

+ CSO FORUM EVAC

Report out from the High-level Political Forum 2019

CSO Forum Advocacy Asks – page 4



+ *In Pathfinding countries, CSO coalitions are contributing and engaging with governments and other partners in the development of national action plans and strategies to end violence against children.*

Daniela Buzducea

Promoting SDG 16.2 at the HLPF

The annual High-level Political Forum (HLPF) is the main space for follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. Each year, a number of Goals are selected for in-depth review and governments can volunteer to present reports on national progress towards implementation of the SDGs as a whole, referred to as Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

The HLPF 2019 was held from 9-18 July at the UN in New York, and featured the first in-depth review of SDG 16: *Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions*

at all levels. This included SDG 16.2: *End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.*

This report offers a brief summary of the activities of the CSO Forum and its members leading up to, during and following the HLPF 2019. Results include the convening of 15 CSO member organizations, issuing a CSO call to action, contributing to the global thematic report, presenting at two UN events, and joint advocacy to end violence against children.

Pictured above: Daniela Buzducea, Vice President, World Vision International, calls for greater collaboration at the UN SRSG VAC event; and Anna Henry, CEO, Global Initiative to End Corporal Punishment speaks at the Safe to Learn Leaders event at the HLPF 2019.



“Nothing about us without us!” - Child Participant

CSOs ensured children participated in events and met directly with leaders, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children – pictured [here](#) with delegates from ChildFund Alliance.

*“children expressed the top concerns for their communities in Mongolia, Lesotho and Indonesia, which included violence affecting **children on the move, child marriage, bullying, and the devastating effects of climate change**”*

- UN Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence Against Children event [report](#)

Preparations for the HLPF

Leading up to the HLPF, the CSO Forum convened CSO members, and produced a 2019 VNRs [CSO Call to Action, 6 Advocacy Asks](#) (page 4), and submitted a [Chapter Contribution to the Global Thematic Report](#) to the Office of the Secretary General on Violence against Children.

Global Advocacy at the HLPF

CSO Forum Members raised the Advocacy Asks, organized a face-to-face meeting with 9 members, and spoke on

behalf of the Forum at two major events. Member organizations also participated in the End Violence Board Meeting: Arigatou, ISPCAN and World Council of Churches.

Events

Representatives of the CSO Forum spoke as panelists at the End Violence Safe to Learn Leaders Event, and at the event of the Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, *Putting Children at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda* (15-16 July).

Child Participation

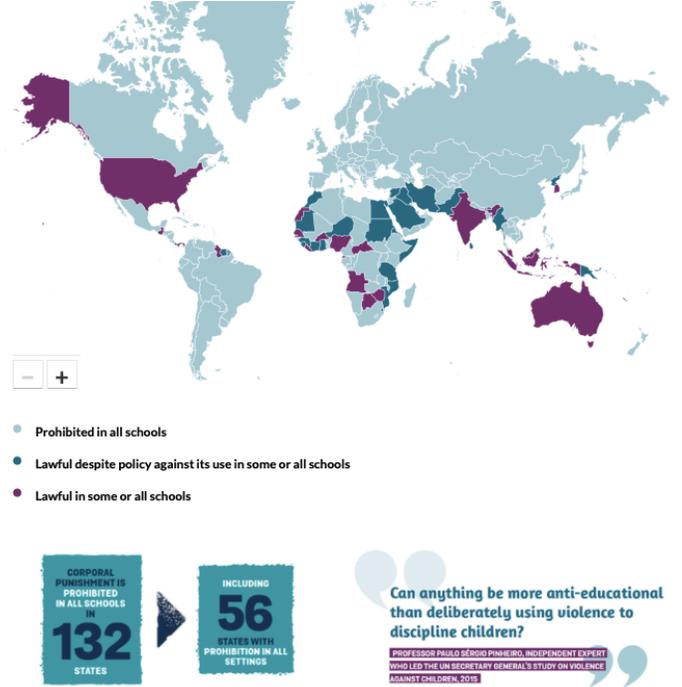
Civil society organizations included children as part of their official delegations for the HLPF 2019 to ensure their voices were heard at the highest levels of decision making and active at the HLPF events and side-events: ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children (in partnership with MMI – Latin America regional civil society coalition on EVAC), and World Vision. Together, they ensured the voices of children from Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Paraguay, South Korea, Uganda were included.



CSO Forum EVAC Statements from the following HLPF 2019 events:

Read Anna Henry’s statement at the End Violence Safe to Learn Leaders event [here](#).

Read Daniela Buzducea’s statement from the SRSVAC event, *Putting Children at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda*, [here](#).



Left: a regional look at VAC from the Pacific brought partners together for more in-depth engagement to end violence; Above: GIECP launches global report on corporal punishment prohibition in schools; Below: The CSO Forum call to action on the Voluntary National Reviews.



