



2024



A YEAR



OF

WIDE



MOBILIZATION



AND

ACTION

2024

KEY
ACHIEVEMENTS

ACT
NOW



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



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**2024 Key Achievements of the Office of the Special Representative
of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children**

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A year of wide stakeholder mobilization

The year **2024** marked the **fifteenth anniversary** of the appointment of the first Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children. It was a year of taking stock and reflecting on all that has been achieved and, above all, on all that remains to be done in the next 5 years to end all forms of violence against children, as promised in the Global Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The world is not on track to end violence against children by 2030. At this time of spiraling crises, violence has reached unprecedented levels. **Investing in child protection and wellbeing is essential.**

Watch the video marking 15 years of the office.



"Change is possible. We need context-specific and sustainable investment to take solutions to scale. Let's not wait another 15 years - Act now for and with children!"

Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid

Scan the QR code to watch the video



The Special Representative strengthened partnerships and mobilization with Member States, the United Nations system, the private sector, civil society, faith-based organizations, academia, children and survivors. It was a year filled with accomplishments, including numerous calls to action focused on ending violence against children, accelerating progress toward achieving the Global Goals of the 2030 Agenda, and delivering many tangible results. Among them were the successful launch of the Pathfinding Global Alliance on Ending Violence against Children and the convening of the first-ever Ministerial Conference to End Violence Against Children, co-organized by Colombia, Sweden, UNICEF, WHO, and the Office of the Special Representative, that took place in Bogota in November.

WE ARE FACILITATING

Partnerships
Bridge building
Wide mobilization
Peer learning



Engaging more Member States

In 2024, there was remarkable enthusiasm and commitment from Member States regarding efforts to end violence against children.

Dr. Maalla M'jid engaged with various countries through **hundreds of bilateral meetings**, participations in conference, and followup meetings after her country visits. In 2024, she undertook **nine country visits**.

A total of **119 countries, including 63 ministers**, participated in and publicly pledged their commitment at the First Ministerial Conference to End Violence Against Children. This initiative was facilitated by Dr. Maalla M'jid, engaged with more than **50 state-led national preparatory processes**. Additionally, **1,200 participants from 90 countries** took part in the Sixth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC), which was co-organized by the Special Representative's office. **Over 40 countries** also renewed their engagement with the Pathfinding Global Alliance on Ending Violence against Children.

Many countries that the office engaged with took **bold steps** toward ending violence against children. For example, Lesotho established a new National Prevention and Response Plan aimed at reducing violence against children by 75% by 2028. Thailand withdrew its reservation to Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Fiji incorporated a key performance indicator on reducing the economic costs of violence against children in its national development plan for 2025-2029, while Romania established a budget allocation and expenditure tracking mechanism. Brazil's Multi-Year Development Plan 2024-2027 includes a cross-cutting agenda on children and adolescents, which will be tracked specifically for progress on ending violence against children.

The Special Representative expanded and consolidated her engagement and collaboration **with regional and subregional organizations**, through participation in high-level advocacy opportunities, providing technical support, and creating connections. She also strengthened her relationship with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to identify ways to support child protection and well-being at local, national, and global levels.



This year the Special Representative engaged with all **36 countries that presented their Voluntary National Review (VNR)** at the 2024 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, to offer guidance and support to their reporting processes. Engagement included country visits, interaction during the preparation of their VNRs, and high-level bilateral meetings.

[Click here or scan the QR code to learn more](#)



Voluntary National Review Report 2024

Investing in child protection and wellbeing:
A key accelerator of the SDGs



Support to peer learning

Dr Maalla M'jid continued to **document good practices, connect, and facilitate the sharing of experiences, expertise, and peer learning** among countries, religious and community leaders, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

In 2024, states **like Brazil, Fiji, Iceland, and Zambia** exchanged specific knowledge and experiences on investing in integrated services to ensure child protection and well-being. **Austria, Benin, Bulgaria, Malta, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia** shared best practices during the High-level Conference on Children, Youth, and Families in Romania.

The Pathfinding Global Alliance on Ending Violence against Children aims to cultivate closer connections and boost **peer learning between States**. The forthcoming launch of the Knowledge Platform Market will **enhance peer-to-peer learning** and expedite progress.

The Office prepared an **advocacy brief highlighting how to build the investment case for ending violence against children, and how it provides a powerful tool for multi-stakeholder mobilization.**

"Ending Violence Against Children is not only children's right and our obligation, but also the soundest economic investment for every society, ensuring prosperity for the future."

