



The Voices of Children at the 7th High-Level Cross-Regional Roundtable on Violence against Children

Strengthening Regional Cooperation to End Violence against Children

**An original publication of the Office of the UN Special Representative
of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and Child Rights Coalition Asia**

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With advice from a group of children aged 12-18 years of age from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam

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Strengthening Regional Cooperation to End Violence against Children



Before we begin, let's meet our new friends!



Amihan

Marta

Paulo

Joy

Kiko

Indah

Cheng

Dear Reader,

As enshrined in United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), children are entitled to express their views about how they feel their rights are being properly fulfilled. About 2 billion persons in the world are children under 18 years of age - but half of them - 1 billion children! - experience some form of violence every year. The people who make decisions about how children live - at home, at school, in care and justice institutions, in places of work, in the community and on the internet - need to know and understand how children feel and how they think. The perspectives of children are unique and when they can influence discussions about their lives then the decisions that impact them are better informed and can be more effective in positively promoting their full potential.

Children's voices informed the UN Study on Violence against Children and the new 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Children's views and thoughts have been key to my mandate in the follow-up to the UN

Study recommendations to create a world free from violence. My mandate continues to support the participation of children as key agents of change across regions. In 2011, my office established the annual Cross-Regional Roundtable on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Children to support dialogue and cooperation between regional organizations and institutions on children's concerns generally - and on violence against children in particular - as framed by the UN Study and by Agenda 2030.

In 2017, the Cross-Regional Roundtable was convened in collaboration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), from 6-8 June, in Manila, Philippines. It was held alongside with the ASEAN children's forum which was organized with Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia) and was focused on the key themes of protection of children from bullying and online abuse, and the empowerment and participation of children to prevent and address incidents of violence. This was the first time children and young people took part in the Cross-Regional Roundtable.

In this publication, you will learn about the engagement, concerns and recommendations presented by children from ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea at the Cross-Regional Roundtable on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Children. It highlights what governments from the region can do to build an ASEAN region where all children are protected from all forms of violence in all settings.

We are deeply grateful to all the children who participated in the Manila Roundtable discussions and we join them in amplifying what children want: "Peace, not war; Prosperity, not destruction; Hugs, not slaps and punches. Together, we can build as one."



Sincerely,

Marta Santos Pais

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

Let's get started!



Have you heard about the following?

These are important documents, people, and declarations which played a part in the 7th High-Level Cross-Regional Roundtable on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Children.

They are all connected because they have the same goal: to protect all children from all forms of violence in all settings.

You can learn more about them in the following pages.



The 2006 United Nations Study on Violence against Children

#UNStudy

The United Nations Study looked at the problem of violence against children around the world to find out what forms of violence children experience, why they happen, where they happen, what are their impacts on children, and what we can do to end violence against children.

What is violence against children?

Violence against children happens when someone hurts a child. They can do so by harming the body, mind and feelings of a child.

Violence against children can happen in many different ways, including:

- **Physical Violence:** hurting a child's body
- **Mental or Emotional Violence:** harming a child's mind and feelings by using hurtful words and behavior
- **Sexual Violence:** inappropriately touching or behaving towards a child for sexual purposes
- **Neglect:** ignoring a child's needs and not giving a child the love and care they need

Harmful practices against children are also considered violence, even if these practices are socially accepted as a form of 'tradition' or disguised as a form of 'discipline'.



Note: This definition of violence against children is from article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Word Search

Find the different examples of Violence against Children in the puzzle.
Words are hidden horizontally, vertically, and diagonally.

T O P T H T C H Y V N I S Q T A P N
K H S R G F W H L R T N E H K B U O
W R R P O A J X X A L S X D I A L T
U L G E A S L T Q P I U T Q C N L C
B P J F A N T Z I E L L O Y K D I A
E R T M F T K I F B Z T R X I O N R
D Z R T R L E I T N S I T U N N G I
W Z O V M P Y N N U G N I B G M H N
Q Y N D D V V C I G T G O Y B E A G
N A M E C A L L I N G I N B G N I V
K Z N O T G I V I N G F O O D T R I
P Z W Q D B R J K L H N U N B A Y M

Physical Violence

- ☐ Kicking
- ☒ Spanking
- ☐ Pulling hair

Mental or Emotional Violence

- ☐ Insulting
- ☐ Threatening
- ☐ Name-calling

Sexual Violence

- ☐ Rape
- ☐ Prostitution
- ☐ Sextortion

Neglect

- ☐ Not giving food
- ☐ Not caring
- ☐ Abandonment

What does the UN Study tell us?

The UN Study was led by an independent expert from Brazil. It contains information collected from governments, experts, organizations, and – most importantly – from children from around the world.

Violence against children happens in every country and can happen anywhere and everywhere.

Violence against children is often not reported and often remains hidden.

Children experience violence at home, in schools, in their neighborhood, in the community, where they work, on the internet, and in institutions like shelters, orphanages, detention centers, or other places where children live without their parents.

Children are afraid to report violence because they think the person who hurt them might do so again, or they are afraid that no one will believe them. They may also choose to hide the information if the person who hurt them is a family member, a teacher, a police officer, or any powerful person.

Hi, I'm Professor Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro. I was the independent expert for the UN Study and I learned a lot of important information about violence against children that everyone should know and be concerned about.



