

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

CSO Forum to End Violence against Children



CSO FORUM TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Who we are

We are the independent voice to End Violence against Children. We are a coalition of 15 civil society organizations working at national, regional and global levels to end all forms of violence against children.

Success through collaboration

From bringing children to participate in the Solutions Summit in Stockholm to delivering our new report to the End Violence Secretariat: *Taking Action Together for Children: Civil Society Coalitions in Pathfinding Countries & Pathfinding in Discussion Countries* - this year we celebrate great achievements made through members' collaboration.

Why we need you!

We are stronger together as a collective, bringing in the expertise of national CSOs, regional coalitions and global networks to influence decision-makers and ensure children's voices are heard. We cannot do this without the input and contributions of our members. Thank you!

"The important work the CSO Forum member organizations have undertaken to promote action on the prevention and response to violence against children at the national and global level gives them a very special vantage point."

Ms. Marta Santos Pais, 25 September 2018

Taking action together to end violence against children

Next year will bring great opportunities, and challenges, including voluntary national reviews (VNRs), the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We need to be united on our key messages to policy makers.

Jenessa Bryan, Coordinator
CSO Forum EVAC



WHO WE ARE

The Civil Society Forum to End Violence against Children (CSO Forum) is a broad coalition of civil society organizations operating at the national, regional and global levels to advocate for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.2 and other SDG targets to end violence against children.

The Forum, currently counting more than 15 member organization, operates in support of End Violence - The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. Member organizations include: African Child Policy Forum, Arigatou International, Child Helpline International, ChildFund Alliance, ECPAT, Girls Not Brides, Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, Internet Watch Foundation, ISPCAN, One Third Sweden, Plan International, Promundo, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages International, Terre des Hommes, and World Vision. Our roles include:

- Representatives to the End Violence Executive Committee: Africa Child Policy Forum, Plan International, and Save the Children.
- Representative to the INSPIRE Advisory Group: World Vision International.

Be part of the CSO Forum movement

The CSO Forum convenes a diverse coalition of large child focused agencies, regional networks, and smaller civil society organizations with thematic and/or national expertise with a purpose of securing broad-based representation in the operation of the Global Partnership, its governance and Fund. CSOs contribute leadership, time and resources to accelerate efforts to achieve SDG 16.2 and related goals, and to realise collective efforts to:

Build and sustain political will

- a) We build a global network to speak out about ending violence and help generate and sustain the movement and will to end violence at all levels, in Pathfinder countries and other Member countries of End Violence.
- b) We elect CSO representatives to End Violence, comment on End Violence's policies and engage and deliver parts of End Violence's business plan.

Accelerate action at country level

- a) We help accelerate action at national level and demand accountability for the implementation of SDGs 16.2 and related targets, national action plans and other commitments and policies.
- b) We facilitate the participation of children and civil society mobilization in national efforts to end violence against children and in the adaptation and implementation of INSPIRE and other evidenced - based interventions, so that no one is left behind.

Collaborate and learn

- a) We exchange, discuss and challenge each other on the most effective programs and approaches to prevent and respond to violence against children, to complement and enrich the INSPIRE package.

“Civil society organizations working to prevent and address violence against children are key partners of our mandate and of our shared agenda to build a world free from fear and violence for all children.”

