world is grappling with the socio-economic effects of a global pandemic which has exacerbated the existing drivers for violence against children and created new risks and vulnerabilities for children and their families. Economic stresses combined with the easy access to technology have increased the prevalence of online sexual abuse and exploitation and escalated tensions within families are putting children at risk of violence. Quarantine restrictions to mobility have limited access to child protection services and impacted negatively on children's well-being.

The Government has responded to these new challenges by scaling up access to child protection services across the continuum of care, while also expanding the provision of social protection schemes to families in need. However, the dimension and complexity of Violence against Children and the goal of building a safer environment for children during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, require a concerted effort and strong partnerships among government agencies, local government units, civil society, international organizations, the academe, Faith-based organizations, the private sector, and communities.



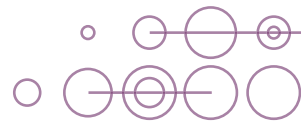


It is in this context that the High-Level Dialogue between the Government of the Philippines and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, was conducted in April 2021.

The High-Level Dialogue resulted to commitments from the Philippine Government to:

- 1. Continue to ensure good governance and enhance coordination.**
The National Network to End Violence Against Children - the national network established by the Council for the Welfare of Children for the management, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the PPAEVAC - will be revitalized and roles, responsibilities and core capacities of the sectors involved will be re-defined. The Government will also: i) harmonize the PPAEVAC to ensure that all seven pillars of INSPIRE are covered by assessing and mapping existing programs and developing components that are not yet covered; ii) include specific outputs on the COVID-19 response; Review the Plan of Action and include specific Outputs on the COVID-19 response; iii) include measurable goals and targets and ensure their alignment to the National Development Plan and where administrative data will be systematically used and analyzed to report on the progress on SDG 16.2.
- 2. Generate and use scientific evidence in programming to prevent and address VAC.**
Additional investments will made to: i) ensure that the PPAEVAC has measurable and time bound targets for violence reduction and indicators and that M&E systems are in place to track implementation; ii) strengthen and harmonize the case management system across key DSWD bureaus, DSWD critical national government agency partners, and Local Social Welfare and Development Offices; iii) evaluate the PPAEVAC to inform future endeavors to End VAC; iv) prioritize coordination with the Philippine Statistics Authority and the National Economic and Development Authority to work towards identifying and optimizing opportunities to generate and collect data on violence-against-children-related indicators for regular SDG 16.2 reporting.
- 3. Ensure adequate funding through fiscal sustainability.**
The Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management shall be engaged as regular members of the NNEVAC and the National Economic Development Authority to ensure the PPAEVAC as well as other programmes to prevent and respond to VAC will be adequately funded across government sectors and with intent towards strategic collaboration.
- 4. Develop and implement the results-based integrated monitoring and evaluation mechanism which links the results to the six PPAEVAC Key Result Areas that are in line with the INSPIRE Strategies.**
Ensure that sufficient resources will be allocated by the Department of Budget and Management for the establishment of a dedicated Monitoring and Evaluation





division within CWC. CWC, as Chair of the NNEVAC, will convene the Network to develop the Results-based M&E framework of the PPAEVAC, as well as other mechanisms to strengthen inter-agency monitoring systems.

5. **Strengthen legislative priority agenda.**

Legislation on ensuring the protection of children from violence will be prioritized. Efforts to provide and ensure continued access to services of child victim-survivors and their families will be reviewed and adjusted to better respond to gaps. CSOs have conveyed willingness to support to help ensure compensation packages are in place and accessible for victim-survivors. Internet service providers will be obligated to comply with existing laws that will protect children, both online and offline. Legislative advocacy to Increase the Minimum Age to Determine Statutory Rape, the Special Protections against Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC), Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy, and Elimination of Child, Early, and Forced Marriages will also be continued by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Council for the Welfare of Children, and key allies.

6. **Strengthen alternative parental care through adoption and foster care system.**

Existing policies that promote and support foster care and adoption will continue to be implemented, as placing children in residential care is always a measure of last resort. Efforts will also be made to strengthen reintegration and alternative care programs.

7. **Increased technical support to Local Government Units.**

National Government will be providing guidance in developing a well-planned devolution program on codification of laws on children to promote greater and systematic participation of local government units, communities, and children to prevent and respond to VAC, address mental health issues, and ensuring a sufficient number of qualified human resources at the grass root level.

