

# STAND UP! FOR CHILDREN IN WAR

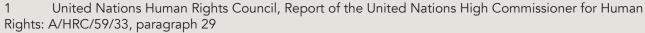
Mobilizing Communities for Consciousness, Hope, and Ethical Responses

# INTRODUCTION

In September 2025, on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, Arigatou International and 32 partner institutions—including OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, the Offices of the SRSG on Violence against Children and on Children and Armed Conflict, and various civil society and faith-based organizations—convened the global mobilization "Stand Up for Children in War." This narrative report details the results and impact of this campaign, launched as a response to the profound moral and ethical crisis facing our world today due to an unprecedented rise in armed conflicts.

In 2024, over 473 million children lived in conflict zones, facing severe and ongoing violations of their rights, including their rights to life, physical integrity, family life, and education, resulting in lasting physical and psychological consequences on those children and undermining prospects for peace and reconciliation.<sup>1</sup>

The total number of children displaced by armed conflict and violence rose to 48.8 million by the end of 2024, with large populations of children driven from home in places around the world.<sup>2</sup> In 2024, the United Nations verified 41,370 grave violations against children — the highest number since the inception of the Children and Armed Conflict mandate almost 30 years ago. This represents a 25% increase compared to 2023 and the third consecutive year of devastating figures. While non-State armed groups were responsible for almost 50 per cent of



<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, Child Displacement, UNICEF Data, last updated July 2025, https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-migration-and-displacement/displacement/



There is no region of the United Nations which is not affected by armed confict. This underscores the urgent need for collective action to protect the rights and futures of young lives (...) This is not a choice, this is an obligation."



Dr. Sophie Kiladze, Chairperson, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Full message available <u>here</u>

grave violations, government forces were the main perpetrators of the killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the denial of humanitarian access.<sup>3</sup>

The protection of children in armed conflict has been severely eroded by indiscriminate attacks, deepening humanitarian crises, and the failure of all parties to uphold the special protection children are entitled to under international law.

Drawing on evidence-based childhood development science, in June 2025, the Early Childhood Peace Consortium released an urgent appeal, "Stop the War on Children NOW!", calling global attention to an unfolding crisis in which unprecedented violence is targeting the youngest and most vulnerable. The appeal highlights how exposure to war during the critical first 1,000 days (conception to age two) and the second 1,000 days (ages 2–5) causes toxic stress that can permanently alter brain development—and even be transmitted epigenetically across generations. The appeal outlines a four-point strategic action plan: steadfast advocacy to make children's protection a global priority; amplifying children and family voices; safeguarding caregivers as central protectors; and ensuring that ECD interventions remain lifesaving cornerstones of humanitarian response.<sup>4</sup>

In the light of all this, the "Stand Up for Children in War" campaign aimed to:

- Raise global consciousness about the devastating impact of war and violence on children.
- Mobilize religious and spiritual communities worldwide to hold prayers, meditations, and ceremonies for peace and the protection of children
- Encourage religious institutions to organize discussions among religious leaders of various faith traditions to speak up jointly on the impact of war on children and call on their governments to ensure their protection and well-being, and find a peaceful resolution to conflicts.
- Encourage families and individuals, regardless of religious background, to meditate, recite a prayer, or message of hope for peace. Everyone can play a role in building Peace.
- Ignite and sustain hope by showing that collective spiritual solidarity, ethical commitment, and compassion can help transform despair into meaningful action for peace.

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Stand up for children in war is more urgent than ever (...) Children pay the highest price in wars they never chose. This inmense suffering of children is our collective failure."



**Dr. Najat Maalla,** SRSG on VAC and Acting SRSG on CAAC

Full message available <u>here</u>

<sup>3</sup> United Nations. Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General. A/79/878–S/2025/247. 17 June 2025. https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\_doc.asp?symbol=A/79/878

<sup>4</sup> Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC). Urgent Appeal: "Stop the War on Children NOW!". Press release, 16 June 2025 (updated 7 July 2025). Early Childhood Peace Consortium.

- Amplify children's voices and actions, enabling them to share prayers, messages, projects, and appeals for peace with community leaders and world leaders.
- Convene an international moment of consciousness, hope, and solidarity in Geneva, bringing together religious leaders, UN officials, civil society, and children to unite in spiritual reflection and commitment to peace.

The mobilization generated significant action across multiple levels. The response from countless voices—from high-level diplomatic advocacy to broad grassroots mobilization—reinformed a shared commitment to uphold children's rights and protect them from war. The campaign also underscored the transformative role of religious leaders to bring communities together in solidarity for children.



