

Together to #ENDviolence



Solutions Summit Series

2020-2021



End Violence
Against Children

**Together to
#ENDviolence is a
global campaign and
Solutions Summit
Series to inspire
the end violence
against children
community and
catalyse the political
and financial
commitments
needed to end
violence against
children by 2030.**



Violence against children is universal and affects one billion children a year

That's an epidemic of violence and abuse that undermines all other investments in children, including in their health and education, with long-term consequences for individuals, families and communities. The pre-COVID-19 economic cost of violence against children (VAC) has been estimated at between 2-5 % of GDP¹.

Despite the global scale and national impact of VAC, and the widespread availability of evidence-based solutions such as the **INSPIRE strategies**, political attention is lacking and financial resources are inadequate. As a community, we now need to step-up our collective efforts to make the human and economic case for investment and catalyse the political and financial commitments necessary to get to zero. And, we need to do so in the context of COVID-19.

Together to #ENDviolence is an urgent call to action as we enter the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and consider how to build back safer for children both during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. It is an End Violence Partnership 18-month global campaign, incorporating a virtual Solutions Summit Series. The goal is to elevate the issue of VAC to be a global priority and catalyse the political and financial commitments needed to end VAC at home, online, at school and in communities, and sustain momentum as we move into a phase of accountability and country by country progress.

The campaign and virtual Solutions Summit Series will bring the growing end violence community together for the first time since the Solutions Summit in Sweden in 2018, strengthen existing partnerships and forge new alliances. The collective capabilities, capacities and networks of the End Violence Partnership will join forces to deliver change for children.

Together to #ENDviolence objectives

1. Elevate EVAC as a global priority for COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 policy, planning and financing
2. Showcase cost-effective, evidence-based solutions that can be scaled as governments and societies buildback better and safer for children (eg. INSPIRE and the WePROTECT Model National Response)
3. Secure new political and funding commitments to close the political and financing gap to end all forms of violence against children (SDG 16.2) by 2030

Together to #ENDviolence calls for*:

1. New **political commitments** to prioritize EVAC during COVID-19 and in post-COVID-19 policy and plans to build back better and safer for children
2. A significant increase in global and national **financial investments** to EVAC at home, online, at school and in communities
3. **Inclusivity and collaboration** within government, across all sectors and with children themselves to scale up and implement evidence-based solutions and action plans

These broad global policy calls will be contextualised by EVAC communities at the national and city level and/or by communities and networks championing various forms of violence or violence that happens in a particular setting (at home, online or at school). These communities will determine what specific laws, policies and investments are necessary and realistic in their country or city.

**Note: These policy calls will be finessed by a policy working group*

¹ Perezniето, P., Montes, A., Routier, S. & Langston, L. The costs and economic impact of violence against children. <https://www.odi.org/publications/8845-costs-and-economic-impact-violence-against-children> (Overseas Development Institute, 2014).

Securing political and financial commitments

Together to #ENDviolence will galvanise collective action to secure political and financial commitments at a Leaders' Event in the second half of 2021. This will be achieved through the development and dissemination of policy and communications assets to make the case for ending violence, along with coordinated high-level diplomacy and advocacy. The virtual Solutions Summit Series will be implemented in three phases, providing key moments to support the broader campaign objectives.

The campaign will build on the heightened awareness of violence against children during COVID-19 and the recommendations of the WHO's 2020 Global Status Report on preventing violence against children 2020 to rally partners behind a set of key messages and advocacy opportunities to support global action and alignment. At the same time, the campaign will equip partners and national coalitions to lead affiliated Solutions Summit initiatives and events and policy dialogues on implementing the Global Status Report recommendations and amplify these for regional and global impact. These events will provide a drumbeat of national and thematic events calling for commitments and encouraging leaders to respond at the Leaders' Event in the second half of 2021.

Together to #ENDviolence Global Campaign

Phase I: Public launch to raise awareness and galvanise partners
Q4 2020

Phase II: Affiliate initiatives and events to build momentum and showcase solutions; Policy dialogues on implementation of Global Status Report recommendations
Q1 - Q3 2021

Phase III: Leaders' Event to secure political and financial commitments
Q3 or Q4 2021

Underpinned throughout by:

Policy and communications assets to raise awareness, make the case and inspire action

Advocacy to secure political and financial commitments

Whole of Partnership ownership & participation



Guiding Principles

- Collaborative Whole of Partnership effort
- Affiliated model with overarching brand and aligned global policy, messaging, communications assets and external engagement
- Narrative and storytelling approach to highlight the need, solutions and progress to feed into calls for political and funding commitments
- Meaningful child and youth participation

What success looks like

High-level outcomes

- Significant new political and financial commitments secured and announced
- EVAC community re-energised, inspired and equipped to deliver SDG 16.2
- Generation of a more diverse set of partners to support and help deliver SDG 16.2

Key outputs

- Strong media coverage and social media penetration
- Large number of national and regional affiliated initiatives and events that inform and shape the Leaders' Event
- High-level speakers secured (heads of state, UNSG, senior ministers, etc.)

How to get involved and support

There are many ways for individuals and partner organisations to shape and participate in the campaign and virtual Solutions Summit Series, such as:

- Join a workstream on policy and advocacy, communications, fundraising, child and youth participation or events
- Lead or co-lead a national, regional or global affiliate initiative and event
- Share solutions, case studies, human interest stories, evidence and reports
- Disseminate policy and communications assets and participate in social media campaigns



The need for Together to #ENDviolence

Ending violence against children (EVAC) is already grossly underfunded, and COVID-19 risks making that situation worse.



