

Growing up on the streets and realizing children's rights: Promising practices addressing violence against all children

When: 1st Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, 31 October 2024, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., Bogota, Colombia

Format: Satellite event - Virtual

Objective: This event shines a spotlight on children in street situations and the violence they face in their daily lives and will complement the Ministerial Conference's programme. It will share promising practices and lessons from work with children in street situations to achieve the SDG target 16.2 to end all forms of violence against children.

Target audience: Representatives from governments, children's and youth organizations, children and young people, civil society, United Nations entities, National Human Rights Institutions, Independent Children's Rights Institutions, and academics etc.

Context:

Violence remains a reality for [half of the world's children](#), including for children in street situations. Yet, government interventions often overlook the realities and intersecting barriers facing these children.

Children in street situations are children just like any other child, exist in every country, and face barriers to realizing a range of their human rights. Violence is a daily reality for these children. Furthermore, violence in the home and communities is a significant push factor to street life. Studies have shown that incidents of abuse, violence, and exploitation against children, particularly those living away from their families, tend to increase during periods of increasing inequalities. The deprivation of street-connected children's fundamental rights, due to society's failure to care for them and prevent them from facing violence, is a shared experience and one requiring an integrated systems approach.

This 1st Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children provides a unique opportunity to create a transformative shift to ensure that street-connected children and their rights are at the forefront of policymaking on prevention and response to violence against children.

This event explores the realities and challenges that children in street situations face every day, especially concerning violence. It looks at the design and implementation of solutions, including access to education, physical and mental health services, justice, social protection, child protection and other services, to eliminate violence against street-connected children. It highlights the importance of grounding all responses in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, and specifically, [General Comment 21 \(2017\) on Children in Street Situations](#), recognising that children are experts in their own lives, have the right to be heard and to ensure that no child is left behind.

Agenda: Moderator: Professor Ann Skelton, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

1. Opening - Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nada Al-Nashif; Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Najat Maalla M'jid
2. Insights from children in street situations
3. Evidence for policymaking: Presenting the Growing Up on the Streets research data - Professor Lorraine van Blerk, Louise Meincke, University of Dundee
4. Case study: Promising Practice - Member State
5. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Delivering a world where street-connected children's rights are realised as they are for every other child – Felix Holman, Chief Executive Officer, Consortium for Street Children
6. Concluding remarks