

Investing in Children and Families International Forum for Child Welfare WorldForum held in Helsinki Finland June 2014

Declaration of the WorldForum

The rights and needs of the world's children as the principal responsibility of all governments, corporations, citizens and institutions were overwhelmingly endorsed by participants from across the globe at the 25th Anniversary IFCW WorldForum 2014 held in Helsinki Finland. The WorldForum confirmed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1989 as a groundbreaking international treaty, recognizing as a first in human rights law that children are not merely passive recipients entitled to protection. Children themselves have human rights.

The IFCW 2014 WorldForum Investing in Children and Families acknowledges the many achievements that have been made in improving the lives of millions of children across the globe but recognizes the urgent need for governments, corporations, institutions and citizens to increase the levels of financial and human resources and retain the political will to prioritize the needs of the world's children and ensure their future and wellbeing in adopting and discussing the report.

On the occasion of its 25th Anniversary, the IFCW and WorldForum delegates give profile to migrant children and youth and addressing a global crisis by;

1. Urging all governments to immediately discontinue policies that criminalize all undocumented migrants.
2. Urging all nations and states of origin, transit and destination countries to extend legal protections and social and educational support services to all migrant and unaccompanied minors so that they enjoy their full rights according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
3. Urging all governments to enact and implement laws outlawing all human trafficking offences while maintaining the primacy of individual victims' wellbeing in all proceedings.
4. Addressing poverty, violence, homelessness and migration at their source by providing additional resources to improve health, housing, employment and educational opportunities in developing countries.
5. Urging governments, corporations, institutions and citizens to share resources, program initiatives and actions to more effectively combat traffickers and provide services that enable all children to reach their potential.
6. Urging conference participants to share the report adopted, Migrant Children and Youth: A Global Crisis, with professional colleagues, non-government agencies, governments, research institutions and policy advisers.
7. Urging all governments to take Children seriously and to ensure their safety, protection and opportunity to grow to reach their full potential.
8. Urging all non-governmental agencies to develop action plans to meet the needs and aspirations of all children with the provision of additional financial and human resources as part of a renewed global movement to protect the world's children.
9. Outlawing of all forms of corporal punishment for children.
10. Insuring the full participation of children in evaluating and monitoring service delivery.

Healthy children need healthy families. Nurture, protection and safety of children are hallmarks of a civilized society and communities. Institutions, individuals and organizations committed to the care and protection of children in families must ensure their wellbeing. This is a sacred mission and a call to united action.