8. **Strengthen Awareness Raising Campaign on All Forms of VAC** in order to promote a change in attitudes, behaviors and practices, as well as continue the engagement of stakeholders at all levels across all sectors in identifying areas of cooperation and collaboration that will warrant more impact of interventions. We should also maximize the use of available resources including expertise on addressing VAC.

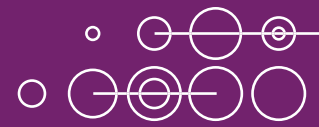
9. **Increase preventive and protective measures against violence and abuse in cyberspace, especially online sexual abuse and exploitation of children.** A whole of society approach is integral to harness collaborative response across all levels of government and the private sector, to include addressing legislative and policy gaps; implement laws and regulations that protect children online; and increasing investments to support children, parents and caregivers, teachers, and child protection frontliners to identify, report, and ensure a multi-disciplinary, gender-sensitive, and trauma-informed response to online violence.





10. **Strengthen the protection of the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration** particularly displaced children from their homes, including those who are affected by conflict, poverty, disaster, climate change, and environmental degradation, abuse, and exploitation and the protection of stateless/migrant children of Overseas Filipino Workers found beyond the borders of the country.
 11. **Continue to fulfill and respect the right of children to ethically, meaningfully, consistently, and sustainably participate in policy development in all levels of government.** Children will be provided platforms as venues to express their views and advocate for their rights.
 12. **Affirm the Country's commitment to the global community to lead the way in ending violence against children as a Pathfinding Country.** The Government will continue to be guided by the INSPIRE Strategies and will commit further adapt, scale-up, and sustain programs to end VAC. With the guidance of the INSPIRE Adaptation and Scale-Up modules, the NNEVAC will identify national programs that will be scaled-up and develop action plans for implementation.
 13. **Strengthening the whole of nation approach** by continuously coordinating with the global partners, continuously including children in all aspects of program development, and opening our doors to dialogues on this agenda.
- The Philippines reaffirms its commitment to build an enabling environment that respects, protects, promotes, and fulfills the rights of all children.**





Romania

Romania became a Pathfinding country in 2016. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit Series, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection working with the National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoption made commitments to end violence against children and issued a Leaders Statement.

Key highlights from the Leaders Statement are as follows:

1. Development of a National Pact Against Children's Domestic Violence to reduce the risks to children of violence in the home, including awareness raising, support for positive parenting and trauma-informed care and response services.
2. Protection for children in the digital environment through development of the Legal, Prevention, Combating, Partnership Plan 2021-2025, including legislative measures, information for children and parents, targeting perpetrators and implementing a multi-sectoral partnership approach.
3. Adoption of a funded National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child 2021-2027.





Statement by Romania- Together to #ENDViolence Solutions Summit Series

December 15, 2020

The National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoption (ANDPDCA) within the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection- is the appointed focal point for Ending Violence, in Romania.

To confirm the high profile on political agenda, the GPEVAC was launched nationally in March 2017, in the presence of the Prime Minister, key ministries and civil society. During the launch, the issue of combating VAC was firmly placed in the commitments of all participants, as a priority issue on the agenda of promoting child's rights in Romania.

The country's efforts to tackle violence against children has grown progressively in the last two decades and resulted in noticeable effects in policies and practices at all levels and in all relevant areas. Initially focused on addressing the violation of child's rights following separation from their families and living in large state institutions, the structural changes in the child protection system lead to a decrease in the number of children in institutions/residential facilities from 100.000 in early 90s to around 13.000 in 2020 , with a visible shift from residential to community based care.

Further steps were taken by successively adopting national legislation to ban, prevent and combat all forms of abuse, neglect, trafficking or exploitation; in 2004, Romania became one of the 54 countries that fully banned all forms of physical punishment of children. Social services' institutional capacity was build-up, being established local intersectoral cooperation mechanisms to provide interventions in all forms of violence against children.

Romania's National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child 2014-2020 was developed through multi stakeholder, multisectoral consultation, including NGOs, academia and children. The Strategy concentrated in one of its core four pillars the objectives and measures targeting specifically VAC. At the same time, the new Strategy 2021-2027, currently under development, incorporates a dedicated objective on tackling violence against children.

When it comes to data collection, Romania has made important steps forward, developing various data collection tools and researches from the perspective of violence against children, which enable us to create evidence-based policies.

