

Let us follow the 'Road Map' to end violence against children



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Impresión:

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First edition:

April 201



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INTRODUCTION

Let us start by telling you that an Event was conducted in Asuncion, Paraguay, to follow up on the recommendations of a Study developed by the UN on violence facing children and young people worldwide.

The following pages will tell you about this significant Event. We will tell you how it was organised and what the attending children and young people themselves had to say. We will also provide you with a suggested Road Map to enable us to carry through with the recommendations of the UN Study.

This publication is aimed at children and young people but may also be read by adults. It is divided into four parts:

Part 1 will tell you about the Study that was conducted by the UN on the issue of violence facing children and young people and their recommendations to countries and societies at large to prevent and stop all forms of violence against children and young people. To ease its reading, whenever this document is mentioned it shall be called “the Study”.



Part 2 will inform you about the South American Follow-Up **Event** to the recommendations of the UN Study, particularly with regard to the

attendance of children and young people's networks and organisations. We will learn about the expectations, notions, concerns, contributions, views and experiences shared by them on the extent of violence in their own countries. You will also learn that they discussed the recommendations prioritised by the Study and shared their conclusions on each one of them.

Part 3 will introduce you to the **“Road Map”** proposed at the Event, which is a suggested way forward including a number of ideas and actions to enable us to monitor implementation of the recommendations of the Study in order to realise children's and adolescents' right to be protected from all forms of violence.

Part 4 contains a **manifest** presented by children and young people during the Event, expressing their main concerns with regard to violence and putting forward their recommendations and demands to their own countries.

Finally, you will be provided with a list of recommended materials to expand your knowledge and information on how to eradicate violence against children.



Throughout this journey you will be accompanied by a group of children, adolescents and adults from Latin America, all of whom will show you that when it comes to children's issues we all have something to contribute and learn.



They will tell us about the Study... and the Meeting...

Paulo Sergio

Valentina

Paco

Facundo



Marta



Camila



Maitê





Let's get started!

Have you heard adults using any of these phrases?

It's just a smack on the bottom; it won't harm her.

He's just a child. He doesn't realise what's going on.

I spank them to change their behaviour.

I spank her because she's my daughter.





Can you imagine what would happen if adults were told that to change their behaviour they would be physically abused? Would they agree with this?

...and why is it considered normal that children and young people are disciplined by being spanked or otherwise abused?



It is so because adults often forget that
children and young people are also
people with rights!

Did you know that violence against children is
only just becoming visible?

...and there are many other forms of
violence and abuse against children:

Violence between children themselves
Verbal abuse
Sexual exploitation and abuse
Neglect and many others



And this happens in every country in the world and takes many different forms. Violence is often socially accepted and even justified.



This led to a Global Study by the United Nations (UN) on all forms of violence against children, an experience that for the first time directly involved us, children, and acknowledged our status as rights holders.

You are welcome to read more about it in the following pages!



Let us first learn about the Global Study on Violence against Children and Young People

We would like to start by telling you that in 2001 the Committee on the Rights of the Child suggested conducting a **Global Study on Violence against Children and Young People**. The issues that should be looked into included why children are abused and why violence is used against them in many parts of the world, what forms of violence they face and in what contexts.

The Study was developed by Professor **Paulo Sergio Pinheiro**, an independent expert who has spent several years defending children's rights from his position at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, based in Washington, and has conducted a lot of research on the issue.



The Study includes a set of **recommendations** to countries, urging them to prevent and stop violence against children, and also tells us that violence is used in every country in the world, in different ways and wherever children are around, particularly in five different settings or places:

...at **home**

...in **school**

...in the **workplace**

...in the **community**

...in **institutions** aimed at children's protection or confinement, including children's homes, shelters and orphanages, where children live without parents to care for them or in detention centres for children who have had trouble with the police.





A key fact that you should know:

The following definitions are used in the Study:

Who is considered a child? The definition of child adopted by the Study is that of Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC):
“...a child means every human being under the age of 18 years.”



So from now on whenever children are mentioned it will mean anyone under 18 years of age, including adolescents.

And whenever violence is mentioned, we will be using the definition of Article 19 of the CRC:
Authorities shall protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

This means that no one, not even your parents or caregivers, may inflict any type of harm upon you or treat you in a bad way. The government, your parents and other adults are under the obligation to make sure that no form of violence is inflicted upon you.





The Study **involved children from all parts of the world**, enabling them to give their views on what forms of violence are faced by children and young people, what are their causes, how violence affects their lives, what needs to be done by governments and what they themselves can do to prevent violence, protect themselves and best help those who have faced violence.



Did you know that...

countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child? However, many of the rights to which they have committed themselves in the CRC are not being enforced. Children and young people are still waiting for realisation of the right to protection and freedom from all forms of violence, and for governments to take action to prevent violence.

It is important that your voices be heard and taken seriously into consideration when discussing issues that affect you. So when this Study was conducted a number of consultations were carried out with children from all parts of the world, which enabled them to share their stories and experiences at home, in school, in the workplace, and in their communities.



Our governments must recognise that violence against children is becoming increasingly visible and that providing protection to us, which is something we are all unconditionally entitled to, may not wait.

The **impact of violence** affects children's physical and mental health and scars children for life, which is why it is imperative to prevent it.



We need to recognise that to prevent violence against children we all need to work together and collaborate, especially those who are affected by violence. Actions should not be taken in an isolated manner; instead, joint efforts should be undertaken to find the best ways to eradicate violence against children, particularly by involving us in this process.

More information about the Study...

The Study shows that there is the necessary knowledge and ability in place to prevent and reduce violence and all of its terrible consequences, but that there needs to be more commitment and investment of financial resources. We also need to work together with different government agencies and other organisations, but with the active and ongoing engagement of children.



The Study points out that **“violence against children is never right”** and that **“all violence against children can be prevented.”** Countries need to take urgent action to fulfil their human rights obligations and commitments and make sure protection from all forms of violence is provided.



The Study:



- Describes the extent of violence against children.
- Puts forward recommendations to prevent and address violence.
- Provides information on the different forms of violence facing children in different settings or places: at home, in school, in the workplace, and in the community.



- Was carried out in a participatory manner, with consultations being held in different countries and at different levels, as well as meetings with experts and on-site visits. Many governments also completed a questionnaire to collect information from a range of different stakeholders, including adults, children in government-run institutions and different organisations.





What does the Study tell us?

The Study tells us that children experience violence in every country in the world, whatever their culture, beliefs, background or ethnic group, and it doesn't matter whether their families are well-educated or not, or rich or poor ... violence can take place anywhere.

What's more, even though it is clear to most people, and even to governments, that children need to be protected from violence and that they are rights holders, that is to say, that they are people with rights, they allow violence against children to continue because it is a custom or because it is commonly used as a form of punishment.



And this is so because violence is often seen as 'normal,' as a way of educating and disciplining children.

The Study tells us that children should not be any less protected from violence than adults.

We must all prevent violence so that it never takes place.

I think violence against children is never right.



The Study says that governments ...



...have the main responsibility to uphold the rights of children to protection, and access to health, education and other services, and they must also help families to provide their children with care in a healthy environment.

...have to make sure that anyone who commits violence against children is punished.

The Study also tells us that ...

