



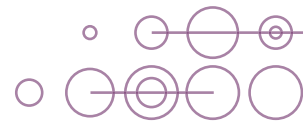
South Africa's Statement

South Africa became a pathfinding country in 2017. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Department of Social Development of South Africa has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. State-wide recognition and prioritization of adequately resourced measures to resolve the inequities, vulnerabilities and risks that provide fertile ground for endemic levels of violence and other violations of children's rights.
2. Creation of a national movement for children and their protection, with participation from children themselves, through strong child-centered, rights-based advocacy.
3. Creation of strong global alliances with and between African member states to tackle common historical and emerging risks such as trafficking and online exploitation.





MINISTER LINDIWE ZULU STATEMENT TO THE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

Date of Summit: 15th December 2020

Venue: video recording

(The Minister will be recognizing the presence of all dignitaries and follow the outline of her statement)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Global Partnership to End Violence, UNICEF, WHO and the Global We Protect Alliance, other UN Agencies, development partners, corporates and philanthropists who have made significant contributions towards creating a global movement to end violence against children and develop innovative approaches. We believe that these contributions have been important to advance children's rights and child protection in various countries and have offered great insights to strengthen children's child protection services.

Since 1994, South Africa introduced a number of interventions to prevent and respond to violence through institutionalisation of laws, policies, programmes and specialised facilities. One of the key interventions was the development of the Integrated National Programme of Action addressing Violence Against Women and Children (2013 – 2018) and the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) with the Technical Task Team (TTT) as to put measures in place to address violence against women and children.

In 2017, government committed to be a Pathfinder country and joined the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, under the leadership of the Department of Social Development with support from UNICEF and civil society organisations. South Africa confirmed that the country is committed to ending violence against children; and would work towards a creating a safe and nurturing environment for women and children through an accelerated investment in prevention and early intervention programmes based on the INSPIRE model.

At the Global Summit on Violence against Children in Sweden, February 2018, SA affirmed its position to join the world in ending violence against children in accordance with SDG 16.2.

We emphasize that we can no longer tolerate that so many of the world's children experience violence, abuse, and neglect unabated. Every single incident of violence against a child is a violation of a child's right with life-long negative consequences in terms of a child's health, education, social and mental wellbeing. Children who have suffered abuse during childhood, will live a life with trauma.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented measures to contain it has intensified the risk of violence, abuse and neglect of children. During the national lockdown, reports from GBV Command Centers and Childline indicated that children witnessed and experienced violence within their homes. Children were more vulnerable to violence, as they were isolated from social





support systems such as other family members, neighbours, teachers, peer groups and protection services. As a result of the lockdown, children moved to virtual learning platforms and despite the opportunities the internet and social media offer, ICT usage also exposed children to bullying, harassment and exploitation on-line.

As our input to the Global Solutions Summit, we reconfirm our commitment to work together with partners in SA, in Africa and globally to bring along effective solutions to fight the scourge of violence against children.

THE SITUATION OF VAC IN SA

According to the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention; 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys experience some form of violence before the age of 18; 82 percent of victims' experience violence from people known and close to them. Exposure to family and community violence and media regularly compounded by constant traumatic experiences, have led to a kind of normalization of violence in our society. High levels of VAC in schools is a great concern to the country with 12.2% of learners being threatened by someone at school: and 6.3% assaulted and even sexually assaulted.¹ Additionally, most of our citizens, feel unsafe walking alone or in their area of residence. (Victims of Crime Survey2017).

PROGRESS AS A PATHFINDING COUNTRY IN 2017

In 2019, government, in partnership with civil society and academia developed the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF) which is an overarching Strategic document guiding SA in addressing the high levels of gender- based violence in the country. Violence against children is fully embedded within the NSP on GBV. The National Strategic Plan has been further strengthened by the Emergency Response Plan as to respond directly to the high level of violence women and children experienced during the month of August 2020 and beyond when lockdown levels and consequent alcohol ban was eased. As emergency response, under the leadership of the President, initiatives became accelerated as to ensure effective measures are put in place for violence prevention interventions and enhanced access to justice for victims of violence.

Moving forward, South Africa is currently working on institutionalising the Permanent National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NC GBVF), and as such the GBV Council will be the custodian of the National Strategic Plan and responsible for driving its implementation across all sectors. The Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) is playing a key leadership and oversight role as to ensure government and other partners provide the adequate resources and policy direction to implement the National Strategic Plan and to address these high levels of violence throughout all layers in society through integrated programmes of action.

COMMITMENTS MOVING FORWARD

As our input to the Global Solutions Summit, we commit to protecting children from violence, abuse and neglect and translate the National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide into action.





For this to happen, we are working to ensure:

1. State-wide recognition and prioritisation of adequately resourced measures to resolve the inequities, vulnerabilities and risks that provide fertile ground for endemic levels of violence and other violations of children's rights.
2. Demonstrate leadership at the highest levels of government through the leadership of myself, fellow Ministers and the Provinces with our President and collaborate closely as to forge alliance with international organizations, civil society, faith groups, celebrities, media and the private sector to ensure collective and aligned actioning of this plan. We will work together to ensure that the all partners recognise and prioritise the safety and development of children through investments in effective childcare and protection systems as a rights-based development priority.
3. Create a national movement for children and their protection, with participation from children themselves, through strong child-centered, rights-based advocacy.
4. Learn from the COVID 19 experience and augment global and regional child rights treaties through general comments that call for the required actions proven to be effective in mitigating the risks to children's rights brought about by global pandemics.
5. Increase, share, disseminate and use knowledge through the national childcare and protection forum and strengthen systems to prevent, detect and provide support to survivors of violence and ensure their access to justice.
6. Accelerate implementation of evidence-based strategies to end violence against children and ensure that solutions and good practices continue to be shared.
7. Create strong global alliances with and between African member states to tackle common historical and emerging risks such as trafficking, online exploitation, and ensure the most vulnerable, including migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children are reached.
8. Invest more resources from all relevant sources to prevent and respond to violence and to ensure that every child grows up in a healthy and safe manner into resilient adults. Intensified budgets to be solicited from national budgets, development cooperation, corporate, philanthropists, in a social compact modality.
10. Create a digital platform on the situation of children globally to monitor the situation of children's rights as to allow for adjusted budgeting and programming.

Ladies and gentlemen, we recognise the importance of the global partnership and global and regional community and will continue to work together with partners from civil society, faith based and academic institutions for joint action and continued sharing of best practices. I trust and am hopeful, that together as a global community, we can end the scourge of violence against children as every child has the right to be safe at all times.

I thank you

¹ http://www.cjcp.org.za/uploads/2/7/8/4/27845461/monograph12-school-violence-in-south_africa.pdf