Way forward

For the next period of time, we are committed to address the phenomenon of violence against children from two perspectives: reducing the risks of domestic violence against children (1) and protecting children in digital environment (2) under the umbrella of a five years **Plan for Ending Violence against Children**.





(1) When it comes to reducing the risks of domestic violence against children, we are committed to develop a National Pact Against Children's Domestic Violence.

Knowing that domestic violence against children remains a neuralgic challenge in Romania, we are currently building our strategic approach around the idea of listening the voice and experiences of children, the experiences of social workers and on reliable data and statistics.

The National Pact Against Children's Domestic Violence will bring together the relevant stakeholders (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Health, National Association of Local Authorities, NGOs, representative children organizations) in the area in order to develop a common engagement to address the phenomenon from the perspective of prevention and care. Trauma informed care/services, trauma informed communities, mentoring and outreach work and positive parenting platforms are just a few examples of areas of intervention. A particular attention will be paid to raising awareness and building a public trend against children's domestic violence.

(2) Protecting children in digital environment is the second key strategic goal of our five years Plan, especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, which exposed more of the risks associated with the engagement of children in online activities. We have the duty to protect our children in any environment.

For this particular purpose, we are working on developing the Legal, Prevention, Combating, Partnership Plan – LPCP Plan (2021-2025), which will be focused on the following objectives:

- Amending and creating relevant legislation based on a wide consultation with the relevant stakeholders (LEGAL);
- Children have an age appropriate and evolving understanding of the opportunities and risks which exist in the online world and parents are equipped to guide and support their children's online activity (PREVENTION);
- Potential perpetrators are deterred from committing abuse online (COMBATING);
- Wider society plays a role in enhancing internet safety for children and young people based on public-private partnerships – protection, screening and alerting mechanisms (PARTNERSHIP).

The above-mentioned highlights of tackling violence against children in Romania will be also part of the next National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child 2021-2027 and will benefit from financial support from national budget sources and European funds.





South Africa

South Africa became a pathfinding country in 2017. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Department of Social Development of South Africa has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. State-wide recognition and prioritization of adequately resourced measures to resolve the inequities, vulnerabilities and risks that provide fertile ground for endemic levels of violence and other violations of children's rights.
2. Creation of a national movement for children and their protection, with participation from children themselves, through strong child-centered, rights-based advocacy.
3. Creation of strong global alliances with and between African member states to tackle common historical and emerging risks such as trafficking and online exploitation.





MINISTER LINDIWE ZULU STATEMENT TO THE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

Date of Summit: 15th December 2020

Venue: video recording

(The Minister will be recognizing the presence of all dignitaries and follow the outline of her statement)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Global Partnership to End Violence, UNICEF, WHO and the Global We Protect Alliance, other UN Agencies, development partners, corporates and philanthropists who have made significant contributions towards creating a global movement to end violence against children and develop innovative approaches. We believe that these contributions have been important to advance children's rights and child protection in various countries and have offered great insights to strengthen children's child protection services.

Since 1994, South Africa introduced a number of interventions to prevent and respond to violence through institutionalisation of laws, policies, programmes and specialised facilities. One of the key interventions was the development of the Integrated National Programme of Action addressing Violence Against Women and Children (2013 – 2018) and the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) with the Technical Task Team (TTT) as to put measures in place to address violence against women and children.

In 2017, government committed to be a Pathfinder country and joined the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, under the leadership of the Department of Social Development with support from UNICEF and civil society organisations. South Africa confirmed that the country is committed to ending violence against children; and would work towards a creating a safe and nurturing environment for women and children through an accelerated investment in prevention and early intervention programmes based on the INSPIRE model.

At the Global Summit on Violence against Children in Sweden, February 2018, SA affirmed its position to join the world in ending violence against children in accordance with SDG 16.2.

We emphasize that we can no longer tolerate that so many of the world's children experience violence, abuse, and neglect unabated. Every single incident of violence against a child is a violation of a child's right with life-long negative consequences in terms of a child's health, education, social and mental wellbeing. Children who have suffered abuse during childhood, will live a life with trauma.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented measures to contain it has intensified the risk of violence, abuse and neglect of children. During the national lockdown, reports from GBV Command Centers and Childline indicated that children witnessed and experienced violence within their homes. Children were more vulnerable to violence, as they were isolated from social





support systems such as other family members, neighbours, teachers, peer groups and protection services. As a result of the lockdown, children moved to virtual learning platforms and despite the opportunities the internet and social media offer, ICT usage also exposed children to bullying, harassment and exploitation on-line.