Some children may experience violence more than other children.

Violence has many impacts on children which can be felt for years after, and may even last a lifetime!

These children may be more exposed to violence because of their gender, race, culture, disability, status in the community, economic background, nationality, country of origin, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.



The UN Study also says that governments have the main responsibility to make sure that children are protected from harm, and that people who harm children are punished. Governments should also help families make sure that children live in a healthy, safe and loving environment.

Violence can lead to physical health problems like bodily injuries or wounds. Children who experience violence may also have problems learning things, behaving properly around other people, or expressing their feelings. They may also feel very sad and may even want to try dangerous things like drinking alcohol, using drugs, or trying to kill themselves.



What else does the UN Study tell us?

The UN Study has two important messages:

- 1 No violence against children is justifiable.
- 2 All violence against children is preventable.

This means that we cannot make any excuses for harming children. All forms of violence against children are wrong and are always unacceptable.



This means that we can end all forms of violence against children. To do so, we must work together to make important changes and take actions to prevent all forms of violence against all children in all settings.



Note: The UN Study gave 12 sets of recommendations to end violence against children. Please go to page 13 to learn about these important recommendations.

Did you know that children were important contributors to the UN Study?

I visited many different countries around the world and asked children to help with the UN Study. Children shared their experiences, opinions, views, and recommendations by joining discussions or answering questions.

#ChildParticipation



Children helped identify different forms of violence against children, the reasons why they happen, and the impacts they have on children. Children also recommended actions that governments, adults and even children can do to end violence against children and to help children who have experienced violence.

The children who contributed to the UN Study came from all over the world. They joined the nine regional consultations held in different countries. Children from countries of the East Asia and the Pacific Region joined the consultation in Bangkok, Thailand. This consultation is known as the '2005 Bangkok Consultation.'



The 2005 Bangkok Consultation

The Bangkok Consultation gathered 24 children representing 13 countries from East Asia and the Pacific. They worked for two days in groups, discussing priority issues for children and proposing recommendations to address violence against children.

The children said their vision for the future is to see children expressing their views and concerns about the issues affecting them. They also want a future where governments in all countries prioritize the issue of violence against children and give appropriate funding and resources to immediately prevent and respond to all forms of violence.

Here are the key recommendations the children provided:

- Corporal punishment **MUST** be banned in homes, schools and as a punishment in the justice system. Children need to be treated the same as adults.
- Governments should fund organizations where children can participate and discuss violence in institutions.
- The UN, governments and communities should share information and work together to prevent sexual violence happening to children in the family. The UN, governments, and communities should help children who have been victims of sexual violence. They should also implement strategies within governments and traditional societies, and implement strict laws for those who commit sexual abuse.
- Regulations on child working conditions and minimum age requirements should be drafted, and stronger provisions made for the punishment of perpetrators. Training for adults should be conducted on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Children's rights should be taught in school, and every school should have monitoring and implementation of legislations and regulations concerning the torture of students. Teachers should also be oriented on children's rights.

Matching Test

The UN Study conducted a consultation in the East Asia and the Pacific Region. Do you know the names and flags of countries and independent states that are part of this region? Connect the flag with the corresponding country or independent state.



The 12 Recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children

#ThingsToDo

- 1 Governments should take stronger action on violence against children.
- 2 Governments should ban all violence against children.
- 3 Governments should pay more attention to preventing violence against children.
- 4 Governments should give clear, powerful messages that violence against children is never allowed, and that everyone should learn about non-violent ways of dealing with each other.
- 5 People who work with children should learn how to stop all violence against children.
- 6 Governments should help and support children who have been victims of violence.
- 7 Children should be able to express their views.
- 8 Governments should make it easy for anyone to report violence against children.
- 9 Governments should make sure that anyone who is violent against children is punished.
- 10 Governments should address ways in which violence affects girls and boys.
- 11 Governments should collect information and do research on violence against children.
- 12 Governments should make sure that they really do take action when they sign international agreements about stopping violence against children.

Here are the UN Study's recommended actions to end violence against children.



What's next?

Governments and all those responsible for children should know about these recommendations.

#Implementation

NATIONAL LEVEL FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

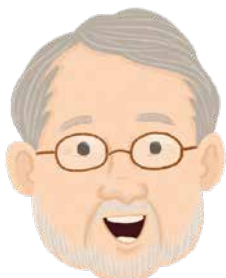
Each country should have clear ideas, actions and budgets to end violence against children. Each country should also have laws that say that violence against children is prohibited.

REGIONAL LEVEL FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS


Regional organizations should adopt regional policy frameworks on children's protection from violence and help countries make sure that the recommendations are put into action.

INTERNATIONAL FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS


The UN Study suggested that one person takes the lead in making sure that the recommendations are put into action. This person is the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.



Most importantly, they should make sure these recommendations are put into action.



The follow-up actions should be done at the family, community, national, regional, and international levels.



You can learn more about the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children on page 16.

What is the United Nations?

The United Nations, or UN, is the largest existing international organization in the world and it was created in 1945. It has many parts and sections called 'UN bodies'. Some of the goals of the UN are to maintain peace and security in the world, to help solve problems affecting everyone on the planet, and to promote respect for human rights for all people, including children.

