

## 10 Frequently asked Questions (FAQ)

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*The Secretariat of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children is currently hosted by UNICEF, with significant financial and technical support from many key partners including: Elevate Children, SOS Children's Villages, Save the Children, Child Fund Alliance, World Health Organization and the Governments of the United Kingdom and Switzerland. The aim of this document is to support secretariat staff and partners to communicate effectively about the initiative. This FAQ will be regularly updated. (July 2016)*

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### 1. What is the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children?

Agenda 2030 calls for all countries and all stakeholders to come together in a collaborative partnership to deliver sustainable development to all, and especially to the poorest and most vulnerable. By bringing together governments, UN agencies, international organizations, civil society, faith groups, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, researchers and academics, and children, the Partnership will:

- a. **Build Political Will.** The Partnership will build and sustain political will to achieve the SDGs and end violence against children, promoting evidence-based strategies that will lead to significant, sustained and measurable reductions in violence.
- b. **Accelerate Action.** Partners will work together to accelerate action to tackle the violence that children face, with an initial focus on countries that wish to lead the movement to end violence.
- c. **Strengthen Collaboration.** The Partnership will strengthen collaboration among and between countries, and with civil society and other stakeholders. They will be encouraged to confront shared threats and develop shared solutions, acknowledging that violence against children cannot be considered in isolation from the broader context of violence. The Partnership will work with and supplement the efforts – but neither displace nor distort – the work of existing partnerships.

### 2. Which types of violence is the Partnership addressing?

The Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a 'child' as a person below the age of 18, unless the laws of a particular country set the legal age for adulthood younger. The Partnership therefore defines violence against children as violence against all persons aged less than 18 years. Types of violence against children that the Partnership will address include:

**Sexual violence :** Any form of sexual abuse and exploitation including: (i) unlawful or psychologically harmful sexual activity; (ii) commercial sexual exploitation; (iii) the use of children in audio or visual images of child sexual abuse; (iv) child prostitution, sexual slavery, sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation,; and (v) forced or early marriage.

**Physical violence:** Fatal and non-fatal physical violence including: (i) corporal punishment (ii) physical bullying and hazing by adults or by other children; (iii) harmful practices such as female genital mutilation or cutting; amputations, binding, scarring, burning and branding; violent and degrading initiation rites, exorcism; sex selection and 'honour' crimes; and (iv) child labour, including non-sexual slavery, trafficking, and use of child soldiers.

**Emotional Violence:** Psychological maltreatment, mental abuse, verbal abuse and emotional abuse or neglect including: (i) all forms of persistent harmful interactions with a child; (ii) scaring, terrorizing and threatening; exploiting and corrupting; spurning and rejecting; isolating, ignoring and favouritism; (iii) denying emotional responsiveness; (iv) insults, name-calling, humiliation, belittling,

ridiculing and hurting a child's feelings; (v) exposure to domestic violence; (vi) placement in solitary confinement; and (vii) psychological bullying and hazing by adults or other children, including 'cyber-bullying'.

**Neglect or Negligent Treatment:** The deliberate failure to meet children's physical and psychological needs, protect them from danger or obtain medical, birth registration or other services when those responsible for their care have the means, knowledge and access to services to do so. This includes intentional (i) physical neglect; (ii) psychological or emotional neglect; (iii) neglect of a child's physical or mental health; (iv) educational neglect; and (v) abandonment.

Children can also be affected by two other types of violence: self-directed violence, including suicidal behaviour and self-abuse, and collective violence such as war and terrorism, committed by larger groups of people which the Partnership will not address.

### **3. What is the Governance of the Partnership?**

The governance for the Partnership will evolve as the Partnership evolves. The initial structure is designed to serve the needs of a start-up organization; the Partnership will also take time to get structures right at national level. The Partnership will be guided by high-level Board and a senior-level Executive Committee that will oversee the work of the Secretariat.

**The Founding Board** will establish the vision, mission, principles, and strategy. As the highest body of the Partnership, the Board will mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the Partnership in delivering against its strategy. Representing the wide-ranging and diverse nature of the Partnership, members are high-level individuals who lend the Partnership the influence, access and range of perspectives it needs to secure political and financial support to end violence against children in all countries. It is anticipated that the founding Board will have up to 25 seats with a mix of constituency-based and independent members, with one-half of members representing governments.

