

Agenda 2030 for Children: End Violence Solutions Summit

14-15 February 2018 | Stockholm, Sweden

PROCLAMATION

“No violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable.”

– 2006 UN Secretary General’s Study on Violence Against Children

As partners from all sectors of society and all parts of the world, we have gathered here in Stockholm to share and advance our work to end violence against children. At the heart of this work are rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and renewed global commitments of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. In target 16.2 and associated targets of Agenda 2030 all countries commit to end all forms of violence against children by the year 2030. The right to grow up free from violence has been placed at the centre of our political agenda.

We have listened to the voices of the children as equal members of our society. We have been moved by their power, vision and demands of us, the adult world, to act and do more. They and we know there are solutions. These solutions are achievable, evidence-based and highly cost-effective. There is no excuse not to act.

Violence affects hundreds of millions of children, girls and boys, every year, but its impacts are largely ignored. Every five minutes a child dies from violence, while many more suffer physical and psychological harm. The damage is long lasting.

The Summit aimed to inspire a global, national and local movement to protect children from violence. We have focused on finding and promoting ways to increase collaboration across sectors. We have recognized the complex and interdependent causes of violence against both women and children. We have cast a light on the role of boys and men in shaping a non-violent future for all children.

We recognize that it is never too late to help a child who has been hurt by violence – and that responding to the needs of survivors of violence is central to any prevention strategy. We must redouble efforts to protect children online, address violence in their every-day lives, and prevent violence against those and escaping facing conflict and crisis.

This Summit underscores the importance of shifting our focus towards prevention. The more we prevent violence, the less we must respond to. Solutions presented at this Summit point to an emerging consensus that we need a systematic holistic approach well defined in INSPIRE, the seven strategies that together provide a framework for ending violence against children. Implementation and enforcement of laws, Norms and values, Safe environments, Parent and caregiver support, Income and economic strengthening, Response and support services, Education and life skills. INSPIRE and the Model National Response, developed by the WePROTECT Global Alliance, work hand in hand – they are part of a larger vision to end all forms of violence against children.

The Summit has celebrated the commitment of pathfinder countries whose leadership is at the core of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. It is important that they continue to demonstrate significant, sustained and measurable reductions in violence. We call on more countries to become pathfinders, learn from each other's successes and hold each other accountable for delivering results that change children's lives.

We now return to our home countries with five overarching conclusions. Building on children's rightful demands, the global community needs to:

1. Demonstrate leadership at the most senior levels of governments, international organizations, civil society, faith groups, and the private sector to take action, engage more countries to join the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children as pathfinders and improve cooperation and coordination between different actors and policy areas
2. Increase knowledge on how to prevent, detect and treat violence against children, girls and boys, and accelerate implementation of evidence-based strategies to end violence against children. INSPIRE strategies is a guide.
3. Develop and share solutions and best practices to defend the safety, integrity and dignity of every child, in every setting, including in the cyberspace.
4. Invest more resources to prevent and respond to violence, from all relevant sources (national budgets, development cooperation, etc.) including through the Fund to End Violence Against Children as a vehicle to support solutions and innovation.
5. Place all children – and especially those most vulnerable at the centre of Agenda 2030 and its progress review at the High-level Political Forum in 2019. There Heads of State and Government will meet for the first time to review progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Let them make the children of the world a priority.

We express our heartfelt thanks to the government of Sweden the municipality of Stockholm for warmly and efficiently hosting this historic Summit. This event will be remembered as the first bi-annual gathering of children, leaders and experts who together will put an end to a global epidemic of violence; a massive undertaking but a very achievable one – an undertaking of the kind rewarded and celebrated in this city.



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