Photo: Messages of peace from students from Mont Fleuri Secondary School, in Seychelles, in response to this campaign

# **JOINT STATEMENT**

A key result of the mobilization was the joint Statement "Stand Up for Children in War." This appeal, elaborated through collaborative efforts, demands urgent protection of children trapped in conflict zones. The statement was endorsed by nearly 200 organizations worldwide, as well as five United Nations bodies and mechanisms and eight former members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The statement issued a clear set of requests to governments and religious leaders globally:

- Declare an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in all conflict zones.
- Uphold international law to protect children from violence and ensure their right to safety, education, and health.
- Safeguard humanitarian corridors and defend schools, hospitals, and sacred spaces.
- Strengthen accountability and end impunity for grave violations against children.
- Use their moral and spiritual voice to raise consciousness, challenge the normalization of violence, and mobilize communities for peace.
- Create safe spaces for children's voices and collaborate across faiths, governments, and civil society to provide coordinated responses.

The statement ultimately called for transforming commitments into concrete actions, stressing that behind every statistic is a child robbed of their future. The Statement and its list of endorsements stand as enduring evidence of the unified moral call of the campaign: choosing conscience over indifference, hope over despair, and ethical action over silence.

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Civil society, academic, and UN organizations have endorsed the statement, along with eight former members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.



# **CAMPAIGN MAIN EVENTS**

# High-level Meeting on the Ethical Imperative to Protect Children

Geneva, Switzerland September 22, 2025

Around 70 people, including at least 20 representatives of permanent missions of different states and several ambassadors, came together on September 22, 2025, at the UNHCR headquarters in Geneva for the high-level meeting organized as part of the campaign under the title "Calling for the Ethical Imperative to Stand Up for Children in War."

The event was co-organized by Arigatou International, Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva, the Sovereign Order of Malta to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Latter-day Saint Charities, the World Council of Churches, and the Lutheran World Federation, in collaboration with other partners.

Aiming to advocate for the protection of children affected by armed conflict and calling for an immediate end to all wars, the high-level event was a crucial platform for an interfaith and intergovernmental appeal to upholding Human Rights and Humanitarian Laws to protect children. The dialogue



opened with a sobering look at the current situation, with grave violations of children's rights rising to alarming levels. The dialogue continued with a joint reflection on means of ensuring compliance with the moral, ethical, and legal obligations to prevent and address these violations and act decisively to protect children.

Reflecting a broad coalition committed to protecting children in conflict, the high-level meeting brought together diverse speakers, including United Nations officials; representatives of the permanent missions from Afghanistan, Colombia, Norway, and Slovenia; leaders of faith-based organizations; and children who shared their voices from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Japan, Jordan, Palestine, and Sudan. "We children want to see actions, not just words. The first thing I want from them [world leaders] is to stop the war immediately," sharply pointed out Rakan, from Palestine, a sentiment strongly shared by all participants. As Ambassador Tormod Endresen of Norway affirmed: "This is a fight we will not give up."

The session concluded with the official delivery of the joint Statement "Stand Up for Children in War".





To read more about this event

## **Special Discussion on Moral Courage in Times of Crisis**

### New York, United States September 22, 2025

On the occasion of the International Day of Peace, UNICEF's Faith Leadership Circle convened a roundtable in the framework of the UN General Assembly under the theme "Moral Courage in a Time of Crisis for Children."

Bringing together faith leaders, humanitarian actors, and advocacy partners, the discussion explored the moral and ethical dimensions of today's global emergencies—from Gaza and Sudan to Ukraine, Haiti, Myanmar, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo—where children continue to bear the heaviest toll of conflict and displacement. Participants reflected on how moral courage translates into principled action for children's protection amid rising humanitarian needs and shrinking civic space.

Mrs. Ornella Barros, Head of Global Advocacy and Coordinator of Prayer and Action for Children from Arigatou International, presented the Stand Up for Children in War Campaign, emphasizing its call for collective conscience and interfaith solidarity. She highlighted the urgent moral responsibility shared by faith communities to safeguard children's dignity and rights in times of war. The campaign's Joint Statement was spotlighted as a growing commitment of faith-based and secular partners standing together to uphold children's right to life, protection, and peace.

The discussion concluded with a renewed commitment to deepen collaboration between UNICEF and faith-inspired organizations in amplifying moral leadership for children, building on shared values of justice, dignity, and hope. Following the event, UNICEF shared with participants the Campaign links and materials and invited partners to mobilize moral courage through concrete collaboration, advocacy, and spiritual solidarity for children.