Almost all states or countries of the world are members of the UN and they are called 'UN Member States'. As of 2018, there are 193 UN Member States. The head or leader of the UN is called the Secretary-General.



Right now, the UN Secretary-General is His Excellency António Guterres. His office is located at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States of America.

The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

#SRSGVAC

The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, or 'SRSG-VAC', works to make sure that actions are taken to protect all children from all forms of violence.

The SRSG-VAC works with UN bodies, governments, and all those responsible for children to:

- Promote implementation of the recommendations of the UN Study
- Share good examples and practices of ending violence against children
- Promote actions at the local, national, regional, and international level to protect children from harm
- Encourage children and young people to take part in ending violence against children



Hi, I'm Marta Santos Pais and I am the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG-VAC).

Marta's office is located at the United Nations in New York, United States of America.



The SRSB-VAC reports every year to UN Member States about violence against children around the world. Her Annual Report looks at the protection of children using child rights standards.

WHAT ARE CHILD RIGHTS?

Child rights are things that every child should have or should be able to do.

All children everywhere have the same rights. All of these rights are connected to each other, and they are all equally important. For example, children have the right to food, water, shelter, and basic health care. Children also have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, to be loved, to be cared for, to be part of the community, and to develop. Children have the right to be educated, to get information, and to express their thoughts, ideas, and opinions. They have the right to not be treated differently because of who they are and where they came from. And, all children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence.

We have to think about child rights in terms of what is best for children in a situation, and what is critical to life and to protection from harm. As children grow, we have more responsibility to make good choices and to exercise our rights properly.



These rights are listed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

#UNCRC



Free Children from Violence

The SRSG-VAC helps bring together people and organizations from around the world to protect all children from all forms of violence and harm. Working together and coordinating with everyone responsible for children is important to help make sure that all children are free from violence.

When UN Member States were trying to decide what should be the goals of all countries from the year 2016 until the year 2030, the SRSG-VAC was one of the child rights experts who pointed out that protecting children from harm should be a priority global goal. Everyone must join hands together to make sure that there are clear plans, actions, budgets, knowledge, and support to end violence against children.



The Global Goals for Sustainable Development

#GlobalGoals

In 2015, UN Member States agreed on a new set of goals to ensure a world where everyone can live in dignity, safety, equality and in a healthy, protective environment. These are called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or “Global Goals,” and they should be achieved by all countries by 2030.

Ordinary people from around the world, including children and young people, participated in the process of the Global Goals.



The 17 Global Goals represent agreements by different countries to ensure that people around the world live better without damaging the planet. They were selected based on the contributions from people around the world.



The Global Goals are like the different dreams of everyone around the world, and everyone has promised to do something to make these dreams come true.

The Global Goals to End Violence against Children

- 1

No Poverty
- 2

Zero Hunger
- 3

Good Health & Well-being
- 4

Quality Education
- 5

Gender Equality
Achieve Gender Equality and empower all women and girls
- 6

Clean Water & Sanitation
- 7

Affordable & Clean Energy
- 8

Decent Work & Economic Growth
- 9

Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- 10

Reduced Inequalities
- 11

Sustainable Cities & Communities
- 12

Responsible Consumption & Production
- 13

Climate Action
- 14

Life Below Water
- 15

Life on Land
- 16

Peace, Justice, & Strong Institutions
16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

SDG 16.2 is supported by targets for various forms of violence and abuse, for reducing the impact of violence on children's families and communities, and for inclusion and justice.

Safe education facilities (4.a) • Culture of peace and non-violence (4.7) Violence against women and girls (5.2) • Forced labor, modern slavery and human trafficking (8.7) • Child labor, child soldiers (8.7) • Safe workplaces (8.8) • Safe migration (10.7) • Safe housing (11.1), transport (11.2), and public spaces (11.7) • All forms of violence (16.1) • Arm flows (16.4)
- 17

Partnerships for the Goals
Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Did you know?

“Sustainable Development” is development that improves the living conditions of people today, without damaging resources for children in the future.

#FutureGeneration

Development is NOT sustainable when we leave future generations with nothing because we are spending all our resources now.

Sustainable development means growing together, improving how we think, and respecting the environment. Sustainable development can happen if everyone, including children, works together.

Children’s Voices in the Global Goals

Through different meetings and consultations, more than 800,000 children around the world discussed what should be included in the Global Goals by talking about the problems that children are facing. They also gave their recommendations on how to solve these problems.

#ChildParticipation

Children like us can do our part for sustainable development by telling our government leaders about our ideas, experiences, and opinions on things that affect us. We can also help by being respectful to other people and to the environment every day.



When the SRSG-VAC heard what the children had to say, she found out that they want the Global Goals to include a target on ending violence against children.



Children and the Global Goals

Children around the world identified three main issues:

1. Children are very worried about the many cases and forms of violence happening in their homes, schools, communities and places of work.
2. Children said that some forms of violence happen more often in different parts of the world. For example, children from Asia said that forms of violence happening in their countries are child trafficking, child labor, and violence involving the use of drugs and alcohol.
3. Children said that there should be one global target to end violence against children. However, actions to end violence against children should also be included in the actions to achieve the Global Goals on education, health, gender equality, and ending poverty.