As our input to the Global Solutions Summit, we reconfirm our commitment to work together with partners in SA, in Africa and globally to bring along effective solutions to fight the scourge of violence against children.

THE SITUATION OF VAC IN SA

According to the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention; 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys experience some form of violence before the age of 18; 82 percent of victims' experience violence from people known and close to them. Exposure to family and community violence and media regularly compounded by constant traumatic experiences, have led to a kind of normalization of violence in our society. High levels of VAC in schools is a great concern to the country with 12.2% of learners being threatened by someone at school: and 6.3% assaulted and even sexually assaulted.¹ Additionally, most of our citizens, feel unsafe walking alone or in their area of residence. (Victims of Crime Survey2017).

PROGRESS AS A PATHFINDING COUNTRY IN 2017

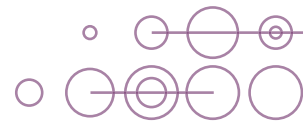
In 2019, government, in partnership with civil society and academia developed the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF) which is an overarching Strategic document guiding SA in addressing the high levels of gender- based violence in the country. Violence against children is fully embedded within the NSP on GBV. The National Strategic Plan has been further strengthened by the Emergency Response Plan as to respond directly to the high level of violence women and children experienced during the month of August 2020 and beyond when lockdown levels and consequent alcohol ban was eased. As emergency response, under the leadership of the President, initiatives became accelerated as to ensure effective measures are put in place for violence prevention interventions and enhanced access to justice for victims of violence.

Moving forward, South Africa is currently working on institutionalising the Permanent National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NC GBVF), and as such the GBV Council will be the custodian of the National Strategic Plan and responsible for driving its implementation across all sectors. The Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) is playing a key leadership and oversight role as to ensure government and other partners provide the adequate resources and policy direction to implement the National Strategic Plan and to address these high levels of violence throughout all layers in society through integrated programmes of action.

COMMITMENTS MOVING FORWARD

As our input to the Global Solutions Summit, we commit to protecting children from violence, abuse and neglect and translate the National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide into action.





For this to happen, we are working to ensure:

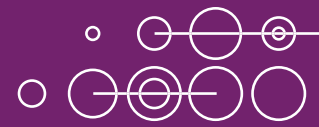
1. State-wide recognition and prioritisation of adequately resourced measures to resolve the inequities, vulnerabilities and risks that provide fertile ground for endemic levels of violence and other violations of children's rights.
2. Demonstrate leadership at the highest levels of government through the leadership of myself, fellow Ministers and the Provinces with our President and collaborate closely as to forge alliance with international organizations, civil society, faith groups, celebrities, media and the private sector to ensure collective and aligned actioning of this plan. We will work together to ensure that the all partners recognise and prioritise the safety and development of children through investments in effective childcare and protection systems as a rights-based development priority.
3. Create a national movement for children and their protection, with participation from children themselves, through strong child-centered, rights-based advocacy.
4. Learn from the COVID 19 experience and augment global and regional child rights treaties through general comments that call for the required actions proven to be effective in mitigating the risks to children's rights brought about by global pandemics.
5. Increase, share, disseminate and use knowledge through the national childcare and protection forum and strengthen systems to prevent, detect and provide support to survivors of violence and ensure their access to justice.
6. Accelerate implementation of evidence-based strategies to end violence against children and ensure that solutions and good practices continue to be shared.
7. Create strong global alliances with and between African member states to tackle common historical and emerging risks such as trafficking, online exploitation, and ensure the most vulnerable, including migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children are reached.
8. Invest more resources from all relevant sources to prevent and respond to violence and to ensure that every child grows up in a healthy and safe manner into resilient adults. Intensified budgets to be solicited from national budgets, development cooperation, corporate, philanthropists, in a social compact modality.
10. Create a digital platform on the situation of children globally to monitor the situation of children's rights as to allow for adjusted budgeting and programming.

Ladies and gentlemen, we recognise the importance of the global partnership and global and regional community and will continue to work together with partners from civil society, faith based and academic institutions for joint action and continued sharing of best practices. I trust and am hopeful, that together as a global community, we can end the scourge of violence against children as every child has the right to be safe at all times.

