

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


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 | **25** YEARS



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REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO - THE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIKA KOSOVO - PRESDENICA



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

Canada

Government of Guatemala



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Ministry of Foreign and
European Affairs

 **NEW ZEALAND**
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE

 **GLOBAL SURVIVORS FUND**
A GLOBAL FUND FOR SURVIVORS OF
CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE



Federal
Republic of
Nigeria

 **THE CHILDREN BORN OF WAR**
PROJECT