The SRSG-VAC identified three important actions to address the issues raised by the children:

1. There should be a clear target about protecting children from violence, especially for children who need more help. And, all the other Global Goals should also help in ending violence against children.
2. The UN Member States must agree on the indicators or signs that children are experiencing less violence, and agree on how we can monitor these signs.
3. Children and young people should be given the opportunity to be involved in achieving the Global Goals. They should be involved in the planning and in the actual work done to achieve the Global Goals.

Children and young people all over the world have said that violence stops them from developing to their full potential and enjoying their life.




These three actions were shared with UN Member States to help them make good decisions about the Global Goals.

What is the High-Level Cross-Regional Roundtable on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Children?


#Roundtable

The High-Level Cross-Regional Roundtable on Violence Against Children is a meeting that happens every year to discuss the protection of children from harm. The Cross-Regional Roundtable is led by the SRSG-VAC and different regional organizations participate.

The Roundtable is an important meeting to make sure that the recommendations of the UN Study are being followed. Now that we have the Global Goals, it is also a way to work effectively together to end violence against children.



In the Roundtable, we talk about what forms of violence against children are happening in various parts of the world. We also talk about what we are doing to learn from one another, and then we make plans and actions to end violence against children.



The first Roundtable happened in 2011 in New York, United States of America. After that, the Roundtable continues to take place every year and happens in different regions of the world.

The Roundtable is attended by different regional organizations around the world.

Regional organizations can be inter-governmental in which its members are countries located close to one another. Participants agree to work together to achieve the same goal for the countries in that region. There are also regional organizations composed of civil society organizations or groups that work for children, like 'Child Rights Coalition Asia.'

Here is a map of some of the regional organizations around the world:





The Association of Southeast Asian Nations

#ASEAN

Countries that belong to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations - or ASEAN - are called 'ASEAN Member States.'

Your country is an ASEAN Member State if you are from:

- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Vietnam

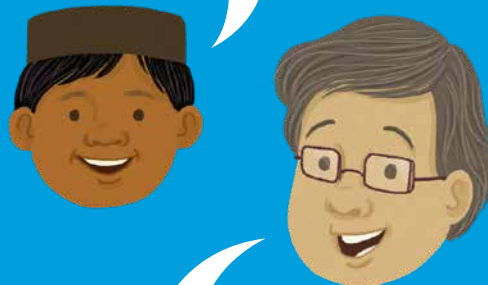
The ASEAN Member States promise to work together for peace, security, freedom and success in Southeast Asia. They prepare declarations to show that they are serious about completing actions together.

The ASEAN Declaration on EVAW and EVAC includes a list of promises by ASEAN Member States to make sure that women and children in Southeast Asia are protected from harm.

The ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children includes a list of actions that should be done between the years 2016 and 2025. These actions are needed to free children from violence.

One of these declarations is called the 'ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Elimination of Violence against Children.'

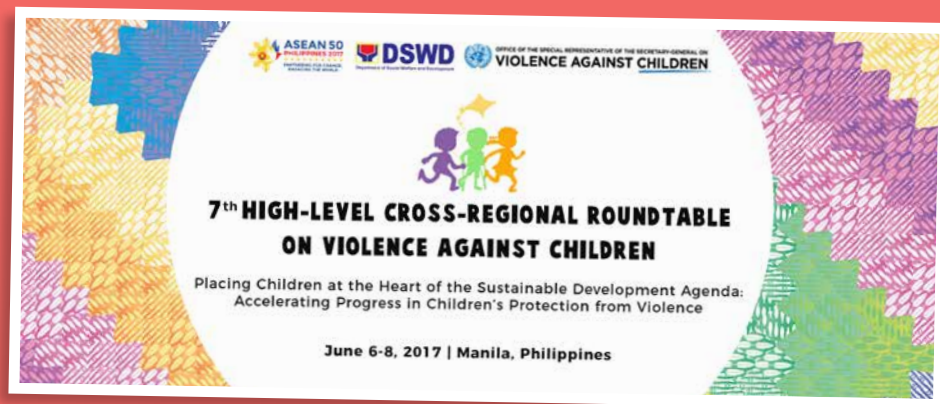
#ASEANDeclaration
OnEVAWandEVAC



To make sure that these promises will come true, the ASEAN Member States created the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children.

The 7th High-Level Cross-Regional Roundtable on Violence against Children

#7thRoundtable



In 2017, the SRSG-VAC organized the 7th High-Level Cross-Regional Roundtable on Violence against Children. This time, the SRSG-VAC partnered with ASEAN Member States to organize the meeting.

The 7th Roundtable was held on 6-8 June 2017 in Manila, Philippines.





Group photo of the adults and the 26 children from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam



The Republic of Korea is not part of ASEAN but it is a 'dialogue partner' of ASEAN. This means that the ASEAN and Republic of Korea work together on different types of issues.

Aside from representatives of the regional organizations from the government and civil society, children from ASEAN Member States and from the Republic of Korea were invited to share their knowledge and experiences on violence against children in their own countries.

During the Roundtable, children shared what they knew about:

- Where violence against children happens in their country, including in homes, schools, communities, personal relationships, on the internet, and in other places
- Who are the people that are harming children
- What their government is doing to protect children from violence


- What are children doing to help end violence against children
- What is the form of violence against children that they are most concerned about
- What are their recommendations to the ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea, to their governments, and to other children to end violence against children

Why is it important to include children in the Roundtable discussions?

