CARTAGENA DECLARATION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS OF THE AMERICAS


Within the framework of the violence workshop, held at the III Pan American Forum, eighty (80) children and adolescents, representing the states and civil society of: Barbados, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay; Aldeas Infantiles, Chic @snet-pasc, Renacer Foundation, FUNDASIL, LUMOS, MOLACNNATS, Paln Internacional (International Plan), REDNNYAS, Save the Children, Students Commission and World Vision worked on the elaboration of commitments and recommendations around the eradication of all forms of violence and exploitation (within the framework of SDG Target 16.2) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Boys, girls and adolescents declared the following commitments and recommendations.

Commitments

1. Monitor the management of the rulers, through the children's oversight (monitoring), to promote the rights of children and adolescents.

2. Manage the creation of a local assembly, participation groups and social networks for the dissemination of the rights of children and adolescents.

3. Identify minority groups to promote their participation, working on the dissemination of breached rights and the inclusion, not only of people with different capabilities, but also of indigenous and native people, working with State authorities, so as to address issues that affect children and adolescents.

4. Establish laws that protect all our rights, recognizing the importance of fulfilling our duties and laws.

5. Fight, participate and promote the creation, implementation and execution of our rights in municipalities and governments.

6. Disseminate information, create workshops and campaigns with our organizations, to inform and raise awareness in families about our needs and feelings, in order to reduce violence and increase communication in families.

7. Generate a culture of peace in our society, promoting respect for both rights and duties of our families, through assertive communication, ensuring a safe, violence-free environment, to guarantee the well-being of children and adolescents in the Americas and the Caribbean, contributing our views and opinions.
8. Monitor the appropriate use of resources devoted to children and adolescents, as part of the cycle of public policies, in matters that affect us.

9. Follow up and replicate contact information or national lines, in case our rights are violated, and work hand in hand with national institutions or NGOs for the development of children and adolescents on a local and national level.

10. Raise awareness among our colleagues about the type of violence and encourage them to report cases of violence against children.

11.Raise awareness among our colleagues about the type of violence and encourage them to report cases of violence against children.

12. Launch lobbying initiatives with government institutions, detailing our recommendations to pursue the protection of children's rights.

13. Raise awareness among our colleagues about the types of violence and encourage them to report all cases of violence against children, educating families and neighborhoods on rights.

14. Children and adolescents who are familiar with the Cartagena Declaration commit ourselves to disseminate it as part of talks or workshops, in order to implement it in all spaces that involve us.

15. We commit ourselves, from the voice of children and adolescents of this forum to produce the best ideas to change the reality of our countries, to promote change, share ideas with all communities, and from our organizations, demand the state to commit to continue to invest in us and promote our rights. Likewise, we commit ourselves to making sure spokespersons and advisory councils may be a voice that reaches the corresponding authorities so that they become interested in our situation and work for children and adolescents.

16. Our children and adolescents of Canada, Barbados and Jamaica commit ourselves, along with our schoolmates, to reporting any type of violence against children and adolescents.

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1 Commit to raising awareness among our colleagues about the type of violence and encourage them to report instances of violence against children.

2 Commit to raising awareness among our colleagues about the type of violence and encourage them to report instances of violence against children.

3 Launch lobbying initiatives with government institutions, detailing our recommendations to pursue the protection of children's rights.

4 Raise awareness among our colleagues about the types of violence and encourage them to report all cases of violence against children.

5 Educate my family and neighborhood on children's rights.

6 We, the children of Canada, Barbados and Jamaica, commit to raising awareness among our colleagues about the type of violence and encourage them to report instances of violence against children.
17. Create campaigns, activities and meetings with the government, cooperating with civil society to promote the rights of children and adolescents. 7

18. We commit ourselves to sending reports to our governments to inform them on the recommendations we worked in the III Pan-American Child Forum. 8

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the State, as guarantor of our rights, sensitizes and educates families for coexistence through internal agreements in a 2 year period.

