

October 20, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
Office of the Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris:

Since 1954, [World Children's Day](#) has been celebrated on November 20 to elevate the visibility of children worldwide. It is an opportunity to advocate for children and focus on actions to improve their well-being. The compounding crises of COVID, conflict, and climate have upended the lives of children around the world and undermined decades of progress on their well-being. The United States has a vital role in leading the world to advance the interests and needs of children, no matter where they live. **We respectfully request the United States join in this global prioritization of children and issue a Presidential Proclamation marking November 20 as World Children's Day this year.**

The mission of each of the undersigned groups is as varied as the needs of children. We are joining together in writing this request because we recognize that progress cannot be made for children without addressing each one of our missions. While our approaches may differ, providing children with the holistic support they need and deserve to thrive is the driving force of all our work.

The impacts of the pandemic in the past two and half years have deepened the challenges children face and shown that children are one of the most vulnerable populations. More than [10 million children](#) (about half the population of New York) have lost a parent or caregiver to COVID-19. In low- and middle-income countries, school closures have left [70 percent of ten-year-old children unable to read](#). More than [1 in 7 adolescents aged 10-19](#) is estimated to live with a diagnosed mental disorder globally. [Eighty percent](#) of the world's children fear sexual abuse or exploitation online. [Eighty-five percent of the world's children](#) live in places most vulnerable to climate change. Worldwide, [2.2 million children](#) (about the population of New Mexico) in refugee-hosting countries need humanitarian assistance. Unfortunately, in politics, children's developmental needs have often been considered an afterthought or overlooked completely by even the most well-meaning elected officials. The United States government has an opportunity as a world leader to reverse the recent downward trends for children by uplifting youth voices and working to advance their collective health, safety, and well-being.

We were glad to see you issue a proclamation for children in November 2021. A new Presidential Proclamation, alongside other executive actions prioritizing children, will help signal to young people that the President of the United States sees them and is aware of their specific developmental needs. It would also send the message that the Biden-Harris Administration believes investments in children here at home and around the globe make the world a better place.

The child advocacy community looks forward to continuing to work alongside the White House to better the lives of children here and around the world.

Sincerely,

First Focus on Children
Amal Alliance
Bank Information Center
Basic Education Coalition
Bethany Christian Services
Beyond Borders

Child Labor Coalition
Children's Policy and Funding Initiative at Tides
Church World Service
CREA: Center for Reflection, Education and Action, Inc.
Early Opportunities Initiative

Education for All Coalition
Education for All Coalition
FLAP-Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project
Global Campaign for Education-US
Global Communities
GlobalPartnersUnited
GoodNeighbors
HACE: Data Changing Child Labour
Institute for Educational Leadership
Media Voices for Children

National Consumers League
National Diaper Bank Network
Prevent Child Abuse America
Sesame Workshop
Strategy for Humanity
Survivor Activist
Together for Girls
UNICEF USA
United Nations Association of the National Capital Area
Youth Alliance Working Group