**The Founding Executive Committee** provides the critical link between the high-level Board activities and the technical operations of the Partnership. Under the ultimate authority of the Board, the Executive Committee acts as a forum for debate and development of the strategic agenda for the Partnership, as well as for engagement and involvement of key working level representatives of the partners – increasing ownership of strategy, policies and operations amongst partners. The Executive Committee composition reflects, but does not represent, the diverse organizations, networks and countries in the Partnership; it is not a representative or constituency-based body. Members are senior persons who possess the authority to make commitments and effect change within their own institutions to support Partnership goals. In addition, they have capacity to provide significant time and resources to the critical start-up phase of the Partnership. It is anticipated that the founding Executive Committee will have 12-15 members – large enough to embody the skills required but small enough to be most efficient and effective.

### **4. How can agencies be involved in the Partnership?**

The Global Partnership is an inclusive platform where partners from state and non-state sectors come together to work together to end violence against children. The partnering approach builds on the skills and competences of all partners, increases efficiency by avoiding duplication of efforts and uses partners' reach to end violence against children.

Organisations at global, regional and country level can become member.

The Partnership has a membership drawn from seven constituencies. Each constituency will attempt to have a coordinating mechanism and a chair person from among its members. In addition the secretariat will ensure a focal point that supports the work of each constituency.

The following are the seven constituencies:

- Governments
- UN agencies
- Civil society, including faith groups and those directly engaging children
- Private sector
- Philanthropic foundations
- Academia
- Children<sup>1</sup>

**Governments** have already committed to the SDG targets and will therefore follow a separate process than the application described below. Governments who want to champion the implementation of SDG 16.2 can signal their interest in doing so to the secretariat and see guidance. Please click [here](#) to see guidance for pathfinding countries.

**Organizations** interested in applying for membership must be committed to ending violence against children, in accordance with the Partnership's vision, mission and principles. Click [here](#) for the online application or download the Word version. Before completing the form, applicants are invited to review the information indicated below regarding member's benefits, criteria and expectations. Only institutions, not individuals, may apply for membership.

There is no membership fee associated to the Partnership.

**Benefits of membership include:**

- leveraging each other's work and contributing to ending violence through collaborative and multisectoral action;
- shaping the agenda of the partnership, take on specific work on behalf of it, and directly contributing to achieving its goals and objectives;
- exchanging lessons learned and showcasing best practice through events and networking, access to a directory of partners, joint advocacy initiatives, and periodic updates;
- accessing, in priority, resources related to the Partnership's work.

**Criteria for becoming a member are:**

- be active in the prevention of and response to violence against children;
- be committed to collective and collaborative action to ending violence against children;
- endorse the vision, mission and principles of the Partnership, as reflected in its strategy;
- be committed to implementing multi-sectoral, multi-constituency action plans;
- invest own resources and capacities to pursue initiatives to end violence against children.

**Once accepted, a member of the Partnership is expected to:**

- promote and advocate for the Partnership;
- contribute directly or indirectly to one or more goals in the Partnership's strategy, namely to build political will, promote solutions, accelerate action or strengthen collaboration;
- participate in communication networks and build relationships with constituency partners, globally, regionally and nationally, as appropriate;
- contribute time, effort and/or resources to planning and implementing the Partnership's activities at global, regional or national level. Examples of expected contributions include

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<sup>1</sup> The participation of children is supported via a dedicated strategy that will be developed with them.

direct funding and/or in-kind contributions including technical expertise, assistance with media or networking and support for other partners' attendance at fora.

## **5. What is the technical package (INSPIRE) and how is it linked to the Partnership?**

INSPIRE is a technical package of seven strategies to prevent violence against children. The World Health Organization (WHO) initiated preparation of the INSPIRE package, in collaboration with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), End Violence Against Children: The Global Partnership, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Together for Girls, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank. The package is based on convergence between these agencies in the strategies they have been recommending, and presents the best available evidence to help countries and communities intensify their focus on prevention programmes and services with the greatest potential to reduce violence against children. The package will be central to the Partnership's strategy for strengthening national efforts to end violence against children.

The seven strategies are: 1) implementation and enforcement of laws 2) norms and values 3) safe environments 4) parent and caregiver support 5) income and economic strengthening 6) response and support services, and 7) education and life skills.

The feasibility of successfully implementing the seven INSPIRE strategies will vary according to the context. Interventions such as parenting programmes, life skills training programmes, and services for victims are feasible in every context, whereas those involving for example the enforcement will be less feasible where conflict or natural disaster have severely eroded these structures.