Ms. Marta Santos Pais, letter to the CSO Forum, 5 December 2018

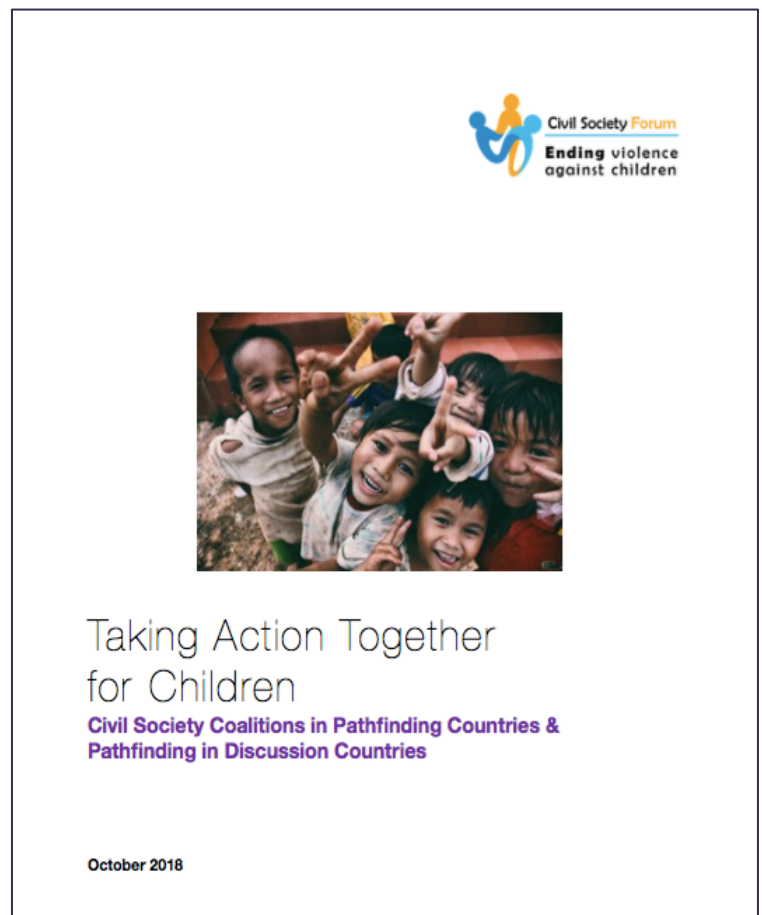


SUCCESS THROUGH COLLABORATION

The strength of this movement is through a dedication to open and transparent collaboration among partner organizations, horizontally and vertically.

2018 Successes

- Ensured meaningful participation of children and CSOs from Pathfinder countries at the Solution Summit (February)
- Awarded IGNITE grant to promote advocacy efforts in four countries: Indonesia, Mexico, Philippines, and Romania (1 year grant)
- Coordinated advocacy within the End Violence Executive Committee (April, October)
- Produced [report](#) *Taking Action Together for Children: Civil Society Coalitions in Pathfinder Countries & Pathfinder in Discussion Countries*, and shared with the End Violence Secretariat in advance of the Executive Committee (October)
- CSO Contribution to the Global Thematic Report on Violence against Children, submitted to the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children (November)



How we Work Together

We believe that civil society plays a crucial role in any effort to end violence against children at local, national, regional and global level. When we combine our efforts, our voice is stronger, our advocacy is more effective and we can reach the most excluded children. This is an informal space – a movement – that builds on existing regional and national coalitions.

- The CSO Forum convenes bi-weekly members calls to strategize our work, discuss next steps and how we can best leverage the impact of the work of civil society, and share information and announcements.
- Key meetings are convened to facilitate our collaboration with the End Violence Secretariat, coordinate input through our representatives - such as the End Violence Executive Committee and the INSPIRE Advisory Group, and elevate the experiences and learning from national and regional CSOs.
- The CSO Forum and its members lead on special projects to end all forms of violence against children, including the Solutions Summit, advocacy efforts around the HLPF 2019, Safeguarding, and the Safe to Learn campaign.
- Working Groups are organized to focus our efforts around key engagement opportunities, such as the 2019 High Level Political Forum.
- The CSO Forum Coordinator leads the management of the CSO Forum, the development of joint advocacy positions, the mobilization of members at all levels for priority advocacy moments, and the management of knowledge about the Forum and End Violence's work.