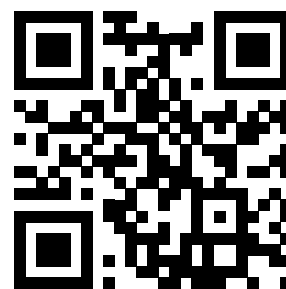
Erna Kristín Blöndal
Permanent
Secretary, Ministry
of Education and
Children, Iceland.



Collaboration among **Member States, NGOs, and academic institutions** was strengthened to **improve cooperation** and share good practices aimed at ending the **deprivation of liberty** of children.

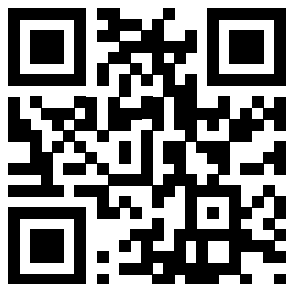
A video was created featuring religious leaders from various faiths sharing their insights on how religion can serve as a powerful tool to combat violence against children and promote community engagement.

[Click here or scan the QR code to read the report](#)



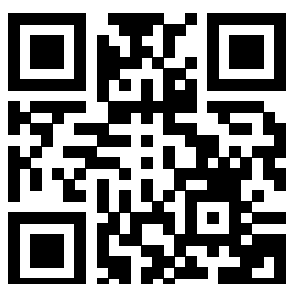


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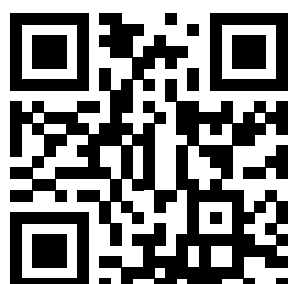
Call for Action to End Child Trafficking

[Click here or scan the QR code to learn more](#)



Global Digital Compact

[Click here or scan the QR code to read the report](#)



Working closely with the United Nations and international organizations

In 2024, she expanded the **Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence Against Children (IAWG VAC)** to include **UNFPA** and **UN-Women** and signed a **Cooperation Agreement with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** to enhance children's rights.

As Chair of the **United Nations Task Force on Children Deprived of Liberty**, Dr Maalla M'Jid continued to cooperate with Member States, NGOs, academia, and other relevant stakeholders to prevent children's liberty deprivation and promote investment in alternatives. The Task Force continued to compile promising practices in three advocacy briefs: (a) on ending the immigration detention of children; (b) on the deprivation of liberty of children and the administration of justice; and (c) on children's deprivation of liberty in the context of armed conflict and national security.

Additionally, the **Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)** launched a **Call for Action to End Child Trafficking by 2025**, along with a child-friendly version of this initiative.

Work with **United Nations Resident Coordinators** and **Country Teams** continued through their support of country visits, VNR processes, and the development of **Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks**.

Collaboration continued with the Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and on Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as with the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs. Dr Maalla M'Jid also strengthened her engagement with the **Human Rights Council** to address violence against children and advance the 2030 Agenda.

Inputs for the **Global Digital Compact** to secure provisions on children's rights online were provided, working closely with the Envoy of the Secretary-general on Technology.

The **World Bank** collaborated in the development of a toolkit assessing the economic impact of violence against children.

Deepening collaboration with civil society, faith-based organizations, and traditional leaders

The Special Representative actively engaged with civil society, faith-based organizations, and community leaders, given their key role in tackling violence against children and promoting and ensuring child safeguarding.

She connected with **hundreds of organizations** globally, emphasizing national and **youth-led groups while strengthening ties with survivors' networks**.

On March 18, 2024, she met with **Pope Francis** to discuss the impacts of humanitarian crises on **children and the need to strengthen their protection**, including in religious settings.

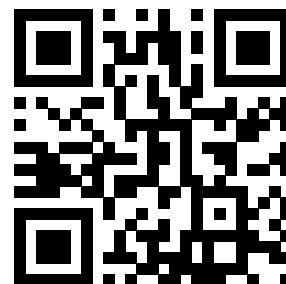
She continued to **highlight the role of traditional leaders** in challenging social norms that condone or support violence, such as **female genital mutilation** and child marriage. One of the positive practices documented was the **implementation** by the **Zambia House of Chiefs** of the **Call to Action to End Child Marriage by 2030**.