The INSPIRE package is not intended for implementation as a new programme. Rather, it represents a way of revitalizing, focusing, and expanding current multisectoral efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children. Any INSPIRE implementation effort should aim to ensure either a progressively staged or simultaneous approach by respective sectors, and to implement at least one intervention from each of the seven strategies (ideally at scale), as the strategies are intended to work in combination and reinforce one another.

Download INSPIRE at: [www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/inspire](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire)

## **6. How can countries engage with the Partnership?**

All countries are encouraged to develop as soon as practicable ambitious national responses to end violence against children. This translates into nationally owned plans that build on, rather than duplicate, existing efforts. If a coordinating mechanism does not already exist, countries will also be encouraged to establish one, or a country level partnership, made up of representatives from multiple sectors and constituencies involved in responding to violence against children. Drawing from INSPIRE's strategies, the countries will prepare these national action plans and associated road maps that set out priority commitments for ending violence, including timing, who is responsible, and resource implications. Countries are also asked to build on the 'global plan of action' to strengthen the role of the health system to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children" adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2016.

## **7. How does the Fund to End Violence Against Children support the objectives of the Partnership?**

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children has an associated fund that will be instrumental in generating the resources necessary to fund programs and accelerate action for ending violence against children. Fund to End Violence Against Children is strategically aligned under the Partnership; however it remains operationally independent to ensure that grants are allocated fairly and to mitigate against any unintentional knowledge bias.

The fund will be governed by a Steering Committee. Funds from donors will be pooled and allocated according to three priority areas: (1) Preventing on-line violence, with a particular focus on sexual exploitation; (2) Addressing violence in the every-day lives of children, with an initial focus on investments in Pathfinder countries to implement evidence based programming; (3) Addressing the prevention of violence against children facing conflict and crisis.

With generous support from the United Kingdom the Partnership has accepted its first financial commitment in the fight to end violence against children with an initial focus on tackling online child sexual exploitation, a heinous crime that transcends boards and demands a global response.

UNICEF acts as the financial custodian on behalf of the fund. Firewalls will ensure that decisions on the allocation of funding are made entirely independently of UNICEF and in line with the Partnership's three distinct priorities. NGOs, Governments, and UN agencies will be eligible for funding.

The Fund has announced its first Call for Proposals and is accepting applications online at [www.end-violence.org](http://www.end-violence.org)

## **8. What is being done in terms of strategic communication on violence against children?**

A study by the non-profit organization Without Violence found that: • most people knew very little about 'violence in the lives of children' as an issue (e.g. its nature, scale and effects); • most people had strong, often personal, reactions to the issue; • few could name a successful violence prevention initiative, whether child-related or otherwise, nor did they know meaningful change was achievable within two years; • the most convincing reason to stop violence was to break the cycle to stop future impacts on people's lives and on society more broadly; • keeping things positive, interactive and focused on children was highly effective; • giving solutions a name helped enormously; • stories and evidence work well together. Based on these points, and the strong initiatives at country and organizational level, the Partnership will engage with Partners within the first year to develop joint strategy for Global and Country level advocacy and communications.

For the time being, key messages of the Partnership are the following:

- ✓ Approximately one billion children worldwide have experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence in the past year.
- ✓ Every day, in every country – rich and poor – millions of children are victims of violence in their homes, schools, and communities.
- ✓ Violence against children is preventable not inevitable.
- ✓ We have an historic opportunity to end violence against children. The experts agree and the proven solutions exist.
- ✓ We can deliver on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals, a world where every child grows up free from violence and exploitation.
- ✓ The Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children will work with partners across sectors with governments, the 'UN family', civil society, the private sector, foundations, researchers and academics, and children themselves to build political will, promote solutions, accelerate action and strengthen collaboration.
- ✓ Collaboration and partnership will allow us to do together what no single government or agency can do alone, end violence against children.

## **9. How will the Partnership link up with ongoing networks, initiatives?**

Some examples of vital, closely-related initiatives include: the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the work being carried out by the Special Representatives of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Violence Against Children and the SRSG on Children in Armed Conflict; Girls not brides; the Global Alliance for Child protection in Humanitarian Action; the World Vision

Campaign to End Violence Against Children; ChildFund Alliance campaign Free from Violence and the 16+ forum. The Partnership guarantees to work hand in hand with existing initiatives and to build, where possible, on what is being done at country level.

#### **10. How can I contact the Partnership?**

If you have any questions, or would like to be added to the mailing list, please reach out to Sabine Rakotomalala ([secretariat@end-violence.org](mailto:secretariat@end-violence.org)).