The Vision: If all the world’s religions devoted one day each year to prayers and concrete, visible actions to promote the rights and protection of children in all their places of worship, it would not only improve the lives of children, but would also send a powerful signal to the whole world that religions can be a unifying force for human solidarity in the effort to end violence against children.

The World Day is a year-round advocacy and action platform that encourages broad partnerships to work towards a world where all children can learn, grow and flourish in a safe environment, free from all forms of violence.

At the GNRC 5th Forum in Panama in 2017, religious leaders and other participants affirmed that “transformed religious and spiritual communities can offer moral teachings and model practices to prevent, heal, reduce and ultimately end violence against children.” The participants committed to strive to build a brighter future for all children through their beliefs and actions.

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Cali7ed the child each year on November 20 to coincide with the United Nations Universal Children’s Day
Promotes the rights and protection of children through prayer and action
Highlights our shared values and responsibility for the world’s children

Initiated in 2008 by Arigatou International, the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children connects religious leaders, faith communities and civil society organizations in a common endeavor to protect the dignity of the child and end all violence against children.
Ending violence against children is an urgent moral imperative and global challenge. It is estimated that up to 1 billion children aged 2-17 years have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence or neglect, which calls for a change of attitudes and behavior in order to prevent these abuses and exploitation. All forms of violence violate children’s rights and affect their well-being. By working together, religious leaders, faith communities, faith-based organizations, governments, UN agencies, and civil society organizations can help to protect children from violence.

Prayer and Action for Children was launched in 2008 by Arigatou International to bring together diverse faith leaders and religious communities and organizations working for children to take action to prevent all forms of violence against children and strengthen child protection. Prayer and Action seeks to engage all sectors of society to accelerate and advance global efforts to end violence against children. It also provides opportunities for interfaith dialogue and cooperation for children.

Eighty-four percent of the world’s population is affiliated with a religious tradition or belief. Faith communities and religious leaders have enormous potential to affect change. Through prayer and action they can work in solidarity to end violence against children and help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals adopted at the United Nations in 2015 with a target year of 2030.

We invite you on the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children (20 November each year) to collaborate with others in your community to organize a service of prayer or reflection, accompanied by collaborative actions to stop violence against children and improve children’s lives locally. Our action and advocacy are inspired by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and guided by the United Nations Secretary General’s Study on Violence against Children (2006).

Promote the World Day
Raise awareness of the rights and dignity of each and every child, and share with your community about the personal and social consequences of violence against children. Post events on your own website and social media pages, and use the hashtag #PrayerandAction #Dayofthechild to connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and our Prayer and Action website. Invite partners, friends and members of your house of worship to join you.

Observe the World Day
Visit our website for information on events and inspiration: prayerandactionforchildren.org