Including children in the Roundtable is also a way to fulfill children's right to participation.

What is children's right to participation?

It is the right of children to participate in making decisions about issues or topics that affect them. For example, children experience violence, so they should be asked their opinions on what everyone should do to prevent and end violence.



We want to hear the voices and opinions of children because children are the ones who are directly affected by violence. We listen to children because we know that children can help us to end violence because they are the ones who are experiencing it.



I'm happy that my organization, Child Rights Coalition Asia, helped in preparing the sessions for the children.

The children from the Roundtable agree that children's voices are important in ending violence against children. Here are some examples of what they had to say:

"Children are at the center of the problem of violence against children so hearing the voices of children is absolutely reasonable and necessary. Giving opportunities to make children's voices heard is the first step towards a better society. By participating in activities related to child rights and violence against children, children can be more confident and this can make them really happy."

"A child's problem is best known to the child, so it can be solved more effectively by asking the children."

"Children should be consulted about decisions that are crucial for them because, sometimes, there are things that adults do not know about the children."

"Child participation is important in recognizing the issues of children that adults are unaware of. Children have unique ideas."

"Children have the right to participate in developing policies and measures affecting themselves."

"Children talking to one another about violence against children is important because children understand and are comfortable with other children."

"Child participation is important because children can make a difference."



What are some of the key points children made at the Roundtable?

Violence against Children at Home

Children experienced and witnessed physical violence, neglect, sexual violence, and emotional violence at home.

- Some of them reported personally getting beaten by the father, and getting slapped and kicked by the stepmother.
- They witnessed or heard reports about children experiencing physical and humiliating punishment; children being forced to do all the household chores; and, adults giving cigarettes to children.
- They heard news reports about children being forced to perform sexual activities.
- Some of them experienced living in the streets where their friends were bullied, hit, slapped, and punched by other children living in the streets.
- Some of them experienced verbal abuse and were called names by their parents.
- They know of parents not giving food to children and neglecting their children.
- They reported favoritism in the family based on school performance or test scores.

Violence against Children in School

Children experienced and witnessed violence against children by teachers, school staff and students.

- They shared stories of teachers giving physical and humiliating punishment such as hitting, caning, pinching, throwing objects at children, and shouting bad words at students.
- They have teachers who favor students who get higher test scores.
- They reported being forced to believe in God.
- They shared stories of bullying: older students forcing younger students to do errands; students bullying those who are orphaned; and students threatening to hit, kill, or cut off the head of their classmates.
- They complained about schools that are not doing anything even after students reported the problem.

Violence against Children in Places of Work

Children shared different forms of violence against children by employers, co-workers, customers, and passersby.

- They shared stories of their friends who resorted to prostitution because their families did not support their schooling.
- They complained about children experiencing inequality in wages because of their age, such as not getting a full salary or overtime pay.
- They heard stories about children being exposed to dangerous work, children being overworked, and children experiencing verbal bullying, discrimination, and isolation at work.
- They talked about adults who refuse to acknowledge children's capacity and contributions.

Violence against Children in the Community

Children shared different forms of violence that they experience and witness happening in their communities.

- Some of them experienced being homeless and living in the streets. They worked for gangsters, sang in buses, begged, and worked as a sweeper on the train.
- They know stories of children who have tried to survive on their own by resorting to stealing, becoming a street vendor, or entering into prostitution.
- They heard news reports about baby dumping, child trafficking, and sexual exploitation of children.
- They complained about the community not intervening in family violence.
- They are worried about children getting into drugs or recruited by drug gangs who may later commit theft and murder.
- They witnessed parents hitting, shouting at, or embarrassing children in public.
- They talked about bike gangs who are making too much noise and contributing to the rise of accident rates.
- They shared stories of bullying from their personal experiences and the experiences of their friends, like the story of a girl who was bullied by boys in the streets because she had a fashionable hairstyle and fashionable clothes.

Violence against Children in Alternative Care and the Justice System

Children shared reports of violence against children in institutions like shelters, orphanages, detention centers, or other places where children live without their parents.

- They heard news reports about babies' mouths being taped to keep them from crying.
- They shared stories of children in institutions who live in fear and who experience depression or isolation.
- They felt sad that children who committed crimes face stigma.

Violence against Children on the Internet

Children identified the different forms of violence that children may experience on the internet.

- They know about online sexual exploitation, pornography, and grooming.
- They talked about gaming addiction and playing hardcore games that may lead to suicide and may inspire bad behavior.
- They shared their knowledge of online videos that encourage children to commit crime.
- They know stories of cyberbullying, which can sometimes lead to suicide.
- They are aware that they should be careful about getting hacked or receiving fake news.
- They know that they are at risk of getting unwanted or nude photos from strangers in social media.

What can children do to end violence against children?

The children in the Roundtable shared their ideas on what children can do to help end violence against children.

- Report cases of violence against children using available hotlines in their countries.
- Ask help from trusted adults like parents, teachers, school principals, village chiefs, police, and other experts.
- Tell those who hurt us, including other children, to stop. We can talk to our parents, our teachers, and the bullies in our schools.
- Start studying children's rights and fight for our rights. We can talk about the importance of self-expression in our schools and communities.
- Voice our opinions and recommendations to improve policies and plans of actions at the local, national, regional, and international levels.
- Introduce child-friendly places to other children so that they will have a place to feel safe and accepted.
- Use social media to eliminate cyberbullying.
- Protect ourselves in social media by controlling the settings.
- Start and organize a campaign about children's rights.