# **Interfaith Dialogue and Prayer** for Children in War

# **Geneva, Switzerland September 23, 2025**

Aiming at creating an opportunity for deep reflection and solidarity, the campaign included an interfaith dialogue and prayer that took place in Geneva on September 23, 2025.

The event gathered approximately 30 participants from diverse traditions, including Islam, Christianity, and the Baha'i community, who engaged in dialogue to reaffirm the shared moral commitment all faiths have to their sacred duty to protect children.

Participants reflected on the long-lasting consequences of war on children's identity, sense of worth, and hope for the future. They emphasized the urgency of creating safe environments, fostering peace education, and well-being so that children can develop fully and flourish. Education was highlighted as a powerful preventative tool, whether through schools, families, faith communities, or media, to empower children to understand their value and become part of something bigger than themselves.

The event concluded with a moving interfaith prayer for peace and the protection of children, strengthening the collective resolve to break cycles of hate and promote solidarity, empathy, forgiveness, and reconciliation.





To read more about this event

## **Global Gathering for Collective Solidarity**

### Online September 24, 2025

An essential moment for collective reflection and demonstration of global solidarity was the online global gathering held on September 24. The event brought together around 180 participants across the world to inspire hope and call for concrete action to protect children affected by conflict.

The gathering featured compelling interventions from advocates, faith leaders, children, and survivors who shared firsthand accounts of the devastating impact of conflict.

Testimonies shed light on the children's reality in Haiti, Venezuela, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gaza, Myanmar, Ukraine, and beyond. Speakers emphasized that children must not only be protected but also empowered: to heal, to express themselves, and to be recognized as agents of peace. Faith voices reminded: children are not collateral, they are sacred. Silence is complicity. To stand up for children in war is to live our faith in action.

The online discussion reinforced the shared principle that children are viewed as sacred by all religious teachings and emphasized that silence over the violation of their rights due to conflicts is a form of complicity. The voices of children were central to the event: young advocates from India, Ananya and Chinmayan, participated live, while other children shared their appeals via video messages.

Faith leaders deepened the call to action, with Prof. Anant Rambachan, Professor of Religion at St. Olaf College in the US, offering a piercing reflection: "It is not only bombs and bullets that harm children, it is our moral brokenness that allows such weapons to be built, sold, and used against the most vulnerable". His full statement can be found in the next page.





## Heart to Heart: A Meditation on Children in War Prof. Anantanand Rambacham

I struggled to decide what words to share with you today. I could easily speak theology or ethics, but I did not feel moved to do so. It didn't seem appropriate. So, what I want to say is from my heart to your heart – heart to heart. My words are not in the nature of advice. I don't know how to describe them, I guess it is a lament, it is a cry, it is a meditation for what we have become as a species and what we do. And sometimes transformation begins with sorrow. We must grieve what we do, before we have any hope of change.

This summer our twin granddaughters, now six years old, visited us for three weeks. I taught them to balance on their bikes, and every waking moment was filled with unending joyful play.

They have now returned to their home in San Francisco, but the sound of their laughter still reverberates in our home and hearts. And in every culture and in every language, the laughter of children warms and fills our hearts with joy.

As I looked at my granddaughters riding their bikes, carefree and without fear, on the safe and quiet street in front of my home, I tried, but I could not imagine their laughter silenced or transformed into screams, crouching in fear as bombs fell on their homes.

I could not imagine them clutching dust-covered dolls, covering their ears to silence the horrible noise of war and falling asleep exhausted from hunger and thirst. As much as I tried, I could not see them there. I could not imagine their childhood forcibly snatched from them by heartless adults.

But I knew then and I know now that this is the reality for children across our world. Their homes are broken. Their schools reduced to rubble. Their nights are filled with terror. The pain of hunger never goes away. They carry memories of things seen and heard that no child should ever carry. And yet—at the heart—they are no different from the granddaughters who came to play at my home and whom we tucked into bed every night.

How can we convince those who love their children, and who direct weapons of war on other children, that all children are our children, the children of our one world? How do we open their closed hearts?



Prof. Anantanand Rambacham Professor of Religion at St. Olaf College

Watch the recording of this statement here

There is also something that we must not be afraid to name. It is not only bombs and bullets that harm children. It is our moral brokenness that allows such weapons to be built, sold, nation to nation, and used against children.