I thank you

¹ http://www.cjcp.org.za/uploads/2/7/8/4/27845461/monograph12-school-violence-in-south_africa.pdf





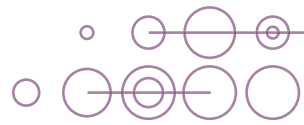
Uganda

Uganda became a pathfinding country in September of 2016. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development of Uganda has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. Promote positive/responsible parenting.
2. Eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings.
3. Make schools safe, non-violent and inclusive.





Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development

**UGANDA GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO
ENDING ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

**BY HON BETTY AMONGI ONGOM, MINISTER GENDER, LABOUR
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**PRESENTED TO THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TO END
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN.**





The Government of the Republic of Uganda remains committed to the Global Partnership on ending all forms of Violence Against Children (VAC). Such commitment includes those made at the 2018 Solutions Summit held in Stockholm, Sweden. In November, 2021 and using our own lenses and contexts of the prevailing situation of VAC in the country, we re-assessed the magnitude of the challenge, what is working and where improvement is needed. This was done in collaboration with key stakeholders (Children, Parents and Caregivers, Religious and Cultural Institutions, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments).

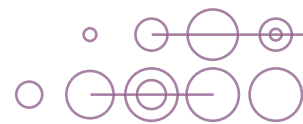
We remain cognisant of the fact that that COVID-19 has exacerbated the already fragile VAC situation across all settings. Data from the national child protection systems, notably Uganda Police and Uganda Child Helpline indicate an upward trend in all types of VAC.

Children of all age ranges have suffered and continue to face multiple types of violence, disturbingly in home settings (violence, ‘hot spot’) where they have been confined for the last 15 months following the shutdown of schools as the country grappled with containment of COVID-19 Pandemic. Moreover, e-learning adopted by a cross section of parents as a stop gap measure to sustain children learning has also presented an increase in online violence to learners.

A recent study by a Civil Society Organization estimates that a significant 53% of learners go online weekly. Parenting has become even more difficult in the changed context of juggling work for family livelihood and at the same time assuring children’s safety in all spaces including online. An estimated 51% of caregivers in Uganda have themselves never used the internet.

In this myriad of complexities though, there is hope for protection of children in Uganda from violence. The existing broad-based system (multi-sector; multi -level, multi -actor) for prevention and response to VAC is accommodative of all interested and passionate stakeholders willing to partner with Government on ending all forms of violence against children. While findings of the national VAC Survey Report (2018) remain a key source of baseline information for





VAC prevention programming, new commitments have been made by different stakeholders who are ready to join efforts with Government towards ending all forms of VAC.

Children have committed to fulfilling their responsibilities, including among others, actively participating in established structures notably school clubs where life skills education is imparted, exercising peer support, and voicing their concerns.

Parents and Caregivers have pledged to adopt positive and responsible parenting practices, and form peer-to-peer parent support groups.

Religious and Cultural Leaders have committed to reposition their institutions as safe spaces for children's empowerment. Positive spiritual and moral values as well as culture necessary that promote peaceful co-existence, as well as offer protection to child survivors of violence, are accordingly propagated.

The media fraternity recognized their pivotal role in the fight against VAC underpinned by the high level of influence they hold in society and the wide audience they command. Media professionals are committed to expand media access channels for children's voices with safety at the forefront and to amplify advocacy for protection of children from all forms of VAC.

The Civil Society in complimenting Government efforts has pledged continued collaboration and partnership with Government in implementation of child protection laws and policies for greater appreciation by the public including citizens at community level. In addition, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are committed to prioritizing evidence-based VAC programming geared towards generation of additional data and information on what is working.

Positive and responsible parenting, making schools safe, making use of internet safe, access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Information and Services; Protection of children in Humanitarian settings among others will constitute the core of VAC prevention





programming as a critical step in contribution to strengthening existing systems and services on VAC.

Government as the primary duty bearer of the mandate for Care and protection of children will continue to provide leadership on the elimination of all forms of VAC in the Country. The implementation framework for the National Child Policy (2020) is its attendant Five Year Implementation Plan (2020/2021-2024/5) that provides for an institutionalised coordination structure. The structure comprises a Child Well-being Steering Committee at all levels (National, District, Lower Local Government, Community) with the responsibility to collate synergy across Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). These structures exercise a child protection mandate, necessary to guide and monitor progress on delivery of commitments made by various stakeholders.

