

# Toward a World Free from Violence

Global Survey on Violence against Children

October 2013

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## Secretary-General's Message

Freedom from fear and violence, and respect for the dignity and inalienable rights of all, are central to the United Nations Charter. Yet violence against children remains a global crisis. The 2006 UN Study on Violence against Children called for urgent action to address this challenge. Seven years on, this Global Survey takes stock of progress made and challenges that remain.

## Key Findings

- Significant legislative progress: more than 190 countries have enacted laws on violence against children since 2006
- Growing political commitment evidenced by national action plans and dedicated budget allocations
- Persistent gaps in implementation, particularly in low-income countries
- Violence in schools, homes and institutions remains critically under-reported
- Children with disabilities, girls, and children in conflict situations face heightened risks

## Priority Areas

The Survey identifies six priority areas for accelerated action: strengthening legal frameworks; building data and knowledge; mobilising political will and resources; developing national systems and child protection services; fostering a culture of respect; and addressing root causes including poverty, discrimination, and gender inequality.

## Call to Action

The SRSG calls on all governments to renew their commitment to the recommendations of the 2006 UN Study, to allocate adequate resources for implementation, and to place children at the centre of development agendas including the Post-2015 framework.