So, I ask myself, as I ask all of you today: what have we become as a species of being? Who are we that we destroy without hesitation the most innocent and vulnerable, defenceless among us? That the tears, the screams, the terror, and the hunger of children do not reach our hearts? Who taught us to see our one world with such walls of division, that the most horrific suffering of children in one part does not reach or touch our hearts? How did we dehumanize our children that their suffering does not matter to us? Why do the tears of children not wash away the boundaries of nation, religion, culture, and indifference? How have we learned to accept the suffering of children as the price of our conflicts?

And those of us, who come from religious places of meaning, how do we take and utter the name of God, go to our places of worship and be stone-hearted about the slaughter of children? Which God do we praise? Which God do we worship?

If the precious lives of children do not stop wars, what will?

We should weep, we should cry, we should scream, not only for the children whose lives are shattered, but also for ourselves, that we have allowed our conscience to grow so dull, that we can turn away while the life of a child is shattered.

So, let us weep together—not only for the children whose lives are being destroyed, but also for our species—for our closed hearts that allow us to unleash bullets and bombs that shatter the bodies of children.

I know that to end violence against children, we need more than policies—and I guess this is what my cry is—we need awakened hearts, hearts that will not allow war to steal a child's laughter; hearts that understand the sacredness of every child and their right to joy and to play, hearts that are open to see every child as our child, and hearts that feel for every child as we feel for our own.

I am grateful for each of you here today and for your hearts of love that I know you bring to this campaign. It is in you that I see the light of hope.

So, how do we together, dear sisters and brothers, awaken the hearts of those who have the power to stop the bullets, to stop the bombs, to let the food trucks come in, how do we awaken those hearts?

Thank you.

# **High-Level Session: Stop the War on Children**

## New York, United States September 25, 2025

The 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York was the opportunity to hold a high-level session to explore scientific evidence on how protecting children's rights today can effectively prevent future conflicts. Under the title "Stop War on Children NOW!" this event was organized by the Early Childhood Peace Consortium.

The session aimed to draw attention to how decades of research confirm that early childhood trauma is a generational threat. It doesn't just damage individual children; it rewires developing brains, creating inherited patterns of conflict that fuel future violence. Crucially, however, the same science reveals that strategic investments in early childhood development can effectively break these destructive cycles before they begin.

Speakers, including ambassadors, high-level UN officials, representatives of permanent missions, religious leaders, representatives of non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and academics, underscored the urgent moral and strategic need to safeguard children and invest in early childhood development.

Mrs. Maria Lucia Uribe, Executive Director of Arigatou International – Geneva, was invited to the event to present the "Stand Up for Children in War" Campaign. "We are here today, because children cannot wait. Grave and proliferating breaches of international humanitarian law and human rights law (...) are deeply alarming and risk becoming normalized," said Mrs. Uribe through a video message presented during the event. She urged world leaders and faith communities to join the campaign and move beyond mere words to fulfil their commitment to protect children.



To watch Mrs. Uribe video-message



# **Interfaith Community Call**

## Online September 25, 2025

To mark the International Day of Peace, the United Religions Initiative (URI) hosted a community call bringing together cooperation circles, individual members, trustees, staff, and partners from its extensive network of over 1,200 members in more than 110 countries.

The virtual gathering served as a platform to listen to compelling stories of peace efforts shared by members representing various regions and traditions. Along these lines, Mrs. Maria Lucia Uribe, Executive Director of Arigatou International, used this opportunity to share about the "Stand Up for Children" campaign and called for the voices of faith communities to be loud and clear to protect children when humanitarian and human rights laws are failing. This sentiment was echoed by Mrs. Karen Volker, Executive Director of URI, who stressed that in the current global climate, faith leaders and actors have a crucial responsibility to use their voices to speak out against violence, hate, and dehumanizing language in their communities.

The online gathering was also an opportunity for recognizing and celebrating partnerships and collaborations, which are instrumental in strengthening the organization's collective impact on global healing and justice initiatives.

The event fostered a spirit of profound connection and mutual understanding through engaging dialogue and meaningful cultural exchange. Participants reaffirmed their shared commitment to healing, justice, and peace across communities worldwide.



To watch the recording of this event



I encourage us to embrace our responsibility as faith leaders, faith actors, and community actors and see what we can do today and tomorrow to build the world that we want to see."



Mrs. Karen Volker, Executive Director URI and URI Foundation.