She stressed the need to document and disseminate examples of action by religious leaders and faith-based organizations, particularly as a member of the organizing committee for the **sixth Forum** of the **Global Network of Religions for Children**, held in Abu Dhabi in November 2024. **Over 1,200 participants from 90 countries**, including children, engaged in person or virtually at the forum and the pre-forum events. In its outcome document, the **Abu Dhabi Declaration on Building a Hopeful World for Children**, the forum participants identified key steps to ensure a **sustainable, safe, and secure world for and with children**, including a strong commitment to **ending harmful practices** that are often justified in the name of religion and called for shared accountability.



Abu Dhabi Declaration

[Click here or Scan the QR code to learn more](#)



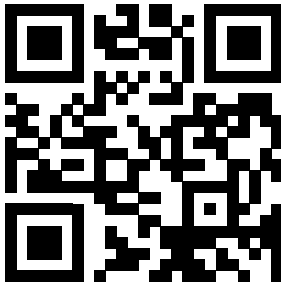
Catalyzing private sector action



COLLECTIVE ACTION
The Americas

ECPAT Workshop Outcome Report

Click here or scan the QR code to learn more



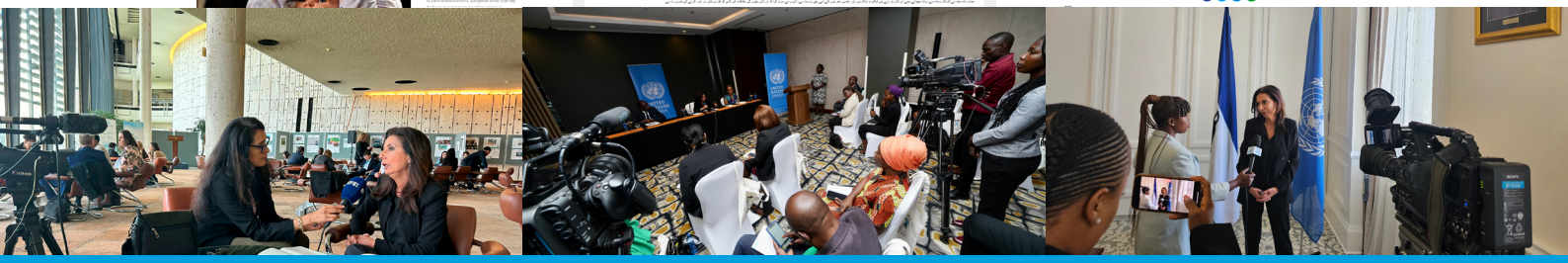
Engagement with the **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)** sector increased, particularly through collaborations with industry alliances like the Tech Coalition. The Special Representative seized global advocacy opportunities at significant events, including the **Global Cybersecurity Forum** in October 2024 and the **WeProtect Global Alliance Summit** in December 2024.

The **Protection through Online Participation (PoP)** initiative continued its momentum with the support of over 30 partners.

In 2024, the **World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)** decided to explicitly prioritize child protection in its social impact efforts during its annual meeting. Dr Maalla M'jid supported the creation of a working group in collaboration with the WTTC, industry, and civil society to identify and share good practices and to develop a joint advocacy strategy.

Engaging with media

Engaging with the media through press conferences, interviews, press releases, report launches, and social media posts has helped raise awareness among countries and their populations to mobilize action to end violence against children.



Involving more children and young people

During 2024, the Office **engaged with 2,730 children** from around the world, including direct interactions during **country visits, consultations** during the preparation of her reports, and collaboration with child and youth-led organizations around **key events and processes**, such as the sixth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children, the Africa Children's Summit, and the Global Ministerial Conference.

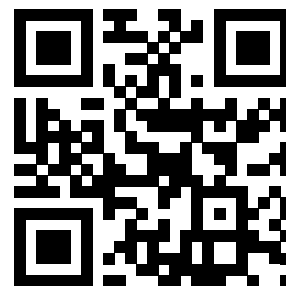
Prior to the Ministerial Conference, **Dr Maalla M'jid hosted three online dialogues and consulted with approximately 1,000 children from over 110 countries**. She supported children's participation before, during, and after the conference.