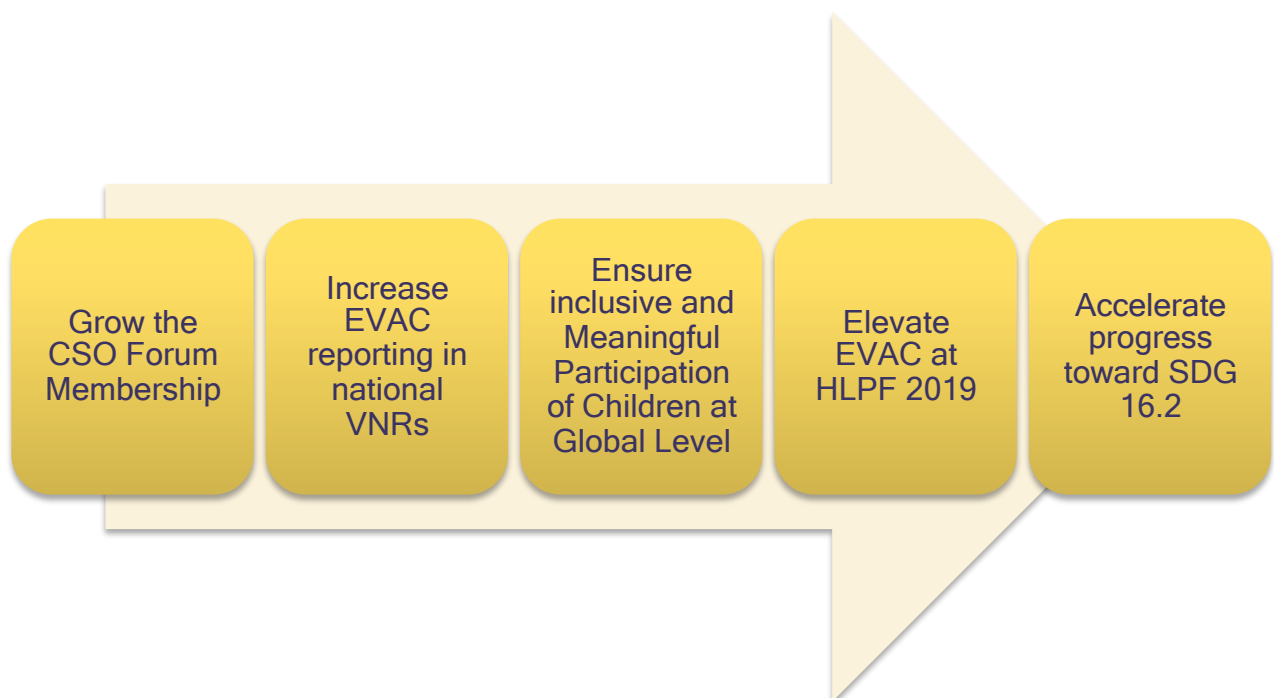
“Let me take this opportunity to thank the CSO Forum for your invaluable involvement in the End Violence Partnership, and for all that you do - as individual agencies and collectively as the Forum - to end violence against children.”

Dr. Howard Taylor, Executive Director, Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, December 2018.

WHY WE NEED YOU!

Our work is built on collaboration, trust and transparency. The CSO Forum does not receive any regular funding sources for our work. Member organizations contribute voluntarily to coordinate the work as a coalition. 2019 will require civil society to scale up our efforts to advocate collectively, and this is only possible with your help. We cannot end violence against children without you.

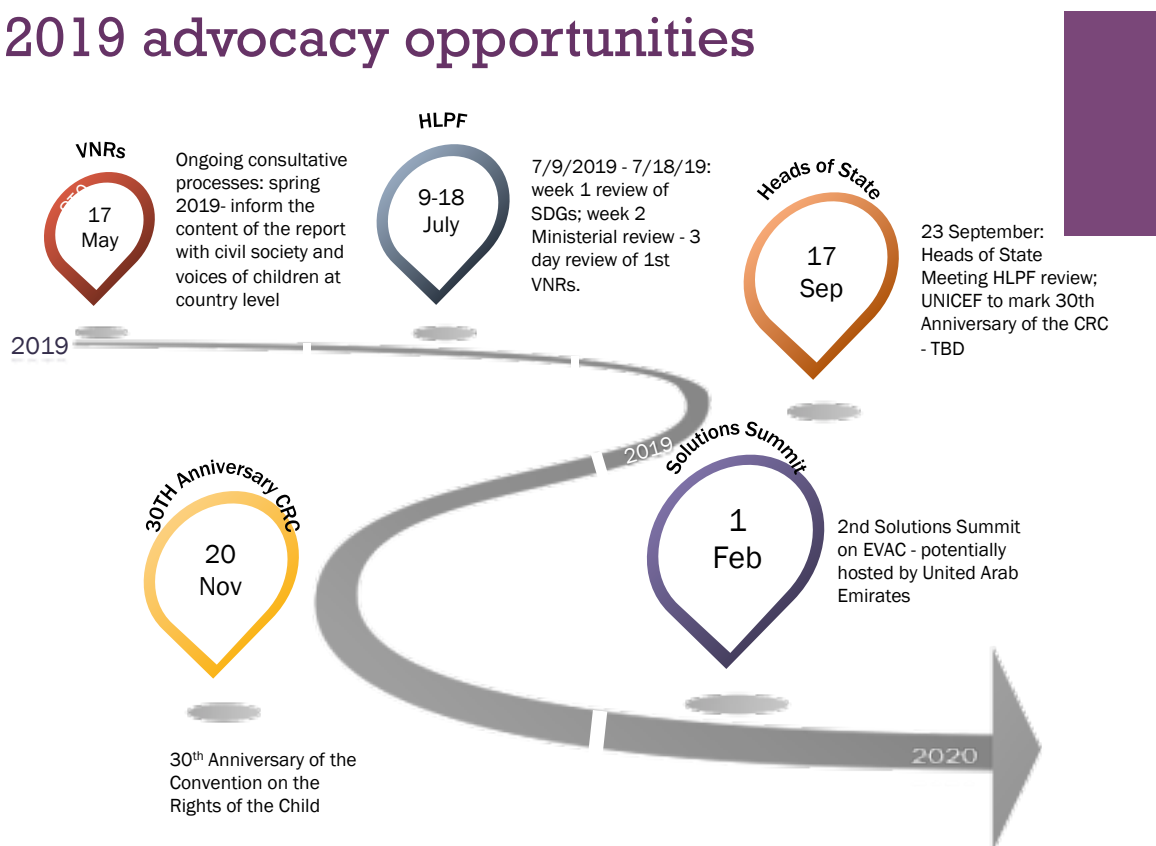
The CSO Forum is setting forth an ambitious plan to advocate for the rights of all children to grow up free from all forms of violence, and to have their voices heard in the decision-making processes, from the local to the global levels. We cannot do this work without intentional collaboration with local civil society organizations, regional coalitions, global partners, governments, media, faith-based leaders, universities, foundations, private partners, and UN agencies. The CSO Forum needs the commitment of members and partners to effectively implement its strategy to align key messages, coordinate advocacy at pivotal moments, and leverage the unique opportunities to end violence against children in 2019.



