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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Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action

Too many children around the world suffer violence at home, in school, in their communities or in other settings where they need to feel nurtured and safe. Violence against children happens in every country and society, and even across all social groups. Information and communication technologies are increasingly being used to perpetrate online sexual abuse and exploitation of children. The diverse forms of violence include physical and psychological, and the short and long-term building upon the Panama Declaration that resulted from the 2017 Children: Faith Communities in Action, for Children gives high priority to addressing violence against children, particularly through the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals: 16.2 on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children; 5.2 and 5.3 on ending violence against women and girls; and 8.7 on ending economic protecting child dignity online; mobilizing interfaith actions for safeguarding the rights of children on the move; promoting positive parenting; and advocating to end child marriage. In 2019, Prayer and Action will engage in activities to commemorate the 30 Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Promote the World Day 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 Twitter, Facebook, and Action and other People.

Connect with Other People

Promote online prayer, reflection, and mobilization for children and families. This year, we invite you to join with us in observing 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).

Turning the words of the Declaration into a reality requires commitment and action. But individuals and communities working for children can make a difference. By working together, we can create a world where children’s rights are respected, children’s voices are heard, and children can live in safety and security. We invite you to participate in the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children.

Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action

Prayer and Action

Why Pray? A Call to Prayer

Prayer and action can help to protect children from violence. In 2017, the World Health Organization’s Global Handbook on Health and Social Development provided guidance to faith leaders and faith-based organizations on how to integrate faith practices and principles into their work. This handbook was launched in 2018 by Prayer and Action for Children calls on people of faith and goodwill to:

- Recognize the rights of the child.
- Reflect on ways to listen to and work in partnership with children.
- Explore effective ways to protect and nurture children, including the gifts that children bring.
- Strengthen faith communities, including interfaith dialogue and cooperation for children.
- Promote the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children (20 November each year).

Ending violence against children is an urgent moral imperative and global challenge. It is estimated that up to 1 billion children suffer violence each year. 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 and development, but they are preventable. By working together, religious leaders, faith communities, faith-based organizations, governments, UN agencies, and civil society can help to protect children from violence. We invite you to join with us in observing 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).