Words shared during the online event on September 25

# Global response from faith leaders and faith communities

Faith leaders and faith communities have long stood at the forefront of movements for peace and justice. Grounded in a shared belief that spiritual consciousness can inspire and drive societal transformation, the "Stand Up for Children in War" campaign invited religious leaders worldwide to help restore the moral fabric of our societies, speak truth to power, and protect the sacredness of childhood by leading ethical reflections about the impact of war on children, challenging narratives that justify violence, and inspiring their communities to pursue constructive change through empathy and solidarity. Leaders representing major religions across the world responded to this call. Many contributed powerful video messages, available on the campaign's website, raising awareness of this important cause, with some videos collecting thousands of views on social media.



The protection of children is not only a legal and humanitarian obligation, it is also a religious duty affirmed by all faiths. The shared spiritual teachings of all religions emphasize that this moral and humanitarian reponsibility is inseparable from religion. "



H.E Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam Secretary-General Muslim Council of Elders.

Full message available here



We call on goverments, and the entire international community to pursue peaceful solutions to ongoing conflicts. But peace talk is not enough, it is urgent to guarantee humanitarian aid and ensure that fundamental rights are respected, specially for children."



Bishop Severino Classen President, Pastoral da Criança, Brazil

Full message available <u>here</u>



I specially invite religious leaders to add your voice to this campaign, to ignite hope, uphold our shared ethical responsability, and protect the human dignity of every child."



Rev. Keishi Miyamoto President of Arigatou International

Full message available <u>here</u>

# Global response from faith leaders and faith communities

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Across all our traditions, the protection of children is not optional; it is a sacred obligation. To harm children is a betrayal of faith and conscience."



Imam Rashied Omar Associate Teaching Professor, University of Notre Dame

Full message available here



People of faith have a key role to play in demanding the protection of children in war, ensuring humanitarian access to affected communities, and insisting on accountability for all violations, especially those impacting children and their futures."



Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay Secretary-General World Council of Churches

Full message available here



We religious leaders still have the obligation to constantly challenge and awaken the conscience of society as a whole to protect children from harm and especially from the threat to their lives posed by conflicts."



Rabbi David Rosen Special Advisor, Abrahamic Family House, Abu Dhabi

Full message available here

# Children's Voices at the Core of the Campaign

The campaign's actions were defined by a sincere commitment to elevating the voices of children, recognizing them not merely as passive beneficiaries but as crucial partners. Their participation was essential to raising awareness, inspiring hope, and igniting action across the world in advocacy for their rights.

Twenty children, from 12 different countries, actively added their voices to the dialogue, either by sharing video messages or participating live in the events organized as part of the campaign. Even the youngest children delivered powerful and clear messages of hope and peace. "Even if we're far away, we can tell these stories (...), kids and adults can choose not to look away," stressed Liam, a 7-year-old from Canada.

The campaign's impact went beyond video messages; hundreds of children across the world also participated in the mobilization through activities organized in their schools, communities, and places of worship.

Members of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) and the Ethics Education Fellowship Program, both initiatives of Arigatou International, directly involved children by organizing actions in countries like Bosnia & Herzegovina, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Seychelles, the US, and Pakistan. These efforts featured activities ranging from collective prayers in Pakistan to community meals in India.









Visoko



Humlebaek



Coimbatore





The underlying goal of these diverse actions was to inspire solidarity among children and encourage them to critically reflect on the impact of war and the vital importance of promoting peace.

Recognizing that children are not merely passive victims but rights-holders and agents of peace whose voices must be heard, the campaign demonstrated that the call for peace is most powerful when delivered through intergenerational and interfaith cooperation. This combined effort underscores a clear message: Children are not just the victims of conflict; they are essential architects of peace. As put by Chinmayan, from India, "We may be small, but our voices are strong."

40 VIDEO MESSAGES

Were produced for the campaign.

WATCH THEM HERE



# Standing up together

Powerful testimonials from children and adults were compiled into a moving video that crystallizes the campaign's call to action.

WATCH IT NOW 💨

# Children's Voices at the Core of the Campaign

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Leaders and adults must protect us, listen to our voices (...) and guarantee us a safe future."



Anthony Young Advocate from Ecuador

Full message available here



Children can help build peace in their community by continuing to raise awareness."



Benjamin Young Advocate from the Democratic Replubic of Congo

Full message available <u>here</u>



I urge that something be done because we are tired of seeing countless children dying each day."



Kudzai Young Advocate from South Africa

Full message available here

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If leaders are listening, I beg them to put aside the weapons and pride, to choose the dialogue over destruction."



Malak Young Advocate from Lebanon

Full message available <u>here</u>



We, the children who have seen war, are not just symbols of tragedy. We are proof of resilience. But we need you to match our resilience with your actions."



