October 9, 2007

Your Excellency:

This year, as the General Assembly considers its resolution on the rights of the child and appropriate follow-up to the Secretary-General’s Study on Violence against Children, we urge you to support the establishment of a Special Representative to the Secretary-General (SRSG) on violence against children to ensure effective action to prevent and respond to the shocking levels of violence revealed by the Study.

With this letter, we are pleased to include a statement signed by over 900 NGOs from 131 countries worldwide urging UN member states to support full implementation of the Study’s recommendations, including the proposal for an SRSG on violence against children. This statement has been signed by NGOs in every region of the world, expressing overwhelming support for a high-level advocate to promote the prevention and elimination of all violence against children.

As representatives of leading international and national NGOs from around the world that work with and for children, we are convinced that such a mechanism is essential to heighten international attention to violence against children, to ensure multi-sectoral coordination and response within the UN system; to identify and share good practices in preventing and responding to violence against children; and to ensure effective follow-up to the UN Study’s recommendations.

The UN Study was developed through an intensive consultative process that engaged governments, NGOs and civil society, and children throughout the world through a series of regional and thematic consultations. The substantive involvement of children in this process was unparalleled. Many of the children and youth who participated in the study process have expressed a particular desire for a Special Representative to provide a focal point within the UN system for continued engagement by children and children's organizations in the follow-up to the Study.

This Study process has brought unprecedented attention to the devastating violence that affects children in every country, and in every social context. The appointment of an SRSG on violence against children will guarantee that the momentum created by study to address the issue is not lost.
We look forward to your support for an SRSG on violence against children to act on behalf of children, and to advocate for their right to a safe and healthy environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

The NGO Advisory Council for Follow-up to the UN Study on Violence against Children

International representatives
Sara Austin
World Vision International
Jo Becker
Human Rights Watch
Roberta Cecchetti
International Save the Children Alliance
Virginia Murillo Herrera
Defense for Children International
Peter Newell
Global Initiative to End all Corporal Punishment of Children
Theo Noten
End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT)
Cecile Trochu Grasso
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Ann-Kristin Vervik
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Thaira Shalan
Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCDA), Yemen
Representative of the Middle East and North Africa

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