

Commitment from Religious Leaders on Preventing Violence Against Children in Tanzania

On the occasion of commemorating the day of Prayer and Action for Children

Our faith celebrates life. It calls on us to treat one another as we would like to be treated - with respect, compassion and kindness - however in our communities we continue to treat each other with disrespect, indifference and to hurt each other .

Violence against children should not be tolerated in any form. We must ensure our children are safe in their communities. A recent survey in Tanzania on the levels of violence against children exposes alarming results. Sexual, physical and emotional abuse against children of any age is a challenge to our core values and beliefs. We must live and work together to protect children from violence.

And so today, as we join this important Day of Prayer and Action for Children, in one voice as women and men of faith, we pray and speak in solidarity with those who have been silenced. We are committed to take necessary action to:

First, create greater awareness in our religious communities about the impact of all forms of violence against children.

Secondly, promote the child as a person with rights and dignity. We will use our religious teachings to provide good examples to influence behaviour change among adults to stop using violence in dealing with children.

Thirdly, preach non-violence forms of discipline in educating children.

Fourth, work within our religious communities to build networks that can provide a front line of response to children at risk of abuse and violence, a place and person to go to when they are afraid or have been maltreated.

Lastly, but not least, we shall promote inter-religious cooperation, sharing experiences and practices in preventing violence against children.

Let's Work Together to Stop Violence against Children