

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

**Concept note for  
Pathfinding countries**

**Together to  
#ENDviolence**  
  
Solutions Summit Series

## 1. Introduction

One billion children in the world – one out of two – are exposed to violence, with some experiencing multiple forms of violence and intergenerational impacts. Recognizing the imperative to end violence against children, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) include Target 16.2 on ending all forms of violence against children, and other targets that cover reducing deaths due to all forms of violence, ending violence against girls, and ensuring safe, non-violent educational settings.

In 2016, the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children (hereafter End Violence) was launched. The country “pathfinding” model is at the center of its strategy. Country “pathfinding” aims to stimulate leadership and enable increased multisectoral action through formal Government commitment to comprehensive action to end violence against children.

The launch of the **INSPIRE<sup>1</sup> technical package** was a pivotal moment in the global discourse on prevention and responding to violence against children, developed by key UN agencies and partners to assist countries in scaling up evidence-based policies, laws and interventions to prevent and respond to violence against children. It is intended to help countries achieve SDG Target 16.2 to end all forms of violence against children. The core document says what needs to be done, the handbook explains how to do it, and the indicator framework provides uptake and impact measures.

In June 2020, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, the SRSB and End Violence launched the *Global status report on preventing violence against children 2020* (the Global Status Report). Over 1000 decisionmakers from 155 countries assessed their violence prevention status against the evidence-based approaches set out in INSPIRE. Government officials from all countries acknowledge the need to scale up their efforts. While around 56% of countries reported providing some national support for implementing the INSPIRE prevention and response approaches, just 25% considered this support as sufficient to reach all who need them. The report concludes with recommendations for boosting INSPIRE implementation efforts and accelerating national progress.



<sup>1</sup> Each letter of the word INSPIRE stands for a strategy: **I**mplementation and enforcement of laws; **N**orms and values; **S**afe environments; **P**arent and caregiver support; **I**ncome and economic strengthening; **R**esponse and support services; and **E**ducation and life skills.

## 2. Goals

The proposed national policy dialogues are conceived as the premiere in-country contributions to the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit Series. Senior Government focal points in all Pathfinder countries are invited to convene these policy dialogues.

The goals are twofold:

1. To achieve consensus amongst national stakeholders on key areas of progress, main gaps and priorities in scaling up evidence-based strategies to end violence against children, as informed by the Global Status Report.
  - The main outcome of this session would be the identification of key actions necessary from sectoral bodies to scale up priority programmes in line with National Action Plans and INSPIRE.
2. To contribute to a statement of progress and proposed new national commitments to ending violence against children through Pathfinding.
  - The main outcome of this session would be recommendations towards a draft statement (maximum 750 words) that sets out the progress in ending violence against children since the country became a Pathfinder and propose new commitments moving forward.
  - It is expected that this statement would be signed off at Ministerial level and included as an official Government submission to the Solutions Summit Series. It would also provide an opportunity for Pathfinder Governments to include any new political or financial commitments.

## 3. Suggested modalities

The policy dialogues are convened by the senior Government focal point and involve members of the national stakeholder platform to end violence against children.

The senior Government focal point will establish the list of participants. It is recommended that participation is inclusive of those stakeholders that may not have been central to efforts to end violence against children, but have an important role to play. These include representatives from education, health, justice, social welfare, interior, finance and selected non-government partners from the multiple sectors relevant to INSPIRE implementation.

The dialogues could take place through virtual or in-person events, depending on the preference in each country. The total time needed is estimated at six hours, plus the time required for preparation and follow-up. This could take place over two days in the case of virtual events, or in one day for in-country events.

The End Violence secretariat, UNICEF and WHO are available to provide support to these workshops.

All COVID-19 protocols would be followed for the events based on the country's rules and regulations.

## 4. Example Programme

### 1. Opening Session (30 minutes)

- Welcome
- Briefing on Solutions Summit Series
- Introduction of participants, review of agenda

## 2. Global Status Report (2.5 hours)

- Overview of Global Status Report
- Review of Global Status Report Country Profile
- Round table discussion with Ministries/sectoral representatives
- Discussion to agree on main achievements, gaps and priorities

## 3. Country Pathfinding Achievements and next steps (2.5 hours)

- Overview of pathfinding process and global dashboard
- Report on progress to date
- Round table reflections on next steps on Pathfinding
- Agreement on key recommendations on next steps



## 5. Reporting

The policy dialogues are expected to result in two written outputs:

- From Session 2, a short report that highlights the priorities that have emerged from the review of the Global Status Report, indicating the sectoral body that will take forward implementation of that priority
- From Session 3, recommendations for the Country Pathfinding Statement that will be submitted to the lead Minister

## 6. The Country Pathfinding Statement

Pathfinder Governments are invited to submit a brief Pathfinding Statement (maximum 750 words). This Statement will be informed by the outputs of the policy dialogue. The Statement will summarize key national achievements towards ending violence against children since becoming a Pathfinder; and set out any new political or financial commitments. The Statement will be submitted at Ministerial level by the national Government, and figure prominently on the Solutions Summit Series website.

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