**Yara** Young Advocate from Sudan

Full message available <u>here</u>



No child has to starve, no child has to bury their own parents, and no child has to carry pain instead of hope."



Zaina
Young Advocate from
Jordan

Full message available <u>here</u>

# **Selected Actions Across the World**

#### **United States**

City: New York **Event:** Special Discussion -Moral Courage in a Time of Crisis for Children Organized by: UNICEE

#### **United States**

City: New York Event: Highlevel session: Stop War on Children NOW Organized by: Early Childhood Peace Consortium

#### **United States**

City: various

Event: Campaign to collect peace messages

from children

Organized by: GNRC US

#### Brazil

City: Minas Gerais **Event:** Conversation circle with children about peace

Organized by: Fraternity

International

Humanitarian Missions

City: Visoko Event: Educational Workshops for Elementary Schools Organized by: Visoko City Administration and GNRC B&H

#### Brazil

City: various **Event:** Peace walks and parish gatherings Organized by: Pastoral da Crianca

#### Switzerland

City: Geneva Event: High-level meeting with permanent missions Organized by: Arigatou International & UNHCR

#### Bosnia & Herzegovina

City: Sarajevo Event: Interfaith community call Organized by: United Religions Initiative

#### Kenya

Bosnia &

Herzegovina

City: Nairobi **Event:** Community dialogue on governance and social cohesion Organized by: **GNRC** 

#### Lebanon

Somalia

on ways to

from conflict

City: Mogadishu

**Event:** Meeting

protect children

Organized by:

**GNRC** Somalia

City: Beirut **Event:** Drawing contest for children to promote peace Organized by: **GNRC** Lebanon

#### Sri Lanka

City: Moratuwa Event: Peace cranes workshop with students Organized by: Rawathawatta Roman Catholic College

## Pakistan

City: Islamabad Event: Children's prayer for peace Organized by: GNRC Pakistan

#### Seychelles

City: Mogadishu **Event:** Meeting on ways to protect children from conflict Organized by: **GNRC** Somalia

#### India

City:

Coimbatore

Event: Dialogues with children about peace Organized by: Shanti Ashram

# The Campaign on the media

The campaign generated a substantial digital footprint, with an estimated total online reach of 190,000 unique views and impressions. This broad visibility was achieved through dedicated content distributed across major social platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and various partner channels.

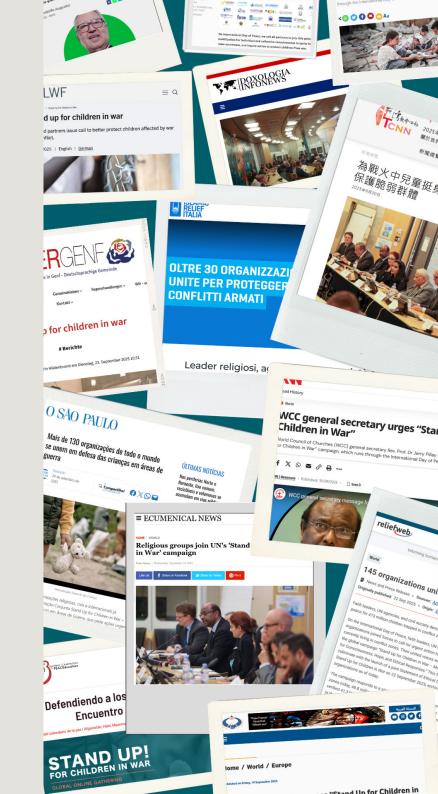
Beyond raw impressions, the campaign's central hub — its website — drew a truly international audience, with visitors from 97 countries, underscoring the universally recognized urgency of the cause.

A core component of the campaign was the powerful collaboration with global advocates. A total of 40 influential voices from 25 countries participated, sharing inspiring video messages and compelling calls to action.

These contributors represented a wide array of perspectives, including religious leaders, UN and civil society representatives, and affected children and youth. Notably, the campaign prioritized the voices of those most impacted: 37.1% of the contributors were children and youth and 45.7% of the contributors were women. These moving videos garnered more than 1,400 views only on YouTube, serving as high-impact tools for education and advocacy.