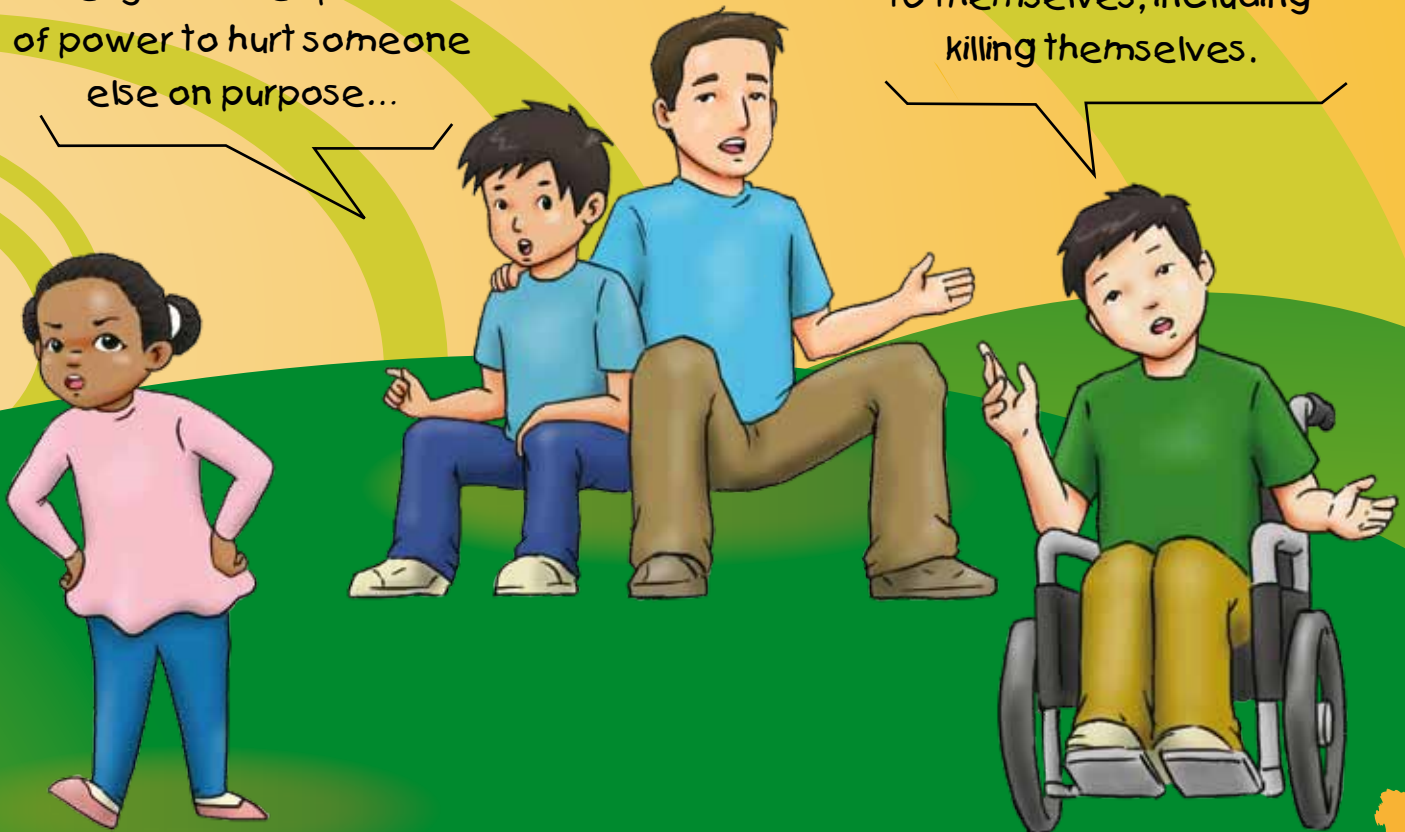
Some children are more at risk or more exposed to violence than others, on grounds of gender, race, culture, ethnic group, social and economic background, or because they have some form of disability.



...violence includes threats of violence, and acts which could possibly cause harm. The harm involved could be to a person's overall (physical and emotional) wellbeing.

The Study explains that violence takes place when someone uses their strength or their position of power to hurt someone else on purpose...

Violence also includes deliberate harm people do to themselves, including killing themselves.





Children should be able to express their views, and their opinions should be taken into account whenever decisions are made to stop the violence they are experiencing.

An interesting fact revealed to us by the Study is that **the use of violence is a learned behaviour**... this is most alarming, as the first opportunity for children to learn aggressive behaviours arises within the household, from observing or imitating the aggressive behaviours of their parents and other relatives, or even from exposure to television, radio and other media.



One of the views collected by the Study on the forms of violence learned at home was that...

"What they will become later in life depends on how they are educated at home. If they are hit at home, then they will go and hit others; if they are abused or ignored by their parents, they are going to go and hit others because they themselves are hit; they are going to do what they see at home. That is the foundation of violence." (Female adolescents' group)



...and why is violence often not reported or remains hidden?

Many children are afraid to report violence.

Because they are afraid of the person committing violence and the power he or she exerts over them.

...they are also afraid that they will be **blamed or rejected** because they have close ties to the perpetrator.

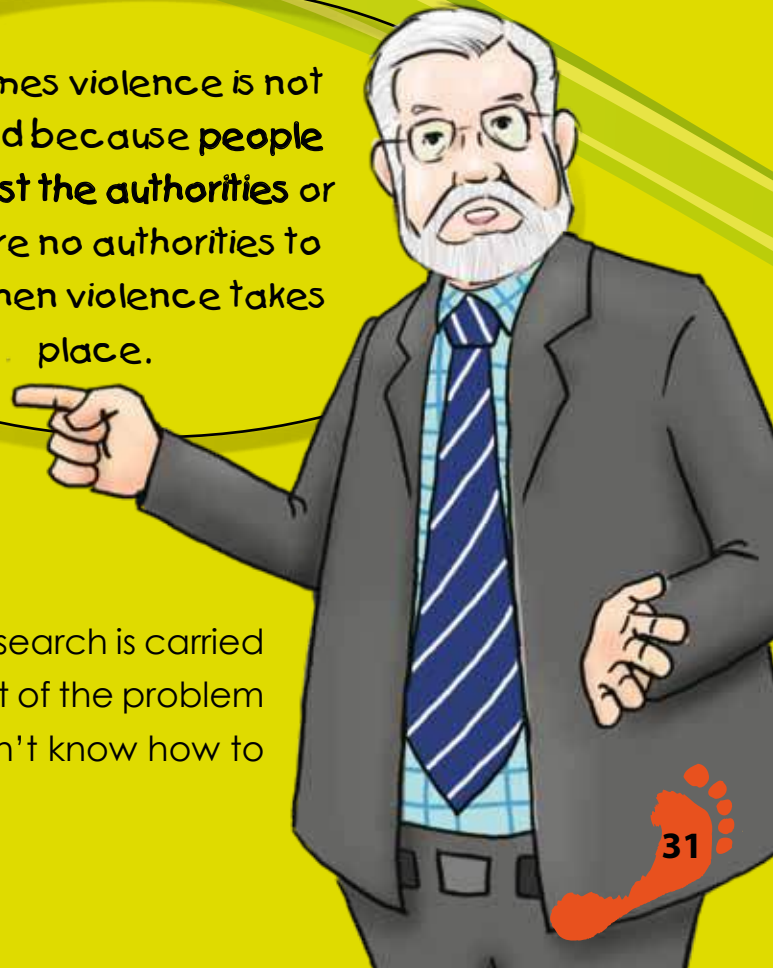


Sometimes family members also fail to report violence because **it is committed** by a very close relative, including a parent or a community leader, school teacher, police officer or employer.



Sometimes children are blamed for “bringing shame” onto the family, school or community... and sometimes they hide information to avoid creating scandal.

Sometimes violence is not reported because **people don't trust the authorities** or there are no authorities to go to when violence takes place.



Often **poor records are kept** and little research is carried out, so that no one knows the real extent of the problem in most countries, and people often don't know how to report violence.