TAKING ACTION TOGETHER IN 2019

2019 is a significant year for ending violence against children. Key moments for civil society advocacy include the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), the High Level Political Forum (HLPF 2019), the meeting of Heads of State, and the 30th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

+ 2019 advocacy opportunities



“The VNRs are an opportunity to create a platform for cooperation between various sectors of government as well as with various actors from civil society, academia, private sector, etc.”

End Violence webinar with governments, UNICEF and the CSO Forum, 28 November 2018

2019 CSO Forum Work Plan

- Grow the membership of the CSO Forum EVAC and expand CSO collaboration as a sector alongside other sectors that share our goal of ending violence against children
- Represent CSOs collectively to influence End Violence governance structures
- Develop guidance note to support national level CSO advocacy and engagement in the Voluntary National Reviews
- Organize EVAC side-event to the HLPF 2019
- Mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child with highlighting civil society contributions to realizing child rights and ending violence
- Ensure financial support for/designated to inclusive and meaningful participation of children and young people in global level advocacy to end violence
- Produce advocacy report(s) and material(s) to contribute collectively to global efforts to end all forms of violence against children

Key Advocacy Asks to Accelerate progress toward SDG 16.2

- Listen to the voices of children - including the most vulnerable and most excluded children
- Change harmful social norms and practices
- Invest public funding in child-centered budgets that allocate adequate funds for child protection and legal systems
- Report progress made and challenges to achieving EVAC
- Recognize the contributions of civil society in policy, planning, implementation and monitoring

Making Room at the Table

The role of civil society in the implementation of SDG 16.2 and other related VAC targets must be recognized at the local, national, and global levels. Civil society organizations are key leaders not only in the delivery of services, but also in program planning and policy development. Our strength is our ability to reach and engage communities, families and children themselves in the movement to end violence.

One of the greatest contributions of civil society has been in creating spaces for meaningful participation of children at all levels of decision making: from the local district administrations to influencing the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to speaking out at the Solutions Summit.

The CSO Forum is committed to ensuring children's voices are heard, from the local levels to the global events and forums. However, meaningful child participation is not only a responsibility of civil society organizations. Governments, international agencies and partners must facilitate the creation of institutional frameworks and mechanisms as well as increase the investment to ensure meaningful inclusion of children at all levels of decision-making. In 2019, children's voices and civil society need to be heard at the national levels in the VNRs (February - May), as well as at the global level in the HLPF (July), the UN General Assembly Summit of Heads of State (September), and the at the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (November).

Join us!

Member organizations contribute their expertise, time and resources to make the work of the CSO Forum possible - **thank you!** In 2019, the Forum will seek to strengthen collaboration with End Violence Secretariat through planned joint activities. Opportunities for project-based grants to grow the work of the collective are also being explored.

For more information on membership and how to support the work of the CSO Forum, please contact us:

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