



Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF VALENZUELA
Metropolitan Manila

May 20, 2019

Dr. Howard Taylor

Director

Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

Dear Dr. Taylor,

I am pleased to inform you that the City Government of Valenzuela wishes to become one of the Pathfinding Cities of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

The City Government of Valenzuela is very much dedicated to the cause of ending violence against children and we commit that our active participation in the Partnership will result in the fruitful cooperation with cities and their stakeholders worldwide.

Ending violence against children is one of my government's key issues. The City of Valenzuela is recognised as the second safest city in Southeast Asia. Nonetheless, issues related to increased urbanisation continue to challenge my city's multifaceted approach to protecting the whole community.

The Mayors office of the City of Valenzuela is well aware of SDG 16.1 and 16.2 targets of ending violence against children, the SDG 3 healthy lives and well being for all, the SDG 4 for Education and SDG 17 for Partnerships to support these goals and we welcome the opportunity to join the you as a pioneering city site for creating pathways to success.

Education and the protection of children's rights are main priorities of the City Government of Valenzuela, as illustrated by the fact that Valenzuela was the first city in the Philippines to offer free education for all. Our recent Safe Schools project, an initiative using school-based mindfulness interventions for students and specific teacher training in relation to reducing violence against children. Valenzuela is committed to working with local researchers and implementers to scale up this initiative and, importantly, contribute to the international Safe to Learn Campaign. At the same time, we fully endorse the INSPIRE: Seven Strategies to End Violence and look forward to demonstrating through our many community initiatives how these strategies work in our unique Filipino context.

The requirements for becoming Pathfinding City, by both the 12-month and 18-month milestones have been clearly articulated to us and we are confident we can deliver these outcomes relying on Partnership guidance for joint planning, monitoring and evaluation and shared accountability. We will endeavour to ensure broad and diverse stakeholder partnership and move swiftly into accelerated action to prevent violence against children.

This is an exciting opportunity for the City of Valenzuela—as the City's recently re-elected Mayor, in service to my constituency through 2021 I look forward to the task ahead.

Please accept my gratitude to you and I very much look forward to working with your team and this critical matter for children here and around the world.

Yours truly,


Alexion T. Gatchalian
City Mayor
Valenzuela City

Tayo na, Valenzuela