Adicionally, a press release was disseminated, which led to widespread international coverage across 14 media outlets in six languages,

190
THOUSAND UNIQUE VIEWS ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA



# List of signatories of the Joint Statement

# **Civil Society Organizations:**

- A PARI MUN Instituto de Investigación y Debate en Derecho
- 2. Action for Development
- 3. Activists Without Borders
- 4. Addis Ababa University
- 5. Adyan Foundation
- 6. Afag Foundation for women
- 7. African Women of Faith Network Nigeria
- 8. AGAPE Learning & Growing Together
- 9. Al Mustafa Welfare Trust
- 10. ALEPH Youth Organization
- 11. Alliance for Rethinking Coalition Pakistan
- 12. Amal Alliance
- 13. Anglican University of Congo
- 14. Animal Interfaith Alliance
- 15. Arab Educational Institute Pax Christi / Bethlehem Palestine
- 16. Arigatou International
- 17. Asian Association for Religion and Peace Studies
- 18. Asociación Pop No'j (Guatemala)
- 19. Association for Living Values Education International
- 20. Association For Promotion Sustainable Development
- 21. Association of Professional and Business Women from Moldova
- 22. Association of the Survivors of Makobola Massacres ( ARMMK)
- 23. Baha'i International Community
- 24. Beehive Enfance et Education
- 25. Better Care Network
- 26. Beyond Conflict
- 27. Beyond Our hearts Foundation
- 28. BRÍDGES Eastern European Forum for Dialogue
- 29. British Chapter, International Association for

- Religious Freedom
- 30. Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance BICE
- 31. Bureau International des Droits des Enfants (IBCR)
- 32. Cao Đài Study Center
- 33. Casa Luz da Colina
- 34. CASS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION / UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE
- 35. Catholic Diocese of Vasai, India
- 36. CCAB
- 37. Centre for Child Rights in Somalia
- 38. Centre International de Conseil, de Recherche et d'Expertise en Droits de l'Homme (CICREDHO)
- 39. Centro Studi per l'Ecumenismo in Italia
- 40. Chennai Photo Biennale Foundation
- 41. Child Helpline International
- 42. CHILD TO CHILD
- 43. ChildFund Alliance
- 44. Christian Alliance for Development (CAFORD
- 45. Ciyota
- 46. Coalición Contra el Abuso Sexual
- 47. Comite Ecumenico de Panama
- 48. Commission of Catechesis for the Diocese of Roman Catholic Church, Port Victoria, Seychelles
- 49. Commsone Photography
- 50. Community Restoration Initiative Project
- 51. Congregation of Our lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd , Malta
- 52. Cordoba Peace Institute
- 53. Council of Religions, Mauritius
- 54. Creshendo
- 55. Defence for Children International
- Defensa de Niñas y Niños Internacional, DNI Costa Rica
- 57. Desired Futures CBO

- 58. Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC)
- 59. ECPAT International
- 60. Edmund Rice International
- 61. Education Above All Foundation
- 62. End Corporal Punishment
- 63. Equality for Training and Human Rights
- 64. Escola Parque Tibetano, filiada à FFHI Fraternidade Federação Humanitária Internacional
- 65. Eyes on Orphans-The Gambia
- 66. Family, Child, Youth Association
- 67. First Children's Embassy in the World Megjashi Macedonia
- 68. Fondazione Aiuto Sostegno e Protezione Infanzia della Svizzera italiana - ASPI
- 69. Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale ETS
- 70. Fraternity International Humanitarian Federation (FIHF)
- 71. Fundación Escuelas de Paz
- 72. Fundación Internacional de Derechos Humanos El Shaddai
- 73. Fundación Kannonji
- 74. Gatanga CCM Comprehensive School ( Murang'a county, Kenya)
- 75. Georgetown University Collaborative on Global Children's Issues
- 76. GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR MINISTRIES and INFRASTRUCTURES OF PEACE GAMIP / Latin America and the Caribbean
- 77. Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack
- 78. Global Humanity for Peace Institute
- 79. Global Network of Religions for Children South Africa
- 80. Globethics