Children's voices in the Study

"At school, for example, we are not allowed to express freely what we think. We may have an idea, a suggestion, it may be the first time we speak up... but what we say is not listened to... so we are left traumatised, we are unable to think anymore, we will sit at one side because what we say is not considered important, we are not allowed to express what we wish, what we feel, what we think." (Male adolescents' group)

"There is discrimination. For instance, my schoolmates call me "paralised" but I don't care what they say because it's not true. I would be paralised if I couldn't move at all, but I can move my arm." (Adolescents with disabilities' group)

"Violence is hitting your children with a stick, burning them with a ladle that has been heated up on the stove, giving them blows on the head, abusing them by saying things like you're useless, you're a clown, you don't know anything, you're stupid, using coarse language or verbally abusing them." (Male and female adolescents' group)



...there are many forms of violence in many settings

"When older children at school hit us, abuse us, steal our lunchbox, and do things to us in the rest rooms, too"
(Children's group)

"Teachers pull our ears, hit us with a ruler or a belt, hit the older children, abuse us, make us kneel on soda lids, send us to pick up stones, kick us." (Children's group)

"Violence is when parents take advantage of their children: rather than getting a job themselves, they send their children to wipe windshields to earn an income. They try to outsmart us. Parents take advantage of us and use the money earned by their children to purchase alcohol for themselves, instead of buying food, and they hit their children if they fail to bring in some money."
(Male and female adolescents' group)

"I left home because my brother took me out of bed at about two or three in the morning and made me do things that I did not like to do... he offered me to his friends, uncles, strange people... but I really left home on the day my dad tried to abuse me sexually..." (Street girl)




The purpose of the Study's recommendations is to INSPIRE A REAL CHANGE.

It is important for you to know that the Study contains a set of recommendations to governments, urging them to take every possible action to stop violence and address its effects on children.



The recommendations provide advice on what should be done by governments and others who are responsible for children, and how people from all over the world should work together to eradicate violence against children.



The recommendations clearly state that **violence should never be allowed** and that we must **prevent and stop** all violence against children, even if it is a custom or is commonly used as a form of punishment.

The Study's recommendations should be made known in every country, particularly in South America and the Caribbean. Go ahead and help us disseminate them – see below what the recommendations are about:



Recommendations...

The recommendations...

1

Governments should take stronger action on violence against children.

2

Governments should ban all violence against children.

3

Governments should pay more attention to preventing violence against children.

Governments should make sure that they really do take action when they sign international agreements about stopping violence against children.

12

Governments should collect information and do research on violence against children.

11

Governments should address the different ways in which violence affects girls and boys.

10

4



Governments should give out clear, powerful messages that violence against children is never allowed, and that everyone should learn about non-violent ways of dealing with each other.

5

People who work with children should learn how to stop all violence against children.

6

Governments should help and support children who have been victims of violence.




Children should be able to express their views.

8

Governments should make it easy for anyone to report violence against children.

9



Governments should make sure that anyone who is violent against children is punished.

7

These recommendations provide a great opportunity for advancing and monitoring progress in preventing violence. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, Mrs. Marta Santos País, has prioritised three recommendations to focus on during her term of office at the UN. This does not mean that the other recommendations are not important, but rather that these three are the first ones that will be promoted.



RECOMMENDATION 1

Governments should take stronger action on violence against children.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Governments should ban all violence against children.

RECOMMENDATION 11

Governments should collect information and do research on violence against children.

What should we do now that we are aware of the Study?

The South American Follow-Up Event to the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children and Young People





These are the latest news on the follow-up event to the Study

On April 28-29, 2011, a South American Follow-Up Event to the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children and Young People was hosted in Asunción, Paraguay.



The purpose of the Event was to disseminate the Study and encourage countries to follow through on the recommendations addressed to them, by creating awareness and securing the commitment to stop and prevent violence against children, promoting the exchange of experiences and encouraging joint action.

Mrs. Marta Santos Pais, the Special Representative of UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, acts as an advocate for the prevention and eradication of all forms of violence against children in every country in the world, as well as for implementation of the major international human rights conventions. She has prioritised a group of recommendations contained in the Violence Study that was launched at the Event.



The Event also enabled important partnerships to be developed between different key stakeholders: children's agencies, media and representatives of children's organisations.



Many different groups worked together to make the Event happen ...



DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL DNI
DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNACIONAL DEI
DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI



Save the Children

unicef
únete por la niñez

World Vision



Plan



Movimiento Mundial
por la Infancia



iin

Instituto
Interamericano
del Niño, la Niña
y Adolescentes



Aldeas Infantiles SOS



REDLAMYC



red

ANDI

américa latina

The Latin American and Caribbean Chapter of the Global Movement for Children (GMC-LACC) is a group of international agencies active in Latin America who have joined efforts to advance the realisation of a world fit for children in Latin America.

Delegates and representatives from the agencies making up the Regional Latin American and Caribbean Chapter of the Global Movement for Children (GMC-LACC) came together in December 2009 to discuss the situation of violence against children in the region.

This meeting was attended by Marta Santos País, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro and other key representatives, including the experts Rosa María Ortiz and Marta Murras, of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.



...and what went on at this meeting?



Participants debated and discussed the need to remain together to jointly develop and implement actions in Latin American countries to address the issue of violence that is affecting so many children in the region.

Marta Santos País
acknowledged the role of
GMC-LACC as a key actor in
Latin America.



The Global Movement for Children (GMC-LACC) is committed to making sure that the recommendations of the Study are acted upon.



...one of their joint actions was a proposal to host two meetings at sub-regional level.

A South American Event

A Central American Event

These events were attended by key representatives from each country who are responsible for children's issues and have decision-making power within their governments and civil society organisations, including children and the media.



Prior to the South American Event:

- Groups were formed in each country to feed in information and data on the extent of violence facing children.
- Each group supported their country's involvement in the Event.
- A lot of information was collected in each country, to discuss progress made on the Study's recommendations.



...This whole process is called **"Mapping,"** which means collecting and discussing information to find out what has been done so far, i.e., what progress has been achieved in each country, what good practice is being implemented, and also what still needs to be done. With this information in place, each country will be able to develop its own **"road map"** towards putting an end to violence against children

What was the purpose of this Event?

THE OBJECTIVES...

- Disseminate the Study and its recommendations.
- Disseminate the data collected in South America on follow-up to the Study, review progress made in each country in implementing the Study's recommendations, and propose new challenges.
- Share any good practice, experiences and initiatives that are being implemented to address violence.
- Continue to carry out follow-up work on the Study's recommendations, by focusing particularly on what actions have been developed, i.e., what efforts are being made by countries to organise themselves and prevent violence and how they are going about it, i.e., what progress has been made in terms of having structures and opportunities in place to network and so further the Study's recommendations.
- Include the voices and views of children themselves as well as their insights on violence.
- Disseminate and discuss the Reports of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the different forms of violence and the rights of children in the continent, focusing on Law and Order, Juvenile Criminal Law, and Humiliating & Physical Punishment.
- Secure commitments from different stakeholders in each country to advance the three recommendations prioritised.

The importance of involving children's networks in the Event

The event was attended by boys and girls from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Children's expectations at the meeting

"Our expectations" can be summed up as follows:



Meet



Share



Exchange



Contribute to change



Participate



Some of the expectations of the young people participating include:

- Meet and engage with government representatives from each country.
- Make sure that effective follow-up is made to the report on children and young people submitted to the UN.
- Engage with participants from other countries.
- Discuss the work being conducted in each country to implement the Study's recommendations.
- Share experiences in taking effective action and finding solutions to violence.
- Report on the work that has been conducted so far in my own country. Exchange reports.






A first step was to share our
feelings and notions on violence...

What comes to our minds when we think of violence?

..."a form of abuse where
someone is deliberately hurt,
either physically or emotionally...
by making use of brute force or
taking advantage of a position of
power..."





It is about... “using moral, physical, psychological, or financial aggression against children and therefore hurting them; doing things against their integrity... affecting their human dignity”

...violence is about punishment, violence at home, abuse, failing to look after girls, forced labour, killing, fighting...

