Introduction

The global pandemic of child sexual abuse, evidenced by the escalation of cross border child sex trafficking and exploitation, and the alarming proliferation of transcontinental child pornography and sexual exploitation on-line is of grave concern to world leaders. On the 7 November 2022, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution A/77/L.8, Sexual Exploitation, and Abuse: Implementing a Zero-tolerance Policy. This historic resolution was sponsored by 118 nations, adopted by consensus by all 193 member states, and acknowledged by the Mission of the Holy See setting forth the 18 November, each year as the World Day for the Protection of, and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence.

The establishment of the 18 November, world day is a seminal event in the history of the child sexual violence prevention movement. This landmark day provides a global platform to bring civil society, and governments together to focus and better align vital resources in the fight to protect children; it elevates the voices of victims, and survivors around the world, and highlights the need to bring them justice and healing; and it provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to promote the actions all people can take each day to protect children.

Aims of this event

On the 19 September 2023, the Republic of Sierra Leone, in collaboration with the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Global Collaborative will host a High-level Side-event to raise awareness of the 18 November, World Day and actions all nations can take to address the global health crisis of child sexual exploitation, abuse and violence.

During this event, the Global Collaborative, an initiative founded by survivors of child sexual abuse from around the world will present a special memorial to the United Nations, for display each November 18, to highlight the importance of this annual day of observance. This special event includes testimonials by survivors on the importance of the world day and the lasting impact it will have on their lives. In addition, the Global Collaborative will recognize the Republic of Sierra Leone and The Federal Republic of Nigeria for their leadership in co-facilitating the world day resolution, and the 192 Member States, who supported the resolution, and the leadership and staff of various entities within the United Nations for all they have done to protect children from sexual abuse, and for bringing justice, healing, and peace to survivors.

The event also includes a presentation by the Council of Europe on the Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, also known as “the Lanzarote Convention.” The Convention sets specific legislation nations may adopt and measures they can take to prevent sexual violence, to protect child victims and to prosecute perpetrators.
**Objectives**

1. To inform the audience of the growing pandemic of child sexual violence around the world.
2. To highlight the critical path and key milestones required to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, both on-line and in their communities.
3. To share the progress nations are making in achieving child sexual abuse, zero-tolerance policies.
4. To inform the audience on the impact of child sexual abuse to victims, and their families, and the need for healing to enable them to restore their lives.
5. To inform the audience on actions governments can take to support victims/survivors of child sexual exploitation, abuse, and violence in their healing journey.

**Speakers and Run of Show**

- **Welcome**, Anwar Kahn, President, Islamic Relief, USA
- **Keynote Address**: Fatima Maada Bio, First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
- **Video with Survivor Testimonials and Musical Performance** by Darwin Hobbs, American Gospel Music Singer.
- **Presentation of the 18 November World Day Memorial to the United Nations General Assembly** by Dr. Jennifer Wortham, Founder and Chair, Global Collaborative, followed by special remarks by Najat Maalla M’jid United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children.
- **Presentation of World Day Tribute to the Republic of Sierra Leone** by Suzie Greco, with special remarks by His Excellency, Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
- **Presentation of World Day Tribute to the Federal Republic of Nigeria** by Nadia Jamil and special remarks by His Excellency, Bola Tinubu, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. (pending confirmation)
- **Presentation of World Day Tribute to the Holy See** by Mark Williams and special remarks by His Excellency, Cardinal Sean O’Malley, President of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.
- **Presentation of the World Day Tribute to the Council of Europe** by Sara Dekker and special remarks by (XXX), on the purpose of the Lanzarote Convention and actions Member States can take to address the problem of child sexual abuse.
- **Closing Remarks**, Andrew Morley, President, and CEO of World Vision. (pending confirmation)
Resolution by the 77th General Assembly on 7 November 2022

[on the recommendation of the Third Committee]

World Day for the Prevention of, and Healing from
Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as its Optional Protocols, International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and recalling all other relevant international treaties,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places the dignity of children and their right to live free from violence as a priority on the international development agenda through the implementation of the range of goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development relevant to ending exploitation, abuse, trafficking, torture and all forms of violence against children, as well as eliminating all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation, which place children at risk of experiencing child sexual exploitation, abuse and violence,

Expressing grave concern that children especially girls are at a greater risk of experiencing forced sex, sexual exploitation, abuse and violence, including both online and offline, in particular during armed conflict and that because of the shame, stigma, and fear associated with their experiences, many victims and survivors never disclose and/or seek justice, rehabilitation or support, and that many victims and survivors of child abuse experience lifelong consequences to their physical and mental health and wellbeing,

Affirming the need to eliminate and prevent all forms of child sexual exploitation, abuse, and violence and to promote the dignity, rights, including mental and physical health and healing for those who experience childhood sexual exploitation, abuse, and violence,
General Assembly

Seventy-seventh session

1. **Decides** to proclaim 18 November each year as the World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence.

2. **Invites** all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, world leaders, and faith actors, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, as well as the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders, to commemorate the World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence each year in a manner that each considers most appropriate, including through commitments to ensure quality education, and to raise public awareness of those impacted by Sexual child abuse and the need to prevent and eliminate child sexual exploitation, abuse, and violence including online and offline, and the imperative to hold perpetrators to account, and ensure the access of survivors and victims’ to justice and remedies, as well as facilitate open discussion on the need to prevent and eliminate their stigmatization, promote their healing, affirm their dignity, and protect their rights.

3. **Stresses** that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution shall be met from voluntary contributions.