Do you know that children in the Roundtable have already done some of the actions listed here? I'm so proud of them!



Children's Issues and Recommendations

During the Roundtable, children were asked to identify the most important issues they are concerned about. These issues were then grouped into three categories:

- 1 Sexual violence against children
- 2 Children affected by drugs and neglect of family
- 3 Physical violence against children, especially domestic violence and bullying in schools

The children were also asked to provide recommendations on how to address these issues. These are recommendations for ASEAN Member States and the Republic of South Korea, for national governments, and for children like them.

These recommendations were presented to the adults in the Roundtable! Let's look at them in the following pages.



Sexual Violence against Children

The children from Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam identified sexual violence against children as the issue that they are most concerned about.



They started the presentation of their recommendations by telling the story of Vosa:

There was a pretty girl named Vosa. She is famous at school and everybody wants to be her friend. She is 15 years old and wears great clothes. During the school summer break, she dyed her hair a different color, but she dyed her hair back to black when the school started again.

One day, while she was walking home from school, she was teased by some of the guys she passed by. They were telling dirty jokes that made her uncomfortable. She ignored them and continued walking home. Suddenly, a man came out from nowhere, grabbed her, and planned to sexually harass her. Fortunately, she was able to run away. A coffee shop owner saw her and helped her.

Vosa posted her story on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media channels. She tried to warn other girls not to pass by that dangerous place, especially at night. Some of the comments in her social media posts tried to comfort her and told her that they understood what she felt. However, some of the comments were cruel and tried to make her feel bad. They said that she was harassed because of her sexy clothes and dyed hair. They said that she just got what she wanted.

This shows that Vosa had to endure sexual abuse offline and online.

Here are the children's recommendations to help end sexual violence against children:

Children like us should:

- Protect ourselves by acknowledging the issue
- Educate and raise awareness to others about contemporary circumstances
- Participate in youth councils/forums
- Immediately report sexual abuse to the nearest authority

Governments can prevent online and offline sexual abuse and exploitation by:

- Working with information technology professionals and industries to block and take down “dark webs”
- Increasing investment in a strong national child protection system
- Establishing and building better evidence and data gathering
- Strengthening the evaluation and monitoring system
- Creating new policies, plans and laws specifically for sexual violence and ensure their implementation
- Empowering the community to raise their awareness
- Adding sexuality education in school curriculum
- Continuing the promotion of platforms for open discussion about sexual violence

ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea can help solve sexual violence against children by:

- Working with ASEAN on creating, strengthening, and implementing guidelines on sexual abuse
- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation of plans and policies after implementation
- Sharing information with neighboring countries
- Creating new international standards on the issue and promoting several plans and strategies to eliminate sexual violence

Children Affected by Drugs and Children Neglected by Family

The children from Indonesia chose to discuss neglect of children by their parents, and the children from the Philippines wanted to talk about children affected by drugs.



They began the presentation of their recommendations by telling a story:

A mother is crying because her two children are hungry. She is asking forgiveness from her children because she has no money to buy food for them. She asked her husband for money so that she can buy food, but her husband got mad at her and hit her. Her husband is hooked on drugs and he spends all his money to buy drugs.

As she tries to look back at what happened in her life, the mother

remembers that she lived in poverty when she was a child and that she got pregnant when she was a teenager. She is heartbroken that her children are experiencing the same problems that she experienced.

One day, her husband was caught doing drugs. He tried to escape, but he was shot by a policeman.

The group also showed a video presentation containing the message...

We know that it is not yet too late.
We can still do something.
We want prosperity, not destruction.
We cry for peace, not for war.

We beg for love and care, not hatred.
We want respect, not maltreatment.
We can have all of it if we are one
as ASEAN.

Here are the children's recommendations to help end violence against children affected by drugs and for children neglected by their families:

Children like us should:	Governments can help children affected by drugs and neglected by their families by:	ASEAN and the Republic of Korea can help children affected by drugs and neglected by their families by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be oriented about children's issues through lectures and symposiums• Be oriented about what is really happening in our communities through constant monitoring• Have an agency or institution that we can report to• Have our rights fulfilled through government programmes and society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing a community reporting system for women and children• Creating programs for the welfare of children, such as education and livelihood programs• Conducting capacity building for all people engaging with children, such as parent effectiveness seminars and symposiums• Creating interventions for children affected by drugs and neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthening partnerships with ASEAN Member States and other regions• Ensuring strict compliance or effective implementation of international guidelines• Securing adequate budget for children• Having a standardized capacity building program for all people engaging with children

Physical Violence against Children, especially Domestic Violence and Bullying in Schools

The children from the Republic of Korea were concerned about domestic violence affecting children in their country, and the children from Singapore wanted to address bullying happening in schools.



They started the presentation of their recommendations by narrating a story:

A boy grew up in a family where domestic violence is happening. At school, he was also bullied very badly. He was afraid to tell anyone about what is happening at home and in school. He kept everything to himself.