As already mentioned in the first part of this material, the definition taken on by the Study is that of Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as well as that suggested by the World Health Organisation (WHO), both of which state that violence is about:

All forms of physical, mental or emotional violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment of exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) (CRC)¹.

The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation, including neglect and all types of physical, sexual and psychological abuse, as well as suicide and other self-abusive acts (WHO)².



1 (CRC) Convention on the Rights of the Child
2 (WHO) World Health Organization

The boys and girls participating in the Event claimed that...



Violence takes on different forms and takes place in many different settings.

ATHOME: when physical punishment, maltreatment and verbal abuse are used to educate and discipline children.



ON THE STREETS: We, the children, face violence in the workplace, such as a boy who was shot out on the streets or violence against working children.



IN SCHOOL: Bullying or harassment against a child by his or her schoolmates. Violence used by teachers or other adult caregivers.



AT INSTITUTIONS: where children live without their families to care for them violence against children is used by their caregivers.



IN CYBERSPACE: The use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) involves many risks, e.g., paedophiles or people intentionally using the Social Networks or information media to sexually abuse children.



What do we children think of the recommendations?

Each one of the **three recommendations** prioritised was discussed at the Event in groups made up of children from different countries, who voiced their concerns:

Recommendation 1:

Governments should take stronger action on violence against children and young people.

The main idea behind this recommendation was to:

“Create ways to enable all government institutions to work together to develop **PLANS** with clear actions to stop **ALL** forms of violence against children”



When implementing the plans developed by governments, all forms of violence experienced by children should be taken into account. These are some of the ideas that were put forward at the Event:

There is little support from the government to involve children.

The plans proposed by each country do not reach all groups; many children do not benefit from them.

While laws are created to protect children, they are not promoted or enforced.



According to the Study, to implement this recommendation effectively governments should make sure all individuals and organisations working for children become involved and work together, particularly taking into account children's views on what their real feelings are when they experience violence in their lives.

Once all stakeholders know what they need to do and what our main concerns are to stop to violence against children, each country will be able to develop its own Plan.

All governments should have a clearly written Action Plan to stop violence against children.

This Action Plan should be built into all structures and organisations working with children and young people, and they must make sure that it is carried out by everyone if it is to make a real difference.



A cartoon illustration of a young boy with dark hair and a blue shirt, smiling and holding a white sign high above his head with both arms. To his right, a young girl with dark hair in pigtails, wearing a pink shirt, is also smiling with her arms raised in a cheering gesture. The background consists of concentric, wavy circles in shades of yellow and green, creating a sunburst effect. In the bottom right corner, there is a red footprint graphic containing the page number 57.

Recommendation 2:
Governments should ban all
violence against children.

The main idea behind
this recommendation
was that:
“All governments should have
clear **LAWS AND REGULATIONS**
in place to ensure that children
are **PROTECTED** against all forms
of violence.”

This is what children said about this recommendation:

MakesurethatthePlansandactions developed by countries take into account the enforcement of any laws and international agreements aimed at the protection of children.

We must also make sure that if the Plans are to be implemented they must include different ways to measure results, specify how long it will take to achieve them and work out how much will it cost.



Physical punishment is legally accepted by many countries in Latin America:

- There are no appropriate procedures for children to report violence without being doubly victimised.
- There is a lack of clear procedures to report violence.
- Corruption does not help in eradicating violence.
- Many public officials still lack the training needed to deal with situations of violence against children.

Based on these concerns, we demand:

That an independent body be set up to promote the relevant legal norms.

That a legislative reform plan be developed, both for each country and the region as a whole.

That conditions in those centres or institutions where children with legal issues are taken be improved.

That a regional structure or mechanism be created to provide information on children in each country.



It is of the utmost importance that all governments give out clear messages in their norms, legislation and organisations that violence against children is never allowed.

Governments must be very clear about banning all forms of violence, including:

Humiliation, verbal abuse, comparisons.



Recruiting children into armed forces in the face of conflict.



Sexual exploitation, child pornography and any form of sexual violence.



Physical punishment, such as hitting.



Early or forced marriage.



All forms of violence against children should be banned by law.



A cartoon illustration of a woman with brown hair and a purple tank top, and a young boy with dark hair and a yellow long-sleeved shirt, both with their arms raised in celebration. They are holding a large white sign. The background is a bright blue sky with a yellow ground, green trees, and green bushes.

Recommendation II:

Governments should collect information and do research on violence against children.

The main idea behind this recommendation was to:

“Create INFORMATION SYSTEMS and data to inform public policy and integrated strategies and plans against violence.”

These are the main concerns voiced by children with:

We
claim that...

- The Government is absent from the enforcement of rights. Some politicians use children in their campaigns.

We
recommend
that...

- Easy access is provided to this information, provided that the right to privacy is not compromised. The Government must do research on sexual violence against children and come up with a response. It should do research on violence against children on an ongoing basis in each country.

We
demand
that...

- This recommendation is enforced in a comprehensive manner, i.e., that not only certain aspects of children's lives are considered. One example is health, which should be government policy.



Based on the above, we recommend the following:

- Opportunities should be created for children to convey their views to the government.
- Effective and immediate action should be taken by the government to stop all forms of violence.
- A public, free-of-charge, confidential hotline should be created to report any type of violence affecting children, and immediate action should be taken on any cases reported.
- Public and private institutions should have people in them willing to commit themselves to this cause.
- The culture of the original inhabitants of each country should be preserved and recognised, so that their traditional identity and culture is not lost.
- Institutions responsible for enforcing the rights and needs of original inhabitants should fulfil their remit and enforce it.

What other proposals can you think of?

Please write them down below:

When we know the extent of violence, who or how many people are affected by it, where it takes place more frequently, how old those most affected by it are and what is their gender, who are the perpetrators...

...we are able to act upon it more confidently and know what to do and how to prevent it and not let it happen.

But how can we
gather so much
information?


Countries can conduct surveys,
interviews, research studies,
assessments, and develop joint,
easy-to-use records that are
accessible to all.



Governments should make sure that records are kept on all forms of violence against children and develop different approaches to gain access to and collect information wherever children are around: at home, in school, in the workplace, at institutions and in the community.

Governments should also make sure that the contents of their records are shared and made known, as it is essential that we are informed of progress in the struggle against violence.

Something to bear in mind:



It is essential to make sure that all children are registered to be able to prove their identity, so that when gathering information we will be better able to find out details about each child, including their age and gender, where and with whom they live, whether they are going to school or working, their language, their health status and culture, etc...

THE ROAD MAP

Ahora que conocemos el Estudio y el Evento...
¿Qué camino debemos recorrer?



67

THE ROAD

A useful idea that surfaced during the Event to help realise children's rights to live free from all forms of violence was the need to develop a clear set of guidelines to help us organise ourselves and show us what needs to be done to implement the priority recommendations of the Study. We have named this set of guidelines a "Road Map."



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THE ROAD MAP



The starting point and overall aim is the realisation of Human Rights, which involves...

Passing laws forbidding all forms of violence against children and young people.

Formalising actions to follow-up and implement the Study's recommendations in each country.

Appointing a high-level authority in each country to manage and coordinate relevant actions as well as the follow-up to the Study.

Developing a national strategy in each country to prevent and address all forms of violence against children.

Let us follow the road map...

Promoting children's voice and involvement in policy-related issues.



Making sure International Aid Agencies and Financial Institutions feed the Study's recommendations into their plans and projects.

Developing a national system for gathering, analysing and disseminating data and research on violence against children and young people



Seeking the support of independent national human rights institutions.



Promoting partnerships between different stakeholders and groups for increased impact.



Considering networking and joint collaboration between agencies in different countries.