In summary, Uganda commits to the following:

- I. Promote positive/responsible parenting;
- II. Equip parents and caregivers with appropriate information to keep children safe at home, and within the community;
- III. Eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings;
- IV. Make the internet safe for children;
- V. Make schools safe, non-violent and inclusive;
- VI. Protect children from all forms of violence in humanitarian settings;
- VII. Strengthen systems, services and networks to prevent and respond to violence against children;
- VIII. Increase access to age appropriate information on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights;
- IX. Increase investment in research to generate data on violence against children in Uganda to inform policy and legal reforms and programming; and
- X. Build the capacity of the media to prevent and respond to violence against children.

I call upon all Ugandans to work tirelessly to make violence against children a matter of history in our country.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY





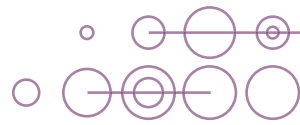
Zambia

Zambia became a pathfinding country in 2020. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services of Zambia has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. By 2025, development of policy frameworks to scale up parenting and support programmes, and orientation of parents and families in selected communities.
2. Operationalization of the National Child Online Protection Strategy (2020-2025): training and capacity building of 200 law enforcement officers by 2024.
3. By 2025, development of a school child safeguarding policy to be rolled out to all schools of the country.





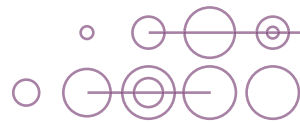
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**NATIONAL STATEMENT ON ENDING
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ZAMBIA**

December, 2021





NATIONAL STATEMENT ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ZAMBIA

ISSUED AND SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

NAME: HONOURABLE DOREEN SEFUKE MWAMBA (MP)

SIGNATURE:

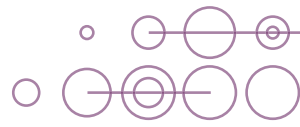
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MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN AT ALL LEVELS...
BY GOVERNMENT...
CHILD PROTECTION...
LEGISLATION...
3. NATIONAL COORDINATION...
AND IMPLEMENTING PERSONS...





NATIONAL STATEMENT ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ZAMBIA

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT ITS COMMITMENT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AS FOLLOWS:

1. AFFIRMS TO ENDING ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

2. IMPLEMENTATION/ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS BY 2025 AND PLEDGES TO PROGRESSIVELY PUT IN PLACE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE MEASURES; AND DOMESTICATE LAWS THAT ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AT ALL LEVELS.

BY 2022 GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO RATIFY THE TWO OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS, ONE ON THE SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND TWO ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT;

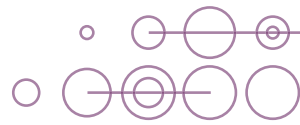
TAKE PROGRESSIVE STEPS TO ENFORCE CHILD FOCUSED LEGISLATION THAT PROHIBIT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CHILD MARRIAGES;

3. NATIONAL COORDINATION: GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN (NCCC) WILL COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS, TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT MEASURES AIMED AT PROTECTING,

SIGNED: 

DATE: 16.12.21





PROMOTING AND UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF ALL CHILDREN IN LINE WITH THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (GA resolution 44/25, 20 November 1989) AND AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN.

COMMITTS TO PROVIDE AND STRENGTHEN PREVENTION, REPORTING AND RESPONDING MECHANISMS UNDER THE NATIONAL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PLAN;

4. POSITIVE PARENTING: BY 2025, DEVELOP POLICY FRAMEWORKS TO SCALE UP PARENTING AND SUPPORT PROGRAMMES, AND ORIENT PARENTS AND FAMILIES IN SELECTED COMMUNITIES IN 116 DISTRICTS, IN POSITIVE PARENTING AND DISCIPLINE PRACTICES AIMED AT STRENGTHENING PARENTS/CAREGIVERS CAPACITIES TO USE THE SKILLS TO CURB VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN;

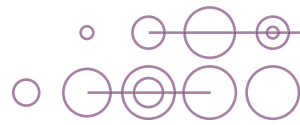
5. SOCIAL ASSISTANCE: THROUGH THE PUBLIC WELFARE ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER, GOVERNMENT COMMITTS TO SCALE UP SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES TO ALL THE 116 DISTRICTS, INCLUDING STRENGTHENING SMALL SCALE GROUPS WITH START-UP CAPITAL/ GRANTS TO STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF FAMILIES TO COUNTERACT NEGATIVE COPING STRATEGIES THAT EXPOSES CHILDREN TO VIOLENCE AND ABUSE;

6. CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION: THE ADVENT NEW NOVEL CORONA VIRUS (COVID 19) HAS INCREASED THE ONLINE USER COMMUNITY, THIS HAS INCREASED ONLINE VIOLENCE.