- 81. GNRC Ecuador
- 82. GNRC MEXICO
- 83. GNRC Perú
- 84. GNRC-NIGER
- 85. Grandma School Initiative
- 86. GREEN GLOBE FOUNDATION (CALCUTTA, INDIA)
- 87. Green Youth for Climate and Development
- 88. Guerrand-Hermes Foundation for Peace
- 89. Guidance Consultancy
- 90. Guru Nanak Nishkam sewak jatha
- 91. Hounslow Friends of Faith
- 92. Iglesia Metodista del Peru
- 93. Inclusion Diversity Program
- 94. Inclusive Education for Sustainable Development IESD
- 95. Instituto Arns
- 96. INSTITUTO PROMOVIENDO DESARROLLO SOCIAL IPRODES
- 97. International Association for Intercultural Education
- 98. International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
- 99. International Child Rights Academy
- 100. International Interfaith Centre, Oxford
- 101. Islamic Foundation, Kenya
- 102. Islamic Relief Worldwide
- 103. Islamic Supreme Council of Zambia
- 104. ISPCAN
- 105. itotheN | Intergenerational Impact
- 106. Jelou Heart, Latiendo por Amor AC.
- 107. Jesus Assemblies Church
- 108. Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities
- 109. Kas MMM
- 110. Kindernothilfe, Germany
- 111. Korean Society for Buddhist Studies
- 112. Kunguru Place Charity
- 113. Lawyers Council of Thailand Under The Royal Patronage
- 114. Le Gernier de l'Ecole
- 115. LUCIS TRUST / World Goodwill
- 116. Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- 117. Making Aid Work Initiative

- 118. Migrações em Debate
- 119. Mont Fleuri Secondary School Ministry of education of Seychelles
- 120. Mouvement Citoyen Pour la Paix et la Concorde /SENEGAL
- 121. Msasani B Nursery and Primary School
- 122. Music for Every Child
- 123. Muslim-Indigenous Connection (MIC)
- 124. Namdhari Sikh Sangat UK (NSSUK)
- 125. Network for Children's Rights
- 126. NGO Children of Montenegro
- 127. Núcleo-Luz de Figueira em São Carlos -Imaculada Casa do Alívio do Sofrimento
- 128. NyaEden Foundation
- 129. ONG PAIX&LAIT
- 130. Pastoral da Criança (Pastoral Care for Children)
- 131. Pastoral de la Niñez Bolivia
- 132. Peace Institute of Wonkwang University
- 133. Poverty Eradication and Community Empowerment
- 134. Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University, Battambang Branch
- 135. Railway Children Africa
- 136. Re-Imagining New Communities
- 137. ReBuilding Community Organization
- 138. Réseau des Enfants et Jeunes Africains pour les Droits Humains 'REJADH-RDC' en sigle
- 139. Return to the Earth Costa Rica
- 140. Roheco Finances SA
- 141. Rural Women Empowerment Network.
- 142. SAIEVAC
- 143. Salam Institute for Peace and Justice
- 144. Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement
- 145. Şcoala Gimnaziala Comuna Cislau
- 146. Seychelles Scout Association
- 147. Shanti Ashram
- 148. Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
- 149. Soul Energies E&D LLC
- 150. St Peters Youth Nairobi
- 151. Stockholm Center for International Law
- 152. Stop Child Cruelty Trust
- 153. Swanthana Seva CC
- 154. Syria Bright Future

- 155. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- 156. The Dialogue Co-Operative
- 157. The International Dialogue Centre KAICIID
- 158. The International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB)
- 159. The Living Restoratively, Dying Peacefully Project
- 160. The Wellness Chord
- 161. ThinkSMALL RD CONGO/ BUKAVU
- 162. Ubuntu Nexus
- 163. UN University for Peace
- 164. United Religions Initiative
- 165. University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- 166. Ushirika Secondary School
- 167. Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
- 168. Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict of Child Rights Connect
- 169. World BEYOND War
- 170. World Congress of Faiths
- 171. World Council of Churches
- 172. WORLD CULTURE & RELIGION INSTITUTE
- 173. World Evangelical Alliance
- 174. World Organization for Early Childhood Education OMEP
- 175. World Vision DRC/ Kinshasa Cluster
- 176. World Vision International
- 177. World Vision Myanmar Kachin Field Team
- 178. Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan
- 179. Young Africans Community Empowerment Initiative, Sierra Leone YACEI-SL
- 180. Youth Association for Development (YAD)
  Pakistan
- 181. Youth for Global Peace Network-Sierra Leone
- 182. Youth For Peace And Dialogue between Cultures
- 183. Youth Leaders for Restoration and Development (YOLRED)
- 184. Youth Society for Social Service

### **United Nations bodies:**

- 1. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- 2. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- 3. Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG-VAC)
- 4. Acting Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC)
- 5. United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

# Former Members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child:

- 1. Ann Skelton
- 2. Jean Zermatten
- 3. Jorge Cardona
- 4. Luis Pedernera
- 5. Marta Maurás
- 6. Marta Santos Pais
- 7. Mikiko Otani
- 8. Yanghee Lee

# **ORGANIZING PARTNERS**

This campaign was convened by Arigatou International and 32 partner institutions:

































































