

Call to Action to Ensure the Rights and Wellbeing of Children Born of Sexual Violence in Conflict

Sexual violence remains a brutal reality for women, girls, men and boys living in conflict zones around the world. For survivors, the mental, physical, emotional, social and economic consequences of sexual violence can be devastating. We are clear that substantial numbers of children continue to be born from this sexual violence, deeply affecting both the children and the women who give birth to them.

We stand shoulder to shoulder with survivors of sexual violence in conflict, including those who become pregnant as a result, and recognise that significant action is still needed to ensure their rights and well-being. We further declare that children born of sexual violence are also falling through the cracks, deeply affected by the circumstances of their birth and facing distinct obstacles to thrive and pursue their dreams throughout their lives. We stress that they are rights holders in their own capacity and thus are to be treated without discrimination on the basis of age, gender, identity, family origin, sexuality, disability or ethnicity.

Recognising the need for concerted efforts at the global, regional, national and local level to support the realisation of the rights of children born of sexual violence in conflict, we commit to developing a Platform of Action that will promote the rights and well-being of these children without discrimination or stigma.

We therefore share a commitment and a determination to work together to:

- **Speak out** on the challenges faced by children born of sexual violence in conflict and their role in building peaceful, prosperous societies in national, regional and global discussions.
- **Provide space** for children born of sexual violence and the survivors who bore them to share their knowledge safely and meaningfully in discussions and debates affecting them.
- **Strengthen legal and policy frameworks** to eliminate barriers and pro-actively support the rights and well-being of children born of sexual violence in conflict.
- **Encourage child-sensitive approaches to sustainable development** that recognise children born of sexual violence amongst the most vulnerable and at risk of being left behind.

Survivors and their children are at the heart of our continued commitment to ending the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence in war. By working together and with children born of sexual violence in conflict, mobilising resources and committing our global political will, we are determined to ensure children born of sexual violence in conflict do not pay a price for the circumstances of their birth. Now is the time to act.

Please see the next page for those partners who have endorsed the Call to Action

Call to Action proudly endorsed by:

United Kingdom
United States of America
Norway
Republic of South Sudan
Mexico
Guatemala
Republic of Kosovo
The Democratic Republic of the Congo
Canada
Republic of Croatia
Federal Republic of Nigeria
New Zealand
UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual
Violence in Conflict
UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and
Armed Conflict
UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence
Against Children
Global Survivors Fund
The Children Born of War Project
International Rescue Committee
Cultura i Conflicte
Stepping Stones
Green Kordofan
Women for Change, South Sudan
Naripokkho
Release Me
Refugee Law Project
Gender Empowerment for South Sudan Organisation
Tigray Advocacy & Development Association - UK (TADA-UK)
Opportunities for South Sudanese Initiative (OSSI)
Kids Club Kampala



Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON **SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**



Royal Norwegian Embassy

RELACIONES EXTERIORES

SECRETARÍA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES



The Democratic Republic of the Congo



Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for **CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT**



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A GLOBAL FUND FOR SURVIVORS OF CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE



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