



World Vision

## ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN GLOBALLY

H. Res. 230, S. Res. 112 – Bipartisan Resolution Condemning Violence Against Children

### QUICK FACTS

- » Around the world, nearly **one in three** adolescent girls has been a victim of emotional, physical, or sexual violence.
- » **168 million** children are in child labor, and **5.5 million** children are subject to forced labor, including situations of trafficking.
- » **246 million** boys and girls experience gender-based violence in schools each year.



## Introduction

Violence against children includes all forms of physical, sexual, and mental violence; neglect or negligent treatment; maltreatment or exploitation; harm or abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labor, cyber abuse, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage. Globally, more than 1 billion children are exposed to violence every year.<sup>1</sup>

## Why it matters

The consequences of violence against children to public health, economic growth, and the achievement of future development goals are vast. Violence in childhood can impair brain development or lead to mental health problems, poor school performance, and increased rates of dropout, pregnancy, and HIV and other communicable and noncommunicable diseases.<sup>2</sup> Globally, we pay a high price for not acting to protect children. The global economic impact resulting from violence against children is estimated to be as high as \$7 trillion.<sup>3</sup>

**ASK** Please cosponsor H. Res. 230 and S. Res. 112, Condemning Violence Against Children.

<sup>1</sup> Susan Hillis, James Mercy, Adaugo Amobi, and Howard Kress. Global Prevalence of Past-year Violence Against Children: A Systematic Review and Minimum Estimates. *Pediatrics*. Jan 2016. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2016/01/25/peds.2015-4079..info>  
<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization. *INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children*. 2016.  
<sup>3</sup> ChildFund Alliance. *The costs and economic impact of violence against children*. 2014.



## About the resolution

The U.S. has a crucial role in leading the effort to end violence against children. Representatives McGovern (D-MA) and Wilson (R-SC) and Senators Boozman (R-AR) and Cardin (D-MD) have championed this resolution to condemn violence against children and youth and encourage the development of a strategy for preventing, addressing, and ending it globally. To most effectively accomplish this goal, the U.S. should continue to provide high-level leadership and coordination around these efforts. A whole-of-government approach is essential to future achievements in protecting children from violence.

### > WHAT WORKS

#### Proven solutions to end violence against children include:

- » Multisectoral responses that address the root causes of violence in the home, in the community, in school and beyond.
- » The INSPIRE strategies developed by the World Health Organization, in consultation with the CDC, USAID, and PEPFAR. These provide an evidence-based, multisectoral framework to end violence against children that should be adopted across U.S. government agencies. INSPIRE stands for Implementation and enforcement of laws, Norms and values, Safe environments, Parent and caregiver support, Income and economic strengthening, Response and support services, and Education and life skills. These seven evidence-based strategies outline specific holistic actions that can both prevent violence and support children who are impacted by violence. The strategies draw on experience from the health, social welfare, education, finance, and justice sectors.
- » Standard year-to-year tracking and harmonized measurement of all efforts and progress to end violence against children.

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