

CONCEPT NOTE

CAMPAIGN FOR THE GOOD TREATMENT OF GIRLS, BOYS AND ADOLESCENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE WORLD

1. INTRODUCTION

The Campaign for the Good Treatment of Girls, Boys and Adolescents with Disabilities in the World aims to raise awareness on eliminating degrading treatment or punishment, exploitation, violence and abuse of all girls, boys, and adolescents with disabilities to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the regional level, the Campaign supports the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

The Asia and Pacific regional launch of the Campaign is co-organized by the Special Envoy to the UN Secretary General on Disability and Accessibility, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), with the support of the Royal Thai Government, the Embassy of the Republic of Chile to the Kingdom of Thailand, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and UN Women.

2. RELEVANCE OF THE CAMPAIGN

Preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse is essential to ensuring children’s rights to survival, development and well-being. This human rights-based approach emphasizes that successful child protection begins with prevention.¹

According to UNICEF’s “*the State of the World’s Children 2013: Children with Disabilities*” report, girls and boys with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to violence, abandonment and mistreatment.² Research conducted by the World Health Organization and Liverpool John Moores University reiterates this finding, estimating that children with disabilities have a greater risk of experiencing violence than their peers without disabilities. Particularly, children with disabilities are 3.7 times more likely to suffer from combined forms of violence, 3.6 times more likely to be victims of physical violence and 2.9 times more likely to suffer sexual violence. Children with intellectual disabilities are 4.6 times more likely to be victims of sexual violence than children without disabilities.³

Gaps in data from low and middle-income countries prohibit a comprehensive understanding of the extent of violence towards girls, boys and adolescents with disabilities globally.

¹ UNICEF, *Child Protection Strategy*, 2008

² UNICEF, *The State of the World’s Children 2013: Children with Disabilities*, 2013, p. 44

³ Ibid.

Children with disabilities have the right to be free from all forms of violence and abuse. Article 7 of the CRPD establishes that States Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children. Articles 15, 16 and 17 grants freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse, and protection of Personal Integrity (physical and mental), respectively.

Women and girls with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Goal 6 of the Incheon strategy recognizes the importance of ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment to overcome the compounded barriers to ensure the full and equal participation of all persons with disabilities. Specifically, target 6.D of the Incheon Strategy encourages governments to increase measures to protect girls and women with disabilities from all forms of violence and abuse.

3. OBJECTIVE

The campaign aims to raise awareness on eliminating violence against children with disabilities by supporting stakeholders, particularly families, educators and the broader community.

The year 2018 marks 10 years since the CRPD was entered into force on May 3, 2008. The 10th anniversary of the CRPD is an appropriate time to reflect on the challenges that remain, while also emphasizing the need to strengthen regional and international cooperation to help increase awareness of the right of all children with disabilities globally.

4. Participation

The regional launch will bring together high-level government representatives, policy-makers, advocates and persons with disabilities to discuss how to effectively address key challenges to promote the good treatment of all girls, boys and adolescents with disabilities.

5. Modality

Keynote speech and video messages from United Nations high-level representatives will be delivered, followed by presentations and panel discussions to hear the voice of persons with disabilities and various stakeholders, including governments, share how to move forward to enhance the rights of all persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.