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DATE: 16.12.21



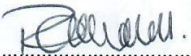


GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO OPERATIONALIZE THE NATIONAL CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION STRATEGY (2020 – 2025) IN ORDER TO MAKE THE INTERNET SAFE FOR CHILDREN;

GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO TRAIN AND BUILD CAPACITIES FOR 200 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS BY 2024 AND PROGRESSIVELY CONTINUE TO DO THIS BY INCLUDING TEACHERS AND DUTY BEARERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN. THESE WILL BE TRAINED IN IDENTIFICATION, REPORTING AND RESPONDING TO ONLINE VIOLENCE;

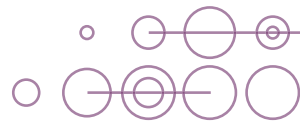
7. RAISE AWARENESS: GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO WORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG CHILDREN, PARENTS/CAREGIVERS AND COMMUNITIES ON ONLINE VIOLENCE AND THEIR ROLE IN MONITORING THE USAGE OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY MATERIALS AMONG CHILDREN. AWARENESS PROGRAMMES WILL BE DONE SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE TRAINING.

GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO DEVELOP, BY 2023 AN AWARENESS PROGRAMME TO ORIENT THE PUBLIC ON LEGISLATION PROVISIONS UNDER THE CYBER SECURITY ACT, 2020, PART IX SECTION 56, 57 AND 58, WHICH ADDRESSES CHILD PROTECTION ONLINE, FOCUSING ON PROHIBITION OF PORNOGRAPHY, CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND CHILD SOLICITATION;

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DEVELOP AN INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY TO RASIE AWARENSS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS;

8. SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT: BY 2025, GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO MAKE SCHOOLS SAFE, NON-VIOLENT AND INCLUSIVE BY DEVELOPING THE SCHOOL CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND ROLLING OUT PROGRESSIVELY TO ALL THE SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY. THIS WILL PROVIDE FOR PROCEDURES AND PRACTICE FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND MECHANISMS FOR REPORTING AND RESPONDING THROUGH MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES SUCH AS STAFF, COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEES, SCHOOL LIAISON UNITS AND CHILDREN'S COUNCILS.

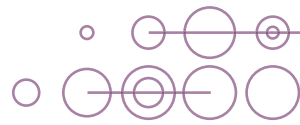
9. CHILD SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT: BY 2026, GOVERNMENT SHALL PROGRESSIVELY INVEST IN CHILD WELL BEING PROGRAMMES FOR ALL BY ENSURING THAT CHILDREN FROM 0-5 HAVE ACCESS TO THE BEST HEALTH AND NUTRITION AND ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. FROM AGES 6-13 ALL CHILDREN WILL HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION THAT IS EQUIPPED WITH WELL TRAINED TEACHERS AND CONDUCTIVE/ACCESSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ENSURES A PROPER TEACHER-PUPIL RATIO.

ALL CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14-18 WILL HAVE ACCESS TO SECONDARY EDUCATION THAT RESPONDS BOTH TO ACADEMIC AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS. FURTHER

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INVESTMENT WILL BE IN POST-SECONDARY ACCESS TO BURSARIES/LOAN SCHEME FOR ALL CHILDREN WHO PURSUE ACADEMIC PATHS. ZAMBIA WILL ENSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN WILL HAVE ACCESS TO PSYCHOSOCIAL FACILITIES THAT ENSURE ADEQUATE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH.

- 10. EVIDENCE-BASED DATA:** GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO PROMOTE RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, AND ENCOURAGE THE SAFE AND ETHICAL COLLECTION OF DATA AND EVIDENCE RELATING TO ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, TO INFORM NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES.

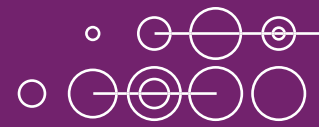
GOVERNMENT RE-AFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENTING AND EMPLOYING THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGREEMENTS, WHICH AIM AT PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND PROMOTING THEIR RIGHTS AND WELLBEING, AND WILL ENSURE THAT NATIONAL POLICIES AND LEGISLATION TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE AGREEMENTS.