MAP



The actions outlined below were suggested to follow up on the Study's recommendations:





As a starting point and business case: Advance the realisation of human rights.

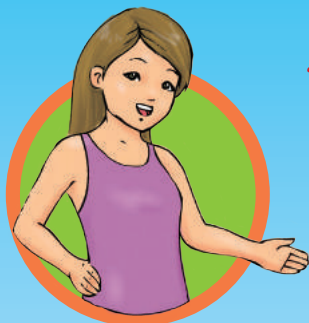
Countries are advised to endorse the entire range
of rights and honour their commitments.

Some countries have
put forward a number of
“reservations” concerning
the enforcement of rights,
meaning that they haven’t fully
committed to them...

We think they should
withdraw all “reservations.”



Decision makers in international human rights organisations often realise that certain rights are not being fulfilled, so they agree on a set of recommendations and observations that are addressed to the relevant countries. Governments should make sure that these recommendations are acted upon.



Pass laws to ban all forms of violence against children and young people.

Pay close attention, as recommendations include issues such as:

- "Law and Order and Human Rights"
- "Humiliating & Physical Punishment"
- "The right to a life free from violence"
- "Juvenile Justice and Human Rights"



Another step needed to move forward along this journey is that governments in all countries should pass laws to ban violence against children, making it clear that no forms of violence will be tolerated.

Let's say it loud and clear:

We need urgent change!

Laws should state **very clearly** that all forms of physical and humiliating punishment are banned. That some countries should use the term “**moderate**” to qualify punishment is unacceptable, and may be confusing and misinterpreted.



- Giving out very clear messages in the relevant laws also means including specific responsibilities, consequences and sanctions, and indicating how these will be enforced, and particularly how their enforcement will be monitored.
- For transparency purposes, it is highly recommended to involve everyone, particularly children, in any changes that may be proposed to the laws. Members of parliament should organise discussions around these laws and make sure that they are enforced.





- The laws should clearly outline how to report violence, who should stand by these procedures, what records should be kept, what follow-up work and attention should be devoted to cases, and the role played by individual and institutional law enforcement agents.
- Victims and witnesses of violence should be looked after. It is essential that the laws create different ways to protect those who decide to speak up, so that they feel that it is easy, fast and accessible to all, thereby avoiding any form of manipulation or threat.
- Laws should ensure different ways for victims of violence or people who are in conflict with the law to recover, be treated and be reintegrated, bearing in mind their rights and personal integrity.

For laws to be enforced they must be made known, through awareness raising and social mobilisation actions involving families, teachers, public officials or caregivers working with programmes for children and young people, but above all children themselves, who are the parties most interested in and affected by violence. A very good idea is to disseminate any changes made to laws in all sorts of media.

When we speak about punishment we must be very clear!



Take seriously and formalise the follow up and implementation of the Study's recommendations in each country.

We really mean it!



During the event held in Paraguay, a **regional road map** was agreed, with guidelines to enable countries to develop their own national road maps. The mapping exercise presented at the event is an excellent tool for identifying where to begin and taking into account any good practices used by other countries.

With this in mind, i.e., so that it will be effectively implemented, each country developed a draft road map, by tailoring the recommendations to their own realities. This draft must be reviewed, complemented and enhanced to be attached to the Latin American road map.

But first we must have the true desire to change these realities and firmly believe that we do want to put an end to violence. For this to happen:

- Efforts are required from all.
- National and international, individual and institutional stakeholders must be involved.
- We must bring together our ideas, link all our efforts and work together.
- We must have firm beliefs and awareness.



So, for everyone to understand that we really mean it, it is now our turn to make it official in each country. Remember that it is not only about hosting ceremonies and events. To make sure that these good intentions are really put into practice, we need to secure the commitment of organisations, appoint lead people, develop plans and implement them, create different ways to make sure that they are implemented... Let us follow the road map to see what other steps we can take to move forward along this journey.



Each country must appoint an authority to coordinate actions on and follow up to the Study.

Violence takes place for many reasons and in many different settings, and takes on many forms. For this reason, when dealing with violence we need to consider this diversity, making sure children's rights are promoted and protected everywhere and at all times, and trying to avoid taking action once violence has already been committed, but rather preventing it from happening in the first place and helping to put an end to it.



Protection



Promotion

revention

This requires networking between different institutions...

Justice

Health

Education

Police

Social
Programmes

Economy &
Finance

But with so many
institutions... doesn't
someone need to take on
the coordination?

Yes, someone has to take the lead
and coordination between all these
organisations. This role must therefore be
played by a **high-ranking official**, to make
sure good follow up work is carried out on
the recommendations of the Study.



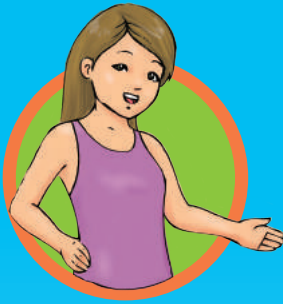


Let's take a break and review how far we've come... let us look at the first steps of the road map:

We have initiated this journey by taking the first four steps. Do you remember what they are? Look for the cut-out pieces at the end of the report so that you can place them in the right place and go over this part of the journey:



Go to page 119



Develop a national strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence against children and/or young people.

Did you know that... governments develop plans and strategies to enable them to run their countries? We must make sure that the Study's recommendations are included within these proposals, so that they are made official and allow us to hold governments accountable for their enforcement.



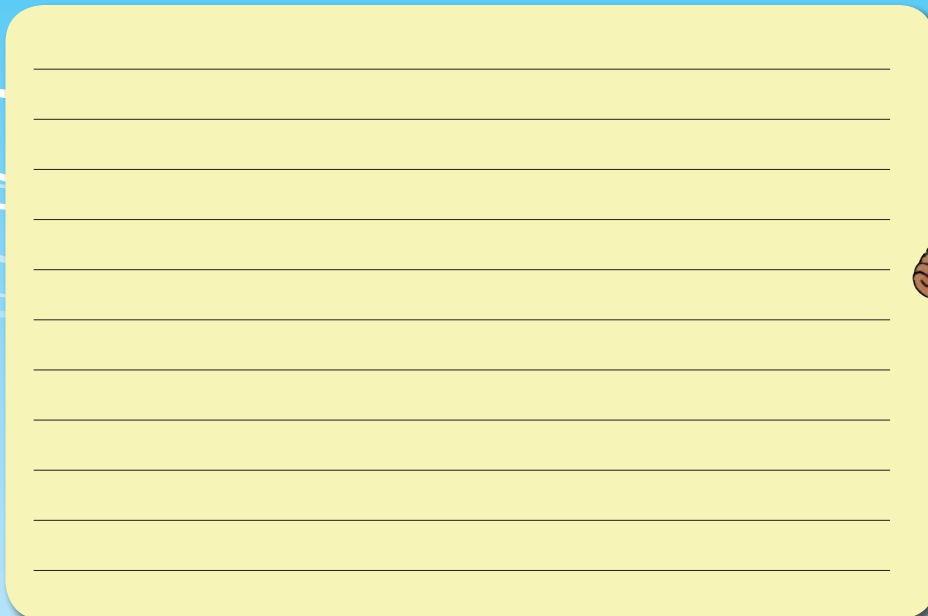
Citizens are entitled to demand their governments to include within each country's **National Plans** and policy strategies any major issues of their concern and that may be affecting them. We must do everything within our reach to make sure that the Study's recommendations are incorporated within these national plans, with agreed **objectives, deadlines, resources and outcomes**, so that governments may later on report on progress through progress reports and assessments presented to all their citizens.