Documenting Progress

CSOs report on EVAC

Research and Reports

- Teaching without violence: prohibiting corporal punishment**, a new summary of global progress to end corporal punishment in schools launched on 15 July by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment. Available at: <https://endcorporalpunishment.org/schools-briefing-launched-2019/>
- Ending Violence Against Children in the Pacific and Timor-Leste**, a report from the Australian CSO Coalition on EVAC (ChildFund Australia, Plan International Australia, Save the Children Australia, World Vision Australia) was launched on 12 July. CSO Forum member Leila Asrari joined the HLPF event panel. The report is available online at: <https://childfundalliance.org/resources/publications/2951-unseen-unsafe-the-underinvestment-in-ending-violence-against-children-in-the-pacific-and-timor-leste>

- Building Momentum: A Call for Action to End Violence against Children** (ChildFund Alliance). Report, video and photos from the launch event available at: <https://childfundalliance.org/resources/publications/2938-building-momentum-a-call-for-action-to-end-violence-against-children>
- Small Cracks, Big Gaps: How governments allow violence against children to persist**. Full report from World Vision, with legislation data and recommendations, is available at: <https://www.wvi.org/publications/report/it-takes-world/small-cracks-big-gaps>
- A Second Revolution: Thirty Years of Child Rights and the Unfinished Agenda**, was launched by the Joining Forces coalition (ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, Terre des Hommes, World Vision) in advance of the HLPF, and is available at: <https://childfundalliance.org/news-and-views/in-the-news/469-joining-forces-child-rights-now>

CSO Forum to End Violence against Children February 2019

How Civil Society can advance Ending Violence against Children in the Voluntary National Reviews

CSOs have a key role to play in the VNRs in defining progress and challenges to achieving the SDGs

Ending violence against children (SDG 16.2) is included in the in-depth thematic review for the first time in the 2019 HLPF

Take action! Engage in the VNRs to advocate for better reporting on ending violence against children

The annual High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the main space for follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. Each year, a number of Goals are selected for in-depth review and governments can volunteer to present reports on national progress towards implementation of the SDGs as a whole, referred to as Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

The HLPF 2019 will take place from 9-18 July at the UN in New York, and is the first year to include an in-depth review of SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Call to Action!

National and local CSOs working together can actively engage with governments in the VNR process to promote reporting on SDG 16.2 and related Goals and Targets to end violence against children:

- 16.2 - End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
- 4.a - provide safe, inclusive, non-violent and effective learning environments for all.
- 5.2 - eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- 5.3 - eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- 8.7 - secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms.
- 16.8 - By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

Countries presenting VNRs in 2019

51 countries will present Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) including:

8 Pathfinding Countries of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children: **Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, South Africa and Tanzania**

Country in discussion to become Pathfinding: **Cambodia**

Keeping the Promise: Ending Violence Against Children by 2030



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Government Commitments

The event of the SRSV VAC was co-organized with the Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations and co-sponsored by the **Chile, Croatia, Indonesia, Morocco, Portugal and Timor-Leste.**

The Safe to Learn Leaders event was co-organized with the Mission of **Mexico.** In addition, the following governments made commitments at the Safe to Learn Leaders Event: **Ghana, Indonesia, Mexico, Oman and the United Kingdom.**

To date, 11 governments have endorsed the five-point Call to Action, including **Cambodia, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, Mexico, Moldova, Nepal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan and Uganda.**

CSO members such as [World Vision](#) reviewed governments' Voluntary National Reviews main messages, and their reports on progress achieved to end violence against children in Sustainable Development Goal 16.2, as well as related goals and targets. The number of countries including references to children and reporting specifically on violence against children increased, due in part to the sustained advocacy at the national level to report on this year's thematic review. Still, only 10% of countries reporting included specific reference to ending violence against children or child protection. Insufficient information on the implementation of national plans of action, lack of disaggregated data, and lack of inclusion of civil society and children in the voluntary reviews

continues. Beyond event panels, the participation of children must be planned and budgeted for across sectors to ensure inclusive and meaningful participation of children at the national, regional and global levels.

Advocacy Asks to Accelerate SDG 16.2

1. Prohibit all forms of violence in all settings: Governments should prohibit all forms of violence in all settings and against all children and ensure that their national legislation is aligned with the international human rights standards.

2. Invest in what works to prevent violence: Scale up existing solutions such as INSPIRE strategies by integrating them into government strategies and plans which address violence against children and by providing clear policy guidance for scaling up interventions, including the selection of priorities and implementation modalities. Evidence based solutions should be delivered through strong child protection systems, guided by policy solutions that mobilize multi-sectoral responses, and backed by investments that enable their application at scale necessary to reduce prevalence of violence among children.

3. Increase funding to end violence against children: Governments must ensure child-centred budgets and allocate adequate funding in legal and child protection systems, as well as infrastructure to collect and share data on violence against children.

4. Strengthen accountability mechanisms for commitments made to end violence against children, especially through the SDGs, and the international human rights instruments.

5. Listen to and involve children: Governments, international agencies and partners must formalize and fund processes to ensure meaningful and active inclusion of children in ending violence against children.

6. Leave no one behind: Efforts to end violence against children need to be inclusive, age and gender-responsive approaches and must reflect the needs of the most vulnerable children who are living in extreme poverty, LGBTQI,



Children have told us repeatedly that they do not feel safe in schools. It is time to listen and it is time to act.

Anna Henry,
GIECP

especially children on the move or in humanitarian crises.

Looking Ahead

The CSO Forum EVAC recommends building on the successes and learning from the challenges presented at the HLPF 2019 by taking the following actions forward:

- Ensure meaningful participation of children at the global level, including the UNGA 2019 Heads of State High-Level Week, 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Solutions Summit 2020.
- Promote accountability at the national level, including through multi-stakeholder mechanisms.
- Learn from national and regional CSO collective actions to end violence.
- Confirm CSOs are able to participate meaningfully in national reviews and global dialogues.
- Align key messages across partners and key stakeholders to speak clearly and loudly as a movement to end violence against children.



Contact us

Share how CSOs in your country are working together to advance SDG 16.2.
Email us at: csoforumevac@gmail.com
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