One day, his friend decided to stand up for him. His friend reported the bullying to the authorities. After receiving the report, the authorities examined the case seriously and decided to do something by putting closed-circuit television (CCTVs)

around the schools. They also built a shelter for the victims of bullying. These actions also helped in letting the public know about bullying in schools.

After a few years, the boy grew up and he became a politician. He suggested actions to prevent physical bullying in schools. He also hoped that the Cross-Regional Roundtable on Violence against Children would listen to the voices of children.

Here are the children's recommendations to help end physical violence against children, especially domestic violence and bullying in schools:

Children like us should:	Governments can help address violence at home and bullying in schools by:	ASEAN and the Republic of Korea can help address violence at home and bullying in schools by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have school laws encouraging students who witnessed an event to report to the authorities• Put CCTVs at hidden corners in schools to prevent bullying• Build schools with no hidden corners to prevent bullying• Attend cross-regional meetings to let the governments know that physical violence is happening in the country so that they can do something to stop it	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encouraging the implementation of education on children's rights and protection of children from violence• Facilitating mandatory education as the main solution to violence against children: Teach children to recognize their own rights and respect the rights of others, and educate adults to demonstrate a respectful and responsible attitude towards children• Developing policies that support the mandatory education• Focusing on making public institutions more accessible to everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raising everyone's awareness on children's rights• Guaranteeing child rights through international cooperation, like how this Roundtable is doing

What happened to these recommendations from the children?



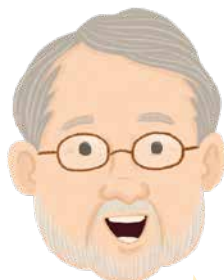
Together with all the adults in the Roundtable, I gladly received these important recommendations and will make them known through our work. I also remain committed to empowering children and making sure that they enjoy their right to participate.

These recommendations are also being shared with different people and organizations who are working to end violence against children.

One example of sharing the recommendations is this booklet you are reading! This booklet is a way to let both adults and other children around the world listen to the voices and recommendations of children like us.



We are hopeful that people will hear the voices of children because, as we have learned, child participation is a very important part of ending violence against children in the world.



For those of us at Child Rights Coalition Asia, these inputs are very helpful in giving us the direction on what to do. We are working hard on many of these recommendations.

You can do your part in protecting children, too! Please share this booklet to your friends and help us build regions free from violence against children.



The work we must do now is to encourage people to transform these recommendations into reality for every child.



Test Your Knowledge

Answer the questions below.

- 1 How many Global Goals for Sustainable Development are there? Circle the correct answer.
a) 17 b) 7 c) 16

- 2 Complete these two important messages of the 2006 UN Study on Violence against Children:
No violence against children is _____
All violence against children is _____

- 3 “Harmful actions on children are still considered violence, even if these actions are accepted as a form of ‘tradition’ or disguised as a form of discipline.” Is this statement true or false? Circle the correct answer.
a) True b) False

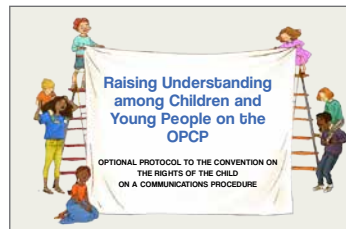
- 4 List at least three regional intergovernmental organizations:
a) _____
b) _____
c) _____

List of Recommended Readings

Available at the website of SRSB-VAC

www.violenceagainstchildren.un.org

- 1 United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children – Adapted for Children and Young People
- 2 Safe You Safe Me
- 3 Raising Understanding among Children and Young People on the OPSC
- 4 Raising Understanding among Children and Young People on the OPCP
- 5 Roadmap to End Violence against Children
- 6 The City of Our Dreams
- 7 Celebrating Childhood: A Journey to End Violence against Children



Available at the website of Child Rights Coalition Asia

<http://crcasia.org/#Resources>

- 1 Violence against Children in Southeast Asia
- 2 Public Budgets: How Governments should Spend Money for Children's Rights
- 3 The World We Want: A Guide to the Goals for Children and Young People
- 4 #SafeWeb4Kids Children's Guide to Online Safety
- 5 Eliminating Violence against Women and Children in the ASEAN Region
- 6 Let Your Voices Be Heard in ASEAN





- ✓ Kicking
- ✓ Spanking
- ✓ Pulling hair

- ✓ Insulting
- ✓ Threatening
- ✓ Name-calling

- ✓ Rape
- ✓ Prostitution
- ✓ Sextortion

- ✓ Not giving food
- ✓ Not caring
- ✓ Abandonment

Matching Test



Australia



Hong Kong



Mongolia

Papua
New Guinea

Taiwan



Brunei



Indonesia



Myanmar



Philippines



Thailand



Cambodia



Japan



Nauru



Samoa



Tonga



China



Kiribati



New Zealand



Singapore



Tuvalu



East Timor



Laos



North Korea

Solomon
Islands

Vanuatu

Federated
States of
Micronesia

Malaysia



Palau



South Korea



Vietnam



Cambodia

Marshall
Islands

Test Your Knowledge

Answer the questions below.