Did you know that... some countries have several national plans and programmes in place? These include:

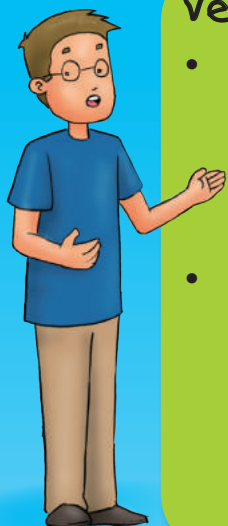
- Action Plans for Children and Young People
- National Development Plans
- National Human Rights Plans
- Equal Opportunity Plans

Find out what plans exist in your country with the help of trusted adults and friends from your organisations, and have a look at them to learn about them – they are likely to show interesting progress.

Use this space to write down their names:



Take note...



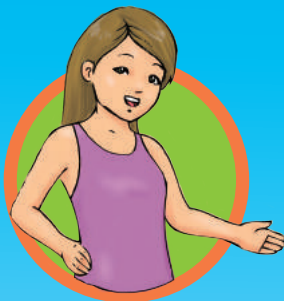
Very important:

- To implement the strategy in each country, a lead must be appointed to mobilise government agencies, civil society and children's representatives
- A strategy should also be developed to make the Plan known through the media, targeted at people at large as well as policy makers in your own country, to raise awareness and inspire change with a view to putting an end to violence.



We suggest:

- Setting up in **individual countries and Latin America as a whole** a steering committee made up of experts **on** violence against children, with its own budget and **state-of-the-art communication and networking strategies.**
- Encouraging each country to develop its own road map, making sure to involve all relevant stakeholders. Countries need to provide the budget required to implement the road map
- Actively involving children and young people in the development of the road map.



Encourage children's views and engagement in policy making.



Involving children's organisations all along the journey is essential:

We, the children, can take action ourselves for our own protection. We only need to create the necessary conditions to promote our own mobilisation.

Value their ideas and experiences and take them into account:

We know what the issues affecting us are and we are able to identify our needs. We only need to create **user-friendly spaces** to express ourselves freely and communicate in a number of different ways, **e.g., by** talking, writing, **or through** music, drama, dancing, drawing, etc., based on each child's own **abilities, special needs**, culture and age.

Mobilise children's organisations:

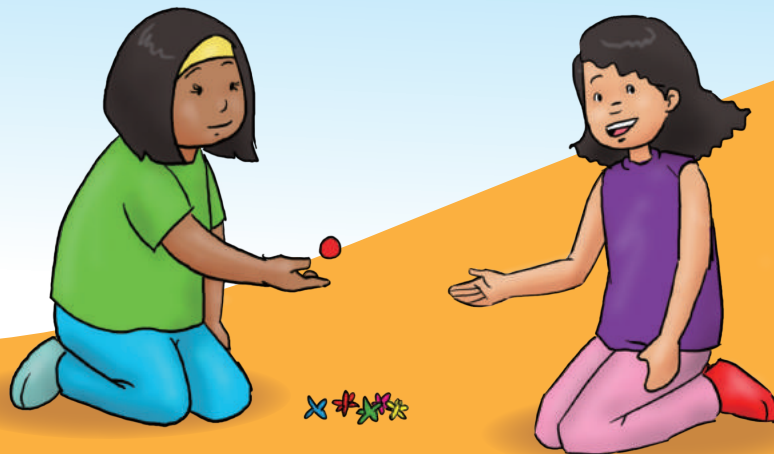
Make sure all existing groups in the country are represented; host national-level meetings, and promote the creation of new organisations that should elect their own representatives.

Develop communication strategies that are easy to understand and draw on different forms of communication used by children, drawing up and using materials that are clear and fun and within everybody's reach

Did you know that... there are children's organisations in many countries, where children get together, share their ideas, express their views, and suggest changes both to their own lives and those of their friends? These include:

- Organisations of working children and young people
- Student Councils or School Municipalities
- Ombudsmen for Children's Rights
- Student Networks or Federations
- Health Brigades or Environmentalist Groups
- Sports, Art, Cultural or other themed Groups or Clubs

Find out what organisations exist in your country and go ahead and join them. Also, remember that new organisations can be set up as well, either at your own initiative or that of your friends



Use this space to write down their names:



Key Message:



Children's engagement should take place in an organised manner, and their organisations should have their own representatives.

You can draw on highly interesting proposals and experiences that have already been carried out, such as:

- The recommendations of the Twentieth Pan American Child Congress, particularly the phased creation of Children's Consultative Councils in each country.

<http://www.xxcongresopanamericano.org/espanol/xx-congreso-panamericano.html>

- General Comment 12 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, on the right of the child to express his/her views and be heard.



Seek support from independent local human rights institutions.

Each country can encourage the creation and development of independent institutions to promote the rights of the child.

What can these independent institutions do?

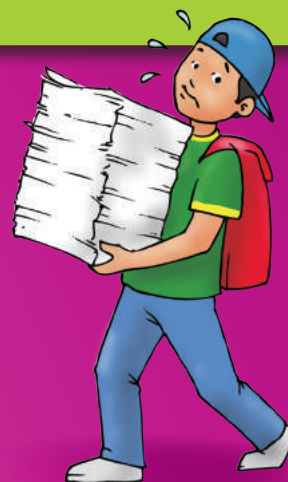


- Encourage governments to develop very clear policies with the aim to stop violence against children.
- Feed the Study's recommendations into government work plans.
- Do research on and assess progress in addressing violence in each country.
- Provide advice to organisations working with children and young people on the issues facing violence. When necessary, help develop a response to specific violence-related issues.
- Monitor and evaluate implementation of the Study's recommendations in each country.

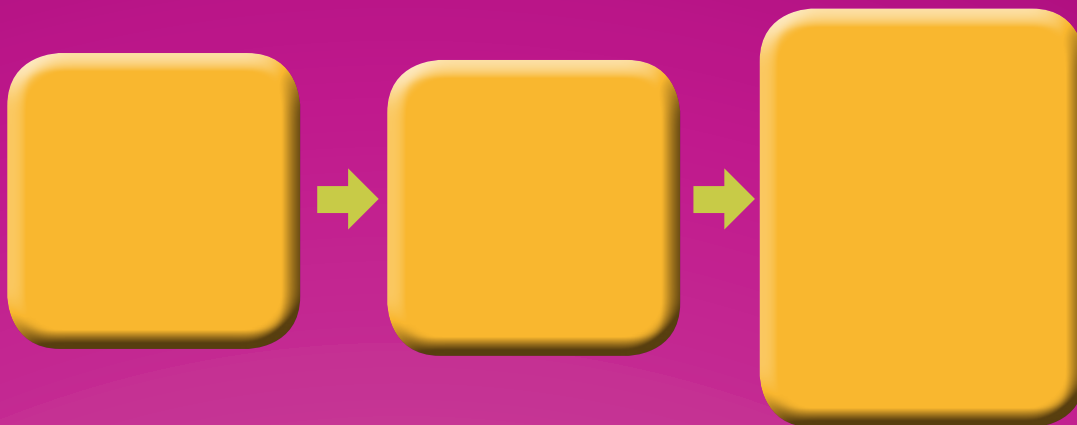


- Provide support through dissemination and awarenessraising.
- Support both in-country and cross-country exchanges of experiences between different organisations, including children's organisations, to draw on their knowledge and innovations and promote networking.
- Make sure that both government and parliamentary reports show the extent of progress made on the Study's recommendations.
- Engage with the UN Secretary General's Special Representative, Mrs. Marta Santos País, by providing her with significant inputs on the follow up to the Study's recommendations.

And remember... This information should be accessible, easy to find and understandable to us, children.



Let us go over the road map again... We have taken three very important steps:



Go to page 119

Don't forget to look for the cut-out pieces at the end of this report to go over what we have done so far.

Now that we're ready to build partnerships and relations of cooperation and teamwork between different organisations to complete all the steps in the road map and achieve the goal of putting an end to violence against children and young people, let us move further ahead...