December, 2021

SIGNED: 

DATE: 16-12-21





Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe became a pathfinding country in October of 2019. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare of Zimbabwe has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the Leaders Statement.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. Cross-sectoral training on the INSPIRE framework.
2. Review, update and development of a consolidated National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children including dedicated section on Ending Violence Against Children.
3. Advocate for the enactment of the Cyber Security Bill to foster online safety.





Solutions Summit 2020: Zimbabwe update

Post becoming the 27th Pathfinding Country in October 2019, Zimbabwe has moved with speed in the implementation of pathfinding obligations. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare, Mr. Simon Masanga was appointed as the face of prevention of Violence Against Children in Zimbabwe. Through his leadership, the country is progressing in the implementation of the VAC prevention including the INPIRE framework.

Successes

Zimbabwe efforts to realise SDG goal 16.2 on eradication of all forms of violence is progressing. Tangible successes, along the long road, have been realised. Key highlights include;

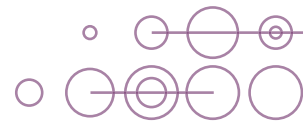
- Ongoing review and alignment of laws with the Zimbabwe's Constitution Section 81- Children's Bill of Rights. Some of the key legislations include review of the Children's Act, the Child Justice Act and the Harmonized Marriages Act.
- Zimbabwe is in the process of reviewing the NAP III and development of a National Action Plan on Ending Violence Against Children. The two plans will be integrated, with dedicated sections on Ending VAC. The plan will heavily draw from the INSPIRE framework.
- Zimbabwe conducted a Qualitative Rapid Assessment of Online Sexual Violence against Women and Children in Zimbabwe. From the findings, Zimbabwe is modelling response strategies along the "We Protect" Model National Response.
- To support sustainable Child Protection funding, Zimbabwe has included child protection in the National Development Strategy 1 (2021-2025). The NDS1 is the channel through which government funds will be channeled for the next five years.
- Zimbabwe was able to adapt service delivery to respond to the COVID-19. Through online reporting using hotlines, safe and reporting mechanisms were maintained during the lockdown. Prevention of Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Children were designated as essential services- thus allowed to continue during the lockdown period.
- Zimbabwe is also pushing with a systems and integrated approach to VAC prevention, with clear linkages being established and supported across key Ministries of Health, Justice, Education and Social Welfare to allow for synchronized prevention and response.

Gaps

Zimbabwe, in spite of successes, still has notable gaps in the prevention of VAC. The main ones include;

- The pace of Harmonization of laws and their alignment with the Constitution has not moved at a fast pace. This impede prompt implementation of some of the protection laws and implementation of rights guaranteed in the Constitution.





- Limited VAC prevention has made it impossible to implement, nationally, some of the INSPIRE strategies. The Global Status report (2020) shows that Zimbabwe has attempted to implement most of the INPIRE strategies, but the coverage is localized.
- The absence of a Volunteer Policy and adequate funding to support the Volunteers, has resulted in volunteer fatigue affecting functionality of the crucial child protection volunteer extension workers.
- Coordinated case management and tracking of referrals across ministries is still low. The absence of inter- connected MIS makes it hard to coordinate actors. Zimbabwe therefore still needs to harness VAC efforts across actors for both improved service delivery and optimum use of the existing resources.

Key priorities

Zimbabwe VAC prevention priorities include;

- Capacitating of the Department of Social Development to deliver on mandate (manpower, vehicles and internet).
- Cross sectoral training on the INSPIRE framework.
- Review, update and development of a consolidated National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children including dedicated section on Ending Violence Against Children.
- Review and update of National Case Management tools.
- Advocate for the enactment of the Cyber Security Bill to foster online safety.
- Capacity Building of communities to understand online violence.
- Building capacity of the Justice, Law and Order Officers to understand online violence, how to investigate and prosecute.
- Prioritize implementation of safe schools' concept.

In 2021, Zimbabwe will ensure that all plans include clear determination of VAC prevention targets in objective and measurable ways. Further the government, working with partners, will ensure that a realistic mapping of service expansion is done towards national coverage of VAC prevention initiatives.





**End Violence
Against Children**

**Together to
#ENDviolence**

Solutions Summit Series

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