

THE ROLE OF CHILD HELPLINES IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO CHILD VIOLENCE

Bangkok Declaration of the Eighth International Consultation of Child Helpline International

We, child helplines operating in 142 countries, uphold the child's right to protection from violence. In 2015 child helplines answered nearly 20 million contacts worldwide. One out of seven contacts concerns abuse and violence. Children in disaster areas and conflict zones are at special risk. Moreover, gender based violence causes several forms of violence against children. Child helplines listen, counsel, refer, assist and provide other essential services to children in need.

We call on Governments to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in particular urgently to end all forms of violence against children as Goal 16.2 and related targets oblige Member States to “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children” ...including physical and sexual violence, mental violence and psychological abuse, and neglect or negligent treatment.

Gathered in Bangkok (Thailand) on 16th November 2016 for the Eighth International Consultation of Child Helpline International, child helplines call on Governments to strengthen the protection of the children of the world. Governments should:

- a) Ensure that every child in all countries has information about and access to high quality child helpline support so that children exposed to abuse and violence can be supported and responded to;
- b) Actively promote a change in culture to eradicate attitudes and norms that tolerate violence against children;
- c) Adopt appropriate legal provisions banning all forms of violence against children and providing for sufficient resources to bring violators to justice;
- d) Use the voices of children, including the data from child helplines, to further advance the implementation of children's rights in national child protection.



e) Partner with civil society and the private sector to prevent and stop violence against children through the formation of strong protective systems including a well-defined and well-resourced helpline for children;

f) Ensure formal cooperation between child helplines and social protection systems and other safety nets to ensure the attainment of SDG 16.2 and related targets;

g) Implement target 16.2 of the SDG's: "End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children" in all settings, including homes and families, schools and institutions, in communities and public spaces.

We furthermore call upon governments as well as our partners in civil society, international agencies and the private sector, including telecoms and other industry partners, to:

- Recognise, and communicate that no violence against children is ever justifiable;
- Support the sustainability of child helplines through providing adequate resources to ensure their ability to operate;
- Recognise child helplines' unique capacity to bring the voices of children out in the public domain to emphasise the situation of children subject to violence.

Bangkok, 16 November 2016