Consider networking and joint actions between agencies from different countries.

The Study tells us that violence takes place in every country, takes on many forms and occurs in different settings where there are children around; these forms of violence are often widespread in different countries.

For this purpose, governments and organisations in different countries can have joint agreements in place to allow them to work in partnership.



An example worth highlighting: Key South American decision makers on children's issues who are members of a Standing Committee known as NIÑ@SUR ("Southern Child") played an active role in the South American Event and made specific commitments to address violence against children and young people. NIÑ@SUR <mailto:NIÑ@SUR> is a member of the multinational organisation MERCOSUR. They agreed to incorporate the follow up to the

recommendations of the Study on Violence and the Road Map into their work strategy.

Moreover, the South American countries undertook to deliver progress reports at the NIÑ@SUR meetings, explaining what has been done in their countries to address this issue. The contents will be discussed by the attending countries. This means that Governments must make sure that any actions adopted by them to end violence against children are recorded and put together in form of a progress report. In drawing up these reports, the views and contributions of NGOs and representatives of children and young people's organisations should be taken into consideration. "Country groups" should play an active role in the development of these reports. NIÑ@SUR<mailto:NIÑ@SUR> needs to agree on the timing of the progress reports. Ideally, the aim should be not to let long periods of time elapse between reports, and a good idea would be for reports to be submitted on a yearly basis. It is up to NIÑ@SUR to decide on this.

Once NIÑ@SUR has received progress reports from all governments, they will be reviewed to assess progress and also identify any good practices that can be used to inspire and help others. NGOs shall also participate in this discussion and dialogue process. The information collected will provide an overview of what has been done so far and what still needs to be done in each country. This will be forwarded to the office of Mrs. Marta Santos Pais, to update her on progress being made in the region.



Other organisations can also engage in this – we need to mobilise them!



Promote partnerships between different stakeholders and sectors for stronger impact.

To support progress on implementation of the Study's recommendations, different efforts should be taken into account, such as those promoted by the Global Movement for Children. These should be encouraged and upheld, by ensuring their implementation at national and regional levels.

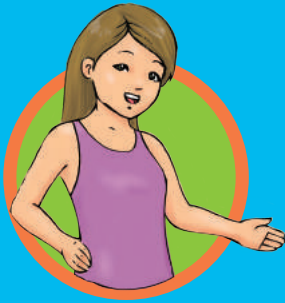
While all stakeholders and sectors are **useful and relevant**, they **need to** work together **to be successful**. On their own, **they have little chance** to achieve the **major** changes **that are required** to make an impact:



We need to encourage and strengthen organisations, particularly children's organisations, so that they will continue working against violence and promoting different actions in partnership with government and civil society institutions.

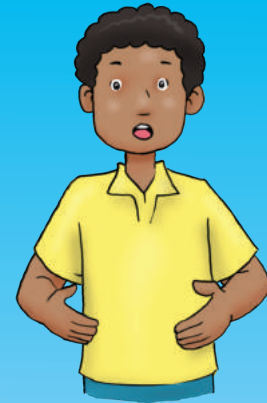


...and involve local, neighbourhood and community organisations, promoting exchanges between them and national or global level organisations, so that they can get to know each other, interact with each other and show their work, share what they do and disseminate their achievements, successful approaches and good practice in the struggle against violence.



International Aid Organisations and Financial Institutions should take into account the recommendations when developing their own plans and projects.

Many countries work in partnership, which is why they have commitments and agreements in place. This provides an opportunity for the Study's recommendations to be included in such strategies and Plans.



In view of the unanimous support earned by the Study, organisations and countries that have agreements in place and are international aid providers as well as financial institutions should take the Study's recommendations seriously and commit themselves to their implementation.

This is why it is very important to support those countries that have developed collaborative relationships, conduct team work and network with others in the face of common problems. It is always better to work in this way.

Let us review the road map... We have now taken three further steps to build partnerships, work collaboratively and conduct teamwork. Remind us what they were



Go to page 121

To go over the road map again, you need the cut-out pieces at the end of the report so that you can put the pieces together for this part of the journey.

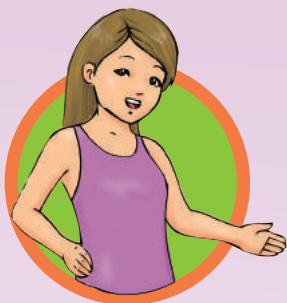
We have now arrived at the last part of the journey:

...the last step in this journey
will be to jointly gather
some data and estimates and
also collect other people's
views

Why?

...because we need to
know if we're making
progress.





Develop a national system for the collection, discussion and dissemination of data and research on violence against children and young people.

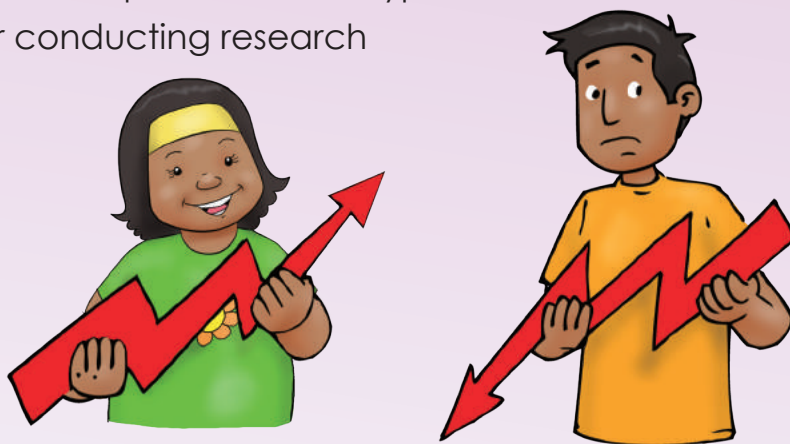
There is a need to create or strengthen a **system** to organise and pull together all the data and information that has been collected on violence against children, so that countries will know what they have to do and how much progress they are making in addressing this issue.



This is essential to enable countries to develop improved government policies and programmes. This will require organising activities such as assessments, research studies, interviews and surveys, as well as keeping joint records at local and national levels.

For this to work, common, very clear concepts and definitions of the issues facing violence against children should be used by all. It is very important to review and use as our main source of information the global Human Rights standards that have been ratified, and have country agreements and commitments in place.

While it is very important to collect facts and figures, find out how many cases there are and work out how much money is being invested, in addition to quantifying facts it is also essential to find out what we think, what our views and perceptions are and listen to what children themselves have to say about their own experiences. This type of information also counts and is highly relevant for conducting research

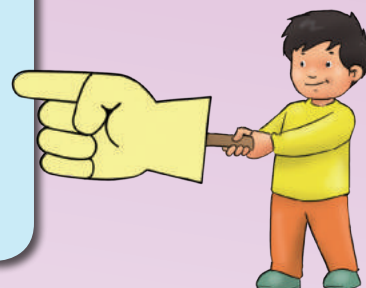


Find out who in your country could engage in these activities. Sometimes you may count on:

- A National Statistical Information Centre
- Government or private Research Centres
- A Household Information System or National Household Survey
- Universities or other education centres may also help by doing research on these issues
- Telephone hotlines

Write down their names here:

A light blue rectangular box with rounded corners and five horizontal lines for writing names.



Key Messages:

- Surveys or interviews may be conducted in households and/or schools, always remembering to collect children's views. Interviewers should preferably be qualified and trained individuals.
- The findings of the information system should be available to the public and widely disseminated, taking care to avoid compromising the right to privacy.
- The information should not be difficult to understand and should be clear and within everybody's reach, including children themselves.
- Bear in mind that sharing instruments and ways of working will make it easier to use and disseminate the information and collate data with other institutions based in one and the same country or even between countries, while respecting cultural or age differences as well as, above all, the findings on strongly at-risk groups.
- The data collected should include useful information to help detect, prevent and protect, and show people where to go for help, how much is being invested and the extent of progress being made towards putting an end to violence

FOLLOW UP TO THE ROAD MAP



We all want to follow the Road Map and make sure the Study's recommendations are enforced.