Official Development Assistance (ODA) targeted to ending violence against children remains extremely low. The benchmarking report *Counting Pennies* estimated that in 2015, US\$238 million was spent on projects that fully address violence against children — just over 0.1% of total gross ODA. A further US\$837 million — 0.5% of total gross ODA — went to projects that partially addressed violence against children alongside other issues.



National budgets to end violence against children are also underfunded. The Global Status Report found that whilst 80% of countries have national plans of action and policies to eradicate child violence, just one-fifth have fully funded these plans or have measurable targets.



Private Sector: Whilst the investment case for business engagement is yet to be made persuasively, the private sector has a critical role in ending violence against children and will be important stakeholders. From strengthening collective advocacy, leveraging capabilities, reach, consumer connections and influence; providing evidence, data and insights to inform policy; and providing catalytic and innovative investments.

COVID-19 has put new **strains on the global economy** and has sharply reduced government taxes and other revenues, and large-scale investments to address the health impact of the pandemic and rebuild economies are placing pressure on national budgets and on the priorities of international donors, further jeopardising the already limited investments in ending violence against children.

Building back better during and beyond COVID-19 must include building back safer for children

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to set back global advances in protecting children from physical, sexual and psychological violence. Efforts necessary to contain the virus are exposing children to increased risks of violence – including maltreatment, gender-based violence and sexual exploitation. UNICEF estimates that more than one billion children are at risk — especially the most vulnerable children, including girls.



At home: Movement restrictions, loss of income, isolation, overcrowding and high levels of stress and anxiety are increasing the likelihood that children experience and observe physical, psychological and sexual abuse at home – particularly those children already living in violent or dysfunctional family situations.



Online: Whilst online communities have become central to maintaining many children's learning, support and play, they are also increasing their exposure to cyberbullying, risky online behavior and sexual exploitation. According to the latest Europol Report, child sexual abuse online in the European Union has increased sharply and has become one of the top cybercrime threats as a result of the lockdown measures put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.



In and through schools: 91% of the world's students have been affected by school closures due to COVID-19, cutting them off from a critical entry point to prevent and respond to violence. Many children, especially girls, will never re-enter the classroom, placing them at heightened risk of violence, including child marriage and adolescent pregnancies. Violence prevention and the provision of safe learning environments was a priority before COVID-19, and it must remain a focus in efforts to reopen schools safely.



Within the community: The most vulnerable children – including refugees, migrants, and children who are internally displaced, deprived of liberty, living without parental care, living on the street and in urban slums, with disabilities, and living in conflict-affected areas – are a particular concern. For many, growing economic vulnerability will increase the threat of child labour, child marriage and child trafficking.

In recent years, the global community has made significant progress in protecting children from violence. Urgent action is needed to protect these gains and prevent the creation of a lost generation of children. We must ensure that basic children’s services are sustained and that investment in those services, including child protection, continues during COVID-19, and is substantially increased over time so that the political will and financial investments are proportional to the scale and impact of the problem.

The good news is that there is a growing movement of organisations and individuals working together to realise a shared vision to end all forms of violence. And they are resolute in their belief that ending violence against children is right because every child matters and behind every statistic is a human story of a child. A belief that it is possible, because we know the evidence-based solutions that work, and a belief that it is a smart investment to make because violence against children happens at epidemic scale and undermines all other investments made in children.

Together, we have a moral imperative to honor our commitments to children, to preserve and build on the recent gains and do what is urgently needed to achieve SDG 16.2 by 2030.

Steering Committee

With active participation from their organisations and networks, the campaign and Solutions Summit Series is being guided and supported by a Steering Committee of Senior Leaders from the following Organisations:



Key partners



About End Violence

End Violence is a public-private partnership launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2016 to catalyse, support and invest in action to accelerate progress towards SDG 16.2: ending all forms of violence against children by 2030.

In four years, End Violence has grown to over 450 partners including governments, civil society organisations, UN agencies, private corporations and research institutions, and acts as a global platform for advocacy, evidence-based action, and investments to end all forms of violence against children.

Appendix

The Together to #ENDviolence approach

Whole of Partnership ownership and participation

- Mobilise governance and partner organisations to actively participate
- Strengthen collaboration and bring the wider EVAC community together

Policy and communications assets to make the case and inspire action

- Develop policy papers and key messages to inform advocacy and make the investment case
- Showcase cost-effective, evidence-based solutions
- Create compelling communications assets to increase awareness of the issue and inspire action

Advocacy to secure political and financial commitments

- Engage a diverse set of high-level advocates and spokespeople to champion the issue
- Undertake private diplomacy and briefings with governments, corporations, foundations and multi-lateral mechanisms to encourage political and financial commitments at the Leaders' Event

Public launch event to raise awareness and galvanise partners

- Hold a virtual high-level event to launch the campaign and virtual Summit Series and begin making the case for political and funding commitments
- This event will be hosted by End Violence governance organisations and Pathfinding governments

Affiliated Initiatives and Events to build momentum and showcase solutions

- Equip End Violence partners and the broader community to design and deliver branded pre-Summit virtual events and policy dialogues, prioritising national events and policy dialogues on the implementation of the Global Status Report
- Showcase evidence-based solutions, advocate for financial commitments and generate content for the campaign and Leaders' Event

Leaders' Event to secure political and financial commitments

- High-level virtual pledging event where governments, multilaterals, foundations, civil society and the private sector announce significant new political and financial commitments to close the financing gap in ODA for VAC and position the movement to achieve SDG 16.2.

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