2. “Respect for the rights of others is peace” Benito Juárez (Culture of Peace Project). We revolve around our family; hence, the recommendation for the State is to fight, generate a safe environment in our homes, guaranteeing our right to education, health and a violence-free environment.

3. We recommend member states to include family violence control in legislation and to influence awareness raising, implementing public policies for homes, and creating a specialized group to monitor compliance thereof.

4. To local governments: Promote the effective participation of children and adolescents, through the creation and strengthening of participation scenarios, that allow this population to fully exercise their rights and identify any type of violation.

5. To institutions responsible for guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents: Have enough and suitable professionals to provide support and follow-up to children and adolescents who have been victims of some type of violence.

6. Punish the aggressors of children and adolescents, and ensure their resocialization in order to avoid recidivism.

7. We recommend the executive, legislative and judicial branches to safeguard the integrity of children and adolescents, guaranteeing their full development, equal opportunities, and the eradicating all forms of violence against children and adolescents.

8. That most of the policies in which the OAS, the UN, the State, and the society influence mainly focus on the prevention of violence, providing clear, concise knowledge with alternatives to change violence based paradigms in society.

7 We commit to launching initiatives in the form of campaigns, government lobbying, and collaborating with the civil society to pursue the protection of children rights.

8 We commit to sending a letter to our governments, detailing our recommendations from the III Children of the America’s Forum.
9. We recommend all public and private institutions, organizations, and groups to hold talks or workshops to raise awareness among all children, adolescents and families about violence against children and adolescents, and the different ways of solving problems without violence being applied, and to train teachers, with a psychology-based approach, since, according to Save the Children study, 56% of girls, boys and adolescents are not interested in school.

10. We request that boys, girls, and adolescents be involved in action plans to eradicate domestic violence (home, foundation, etc.). It is our belief that the best solutions will only be found if we are involved. That the state invests in better protection mechanisms, that we are provided with adequate information to know how we should act and to be able to generate policies according to each need, without protraying us just as another statistic.

11. We recommend states, national protection systems, and regional and local governments to strengthen and create programs for the integration, protection and promotion of the rights of children and adolescents, to create awareness around children’s rights, as well as to reduce child and adolescent abuse and be able to eradicate domestic violence. This must be articulated with the creation of new institutions, a bigger budget to protect children and adolescents within the family in case of intra-family violence, and to create a space where children of the committees and adults may monitor relevant actions and, thus, efficiency thereof. Finally, it is recommended to strengthen the legal frameworks of the states to protect children and adolescents.

12. Create public policies aimed at Comprehensive Sexual Education, to engage better psychologists in schools to conduct follow up on students, recognize students' abilities to create an environment of trust and security.

13. Create family school programs to involve fathers, mothers and caretakers in education around sexual and reproductive rights, engaging health institutions to provide guidance on sexuality in public and private schools.

14. We recommend all governments to establish a zero tolerance policy against all forms of punishment against children and adolescents.

15. It is urgent for all the States of the Americas to create mechanisms to prohibit corporal punishment and create methodologies and strategies to guide healthy relationships between family, children and adolescents.

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9 We recommend all governments to establish a zero tolerance policy against all forms of punishment against children and adolescents

10 It is urgent for governemts of the America to finally implement mechanisms to prohibit corporal punishment and reserach alternative methodologies and strategies to guide children behaviors.
16. We recommend family members to be trained in healthy relationships, for the development of children and adolescents.\textsuperscript{11}

17. We recommend school authorities to implement better solutions to deal with situations of violence.

18. We recommend governments, educational institutions and educational counselors (staff working in schools to accompany students) to actively participate in strategies to generate healthy environments in schools.\textsuperscript{12}

Cartagena, October 29, 2019.

Signed by the attending children and adolescents

\textsuperscript{11} We recommend that family members are educated about they can have health relationship throughout the development of the child.

\textsuperscript{12} To promote more awareness of this type of violence within schools to train the guidance counselors in schools and other educational institutions on this issues and create campaigns so that there is an environment that fosters safety.