

CALL FOR INPUT

UN Human Rights Office Report on Child Rights & SDGs: *“Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic”*

The 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent the highest global commitment to a bright future for the world’s children. Yet the COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating consequences for children and risks reversing decades of progress towards realizing their rights. While children who contract COVID-19 seem to have fewer symptoms and low mortality rates, severe knock-on impacts are affecting children, including the socio-economic consequences and grave physical, emotional and psychological effects.

Children’s rights are being undermined where lockdowns and containment measures expose them to a myriad of unintended consequences. They are facing heightened threats of witnessing or experiencing physical and psychological violence, including maltreatment and sexual violence. They are increasingly being pushed into child labour and early, child or forced marriage and exploitation and trafficking. Many face gaps in their education or are missing out due to their lack of access to online learning, and those who are online more than ever before face heightened exposure to inappropriate content and online predators.

The situation poses an immediate threat to children’s rights to survival and development, exacerbates inequalities and disproportionately affects those in the poorest countries and circumstances, directly undermining the achievement of the SDGs. Prioritizing children’s rights by ensuring that their best interests are a primary consideration and by listening to their voices will be fundamental to building back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child Rights Report to the HLPF

Following a [request](#) of the Human Rights Council the UN Human Rights Office will submit a report on children’s rights to the 2021 global review of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The report will address the situation for children in relation to the review theme: *“Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.”*

SDGs under consideration include: *

Goal 1: No poverty

Goal 2: Zero hunger

Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

Goal 13: Climate action

Goal 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions

Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals

**The review will also cover the targets of the SDGs with a 2020 timeline*



The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the global body tasked with assessing progress on SDGs. Convened annually in New York, the HLPF reviews a specific theme and selected goals each year on the basis of Voluntary National Reviews and extensive stakeholder inputs.

The Child Rights Report to the HLPF is based on broad stakeholder consultation, including with governments, civil society and with children themselves. It highlights 'red flag' risks and challenges to children's rights in the theme and goals under review, and good practices towards addressing them.

All interested organizations are invited to submit inputs on the status of children's rights in relation to 'sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic', and relevant goals under review. Submitters are requested to address the most urgent challenges and noteworthy good practices in this regard.

Please send submissions to Gina Bergh: gbergh@ohchr.org by the deadline of **30 November 2020**.

- ✓ *Please limit your input to a maximum of 5 pages*
- ✓ *Please include any relevant data and references*
- ✓ *All submissions will be made publicly available on the OHCHR website unless requested otherwise*
- ✓ *Reports developed for other purposes will be accepted*
- ✓ *If you can support our efforts to consult directly with children please contact gbergh@ohchr.org*

Thank you for your time and input

Links:

[Secretary-General's statement on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on children](#)

[Secretary General's Policy Brief on the impact of COVID-19 on children](#)

[Joint Statement on behalf of the Group of Friends of Children and the SDGs – HLPF 2020](#)

[UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence against Children: Agenda for Action](#)

[Technical Note: COVID-19 and Children Deprived of their Liberty](#)

[Committee on the Rights of the Child: COVID-19 Statement](#)

[OHCHR: Child rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[UNICEF: COVID-19 and the impact on children's rights: the imperative for a human rights-based approach](#)