To make it happen, this is what we, the children, have done so far:

- To follow up on the Road Map, boys and girls from across Latin America drew up a Manifesto outlining their views on violence against children.
- They developed the Declaration of the South American Follow-Up Event to the Recommendations of the Study, which was signed by the Government of Paraguay hosting the event
- Children seized the opportunity to draw up a draft Road Map for each country, tailoring the recommendations to their own realities. We all expect that they are soon finalised and fed into this proposal.



Key Message:

The **NIÑ@SUR** Standing Committee is a unique platform created in South America to ensure the Study's recommendations are effectively followed through. Countries seemed very open to collaborate in implementing the recommendations of the Study. So they must now stand up to their promises, committing to support the work of Marta Santos País who, as you know, is the UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Violence against Children. This will allow us to jointly realise the protection of children's rights, particularly their right to a life free from all forms of violence.





What did children have to say after going over the Road Map?

Children's Manifesto

At the end of the meeting, children and young people drew up a Manifesto.

During the Event we realised that we had a lot of things that we wished to say about violence against children.

Yes, but first we need to voice our concern over all the issues that affect us, as we have come to realise that there are many coincidences in violence across Latin American countries.



We also managed to agree on a set of joint aspirations and expectations. We believe we have very good ideas that can be implemented, so we decided to put forward a set of recommendations.

...and we realised that we needed to voice our demands, which we feel should be taken seriously by each country.





Manifesto drafted by children from countries across Latin American attended the South American Follow-Up Event to the UN Study on Violence against Children

In the city of Asuncion, Paraguay, we have been attending as delegates of children's organisations from:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay and Venezuela.





...sharing our thoughts and concerns with regard to violence against children and young people. Based on this...



We state that:

1. Despite living in the same region, there are **huge differences** across countries **in terms of opportunities and forms of violence** against children. Each government has different law-enforcement agencies and approaches for dealing with children's rights.
2. In some countries **violence** is allowed **as a form of discipline**, while in others all forms of violence are banned by law.
3. **Structural violence** is the result of an unfair global capitalist system that leads to the impoverishment of the majority of the population in our countries. To us, structural violence is when the environment and people are contaminated by the way powerful entrepreneurs run their agribusinesses. This has an impact on the health and life of (indigenous and peasant) children and their families, and forces them to leave their communities and migrate to urban areas. There are no guarantees to report this form of violence. People are required to follow protocols that hinder rather than help with reporting

procedures, and there are huge differences in the way people from different social backgrounds are treated by the authorities. This leads to exclusion and unequal access to basic rights, impoverishment, and increased risk of exploitation for children and their families.

4. The **culture, customs, territories and traditional forms of life of the Original Inhabitants** of our continent **have been trampled upon** for years. We think this is a form of cultural, physical, and symbolic violence against children who belong to these groups.
5. In most cases, **infringement of our rights** in general **is facilitated by government policy and action**. For example, some countries are trying to lower the age of imputability, while in others the police and other law-enforcement agencies re-victimise children who are already victims of abuse, exploitation, sexual abuse and other crimes."
6. While there are **many laws in place** in the region, **these are not enforced** and there are few institutions **that have been assigned responsibility** for this.
7. It has also come to our attention that **institutions are slow and demand too much paperwork**, which stands in the way of quality care being provided straight away to children who have been victims of violence.
8. Most of our countries do not have specialist institutions in place, such as a ministry for children and young people.

9. To **register and obtain evidence of identification** can be a challenging task, due to inefficiency of and poor access to registration facilities from the communities where children are born.
10. The fact that **care services for children are centralised** further hinders the realisation of our rights.
11. **Poor dissemination of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** is a form of violence that exists across Latin American countries. In spite of this, children have organised themselves to disseminate, discuss, suggest and implement their rights
12. Mass media in our countries normally convey a negative picture of children and young people, by misrepresenting information, reporting only on issues that sell, and not showing any real interest in educating their audiences. Mass media create negative stereotypes and in doing so re-victimise us and make us more vulnerable to violence.



Our recommendations:



1. A regional organisation should be created to look into the different realities facing each country (and understand the differences), and children and young people should be able to turn to it to report on violence, thus ensuring their rights. This regional agency should centralise country annual reports on the extent of violence against children and young people.
2. Laws should be passed in each country banning violence against children, including for 'disciplinary' purposes.
3. Training should be provided to those officials at institutions who are responsible for monitoring and/or enforcing children's rights.
4. Laws should be enforced and ministries for children and young people should be created across the region, and child care and protection services should be decentralised.
5. We particularly recommend that the Committee pays attention to this form of violence, which for a long time was ignored by many countries, as a means to prevent it and educate children, young people and adults within a culture of peace and respect.
6. The Commission should call on governments to promote children's rights and monitor their enforcement within the household, institutions and society at large.



Our demands:

1. Governments should take legal action to ensure that the rights of children and young people are upheld. Different kinds of cultures should not be discriminated against or looked down upon, but rather more plural means of participation should be sought.
2. Governments should commit to effectively implement our rights, enforce existing laws, and punish anyone who refuses to abide by them.
3. The media should operate as educational agents, conveying values and reporting on children and young people in a positive way.
4. The culture, customs, traditions and dances of America's Original Inhabitants should be respected, and the territories that were taken away from them should be given back, making sure that children within these groups thrive and enjoy good living conditions.
5. Families displaced from their communities as a result of agribusinesses should be supported and protected.



To wrap up, following is a list of recommended materials to learn more about how to end violence against children.

2011. Global – International
United Nations's Secretary
General's Study on Violence
against Children adapted for
Children and Young People



2008 – Guatemala
Know and Protect Yourself!



2011 – Peru
¡Vengan a conocer las
Recomendaciones del Comité de
los Derechos del Niño de Naciones
Unidas al Estado Peruano! [Get to
know the
Recommendations of the CRC to
the Peruvian Government!]



2011 - International
World Report on Violence against
Children



2008 – Paraguay
Violence in our Society. A Look
at Children and Adolescents



2010 - Latin America
and the Caribbean
TOWARDS AN END
TO CORPORAL AND
DEGRADING PUNISHMENT.



2006 – Latin America
and the Caribbean
Voices of children and
adolescents on violence



May 2007 - Regional Latin
America Programme
Safe You and Safe Me



2010 – Latin America and the Caribbean
COMUNICAR sin dañar. Guía
para informar con enfoque
de derecho (2da. Edición)
[Communicating without
Hurting. A Guide to Rights-Based
Informing – Second version]



2012 - Global
Child-friendly version of the
General Comment on
Article 12 of the Convention on
the Rights of the Child



Los puedes encontrar en: <http://www.scslat.org/web/noticias.php?id=E&tip=P>







Adhesive pieces



Below are a number of cut-out pieces for you to put them in the right place and go over the part of the journey on page 83 again:

We start by
acknowledging rights.

We pass very clear laws against
violence.

We take it very seriously
and make it official We.

We appoint a high-level
representative in each country.



These cut-outs are for the part of the
journey on page 92:

Draw up a
strategy and
feed it into
government
plans.

Involve children
and young
people.

Seek
support from
independent
rights
organisations.



And these cut-outs are for the part of the journey on page 98:

Collaborative work between different countries and government agencies.

Partnerships between actors and stakeholders for greater impact.



International aid organisations and financial institutions include the Study's recommendations.





Save the Children Sweden

Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean

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www.sclat.org