- 1 How many Global Goals for Sustainable Development are there? Circle the correct answer.
 a) 17 b) 7 c) 16

- 2 Complete these two important messages of the 2006 UN Study on Violence against Children:
 No violence against children is **JUSTIFIABLE**
 All violence against children is **PREVENTABLE**

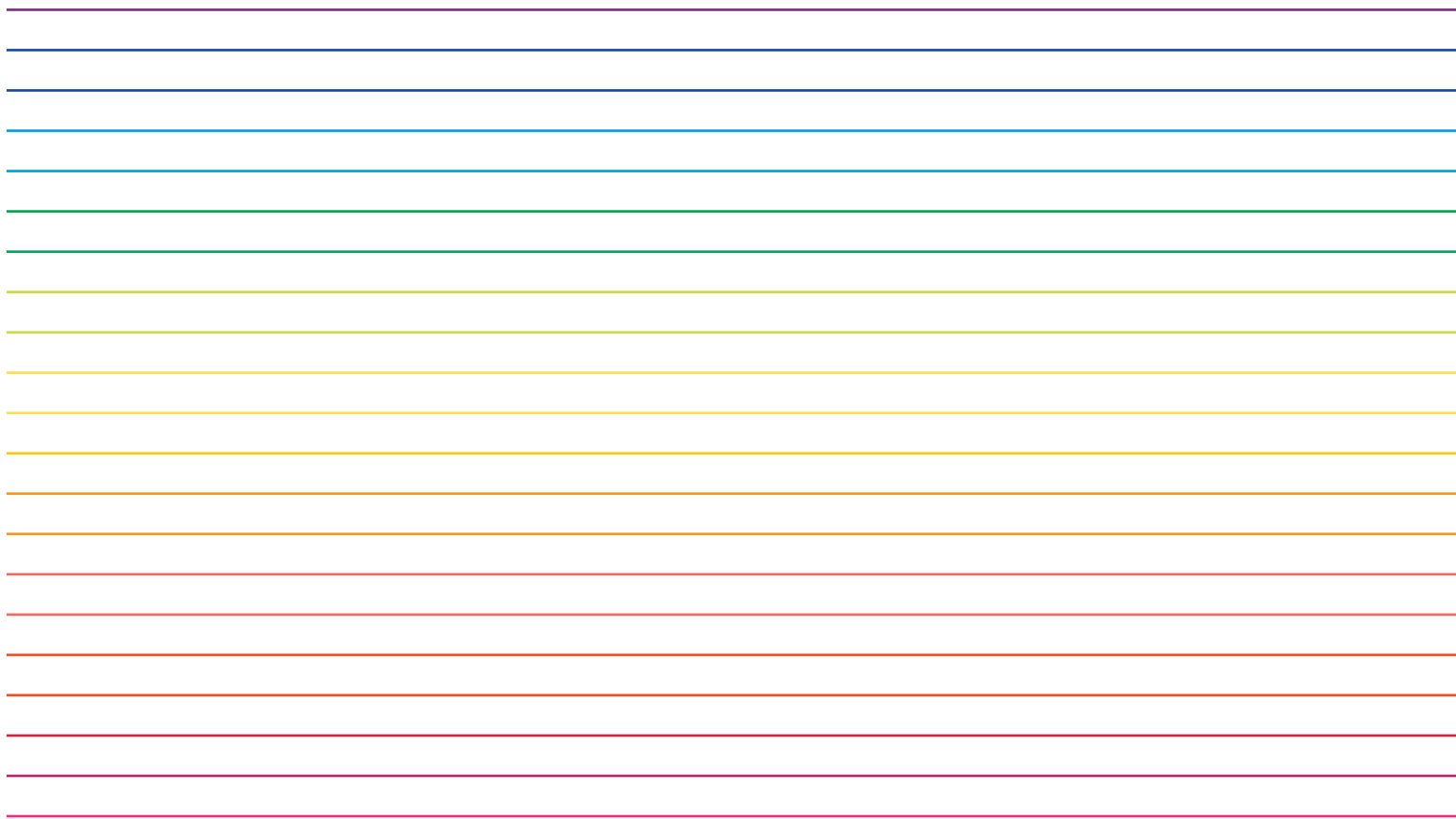
- 3 “Harmful actions on children are still considered violence, even if these actions are accepted as a form of ‘tradition’ or disguised as a form of discipline.” Is this statement true or false? Circle the correct answer.
 a) True b) False

- 4 List at least three regional intergovernmental organizations:

a. African Union b. Arab League c. Association of Southeast Asian Nations d. Caribbean Community e. Council of Europe f. Economic Community of West African States	g. European Union h. Organization of American States (Inter-American Children’s Institute, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights) i. Southern Common Market or MERCOSUR	j. Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana or Central American Integration System - SICA k. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
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This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are colored in a repeating pattern of blue, green, yellow, orange, red, and pink. A single vertical blue line runs down the left side of the page, creating a margin. There are no markings or text on the paper.

[illegible]



The Office of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children is an independent global advocate in favor of the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, mobilizing action and political support to achieve progress the world over. The mandate of the SRSG-VAC is anchored in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments and framed by the UN Study on Violence against Children.

 @srsgvac

 @martasantospaispage

www.violenceagainstchildren.un.org

Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia) is a network of child rights organizations working together to be a strong voice for child rights in the region by leading in strengthening child rights movements, promoting innovative programs, and advocating better policies for and with the children.

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