"Involve children in making policies about us, so we can bring our experiences to the solution"

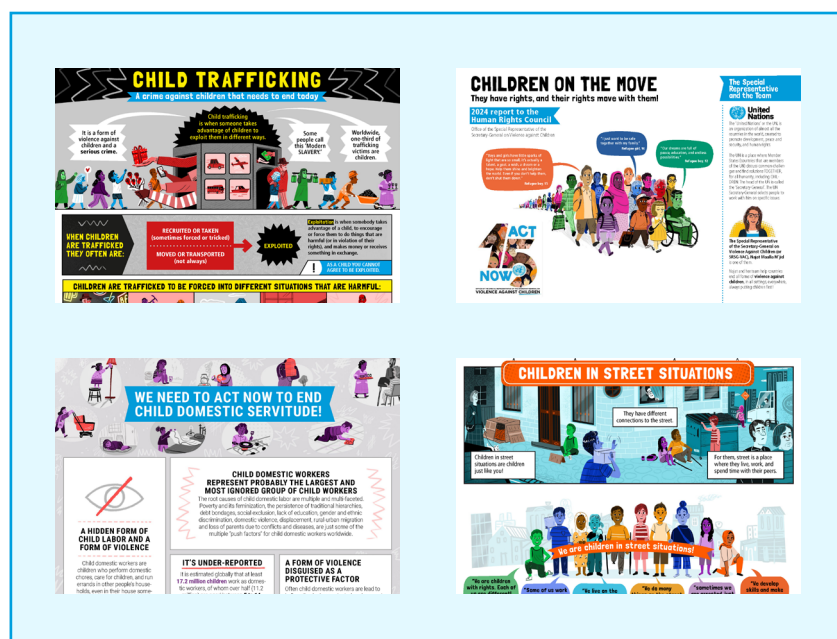
Child from Asia and the Pacific

Summary report of the dialogues with children

[Click here or scan the QR code to read the report](#)

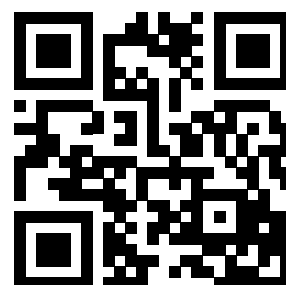


The Special Representative continued to develop **child-friendly resources** aimed at empowering children with information about various issues related to violence, their rights, and overall well-being.



Child-friendly resources

[Click here or scan the QR code to read the reports](#)





First-ever Ministerial Conference on ending violence against children

This was the first time in history that **119 countries, including 63 ministers, and hundreds of key stakeholders**, including children, survivors, regional networks, religious leaders, and donors, gathered together, marking a unique mobilization moment to accelerate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable implementation.

As of January 2025, **55 states** had signed the Bogota Call to Action, which includes specific pledges to accelerate efforts to end violence against children by 2030.

Additionally, during the Conference, **more than 100 states** made individual commitments to further mobilize resources and actions to eliminate violence against children.

Call to action and pledges to end violence against children

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Voices of commitment

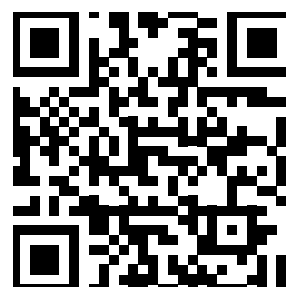


ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: MINISTERIAL VOICES OF CHANGE



Ministers from the globe speak during the First-ever Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children in Bogota, Colombia.

[Click here or scan the QR code to watch the video](#)





Pathfinding Global Alliance on Ending Violence Against Children

Dr Maalla M'jid led the revitalization of the previous Global Partnership to End Violence against Children by establishing the **Pathfinding Global Alliance on Ending Violence against Children**. The Alliance aims to ensure **greater ownership** by Member States, cultivate **closer connections to local realities** through a bottom-up approach, and **boost peer learning between States**.

She convened a **technical workshop** in Geneva, in which **90 participants**, including representatives of pathfinding countries, participated. The Alliance was launched during the **Global Ministerial Conference** in Bogota.

So far, **over 40 Member States have joined**, and the Alliance is **rapidly expanding**.

Numerous countries have established **national plans** as a clear road map to achieve their objectives. The forthcoming launch of the **Knowledge Platform Market** will enhance peer-to-peer learning and expedite progress.

"The Pathfinder Global Alliance is a good platform that helps us strengthen our own protection mechanisms".

Ana Paula da Silva do Sacramento Neto
Angolan minister of Social Action and Promotion of Women



The Special Representative will build on the momentum generated by these developments and will continue her close collaboration with all key stakeholders at global, regional, and national levels to accelerate efforts to end violence against children by 2030.



Annual Report to the UN
Human Rights Council



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code to read the report](#)

Annual Report to the UN
General Assembly



Act Now to End Violence