

"THE EVERY CHILD COMMUNITY CHARTER"

Approved at COMEM 2019, Brussels

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An Every Child Community commits to ensuring that all children and young people can overcome exclusion and exploitation. This Charter sets out the rights of children in communities and proposes twelve principles or guarantees to deliver these rights.

Every child in our community will be liberated from child labour and FREE:

1. **We will eliminate child labour, trafficking, and slavery in our community, and report any violations to the police and relevant authorities.** We demand that these authorities take appropriate action immediately and any justice procedures are conducted swiftly.
2. **We will end extreme poverty in our community by supporting families facing this injustice.** We demand the government shares national wealth fairly and introduces a basic income, or cash transfers, so that families are not forced to send their children to work to survive.
3. **No businesses or organisations in our community will use child labour and slavery.** We demand decent working conditions and a living wage for adults, so that poverty wages or insecure jobs do not force children into work.

Every child in our community will be protected from harm, liberated from violence and SAFE:

4. **We will end all violence against children in our community and report any violations.** We demand child-sensitive support services and timely justice procedures, without discrimination, so children are not prevented from or scared to report violence.
5. **There will be no child marriage in our community.** We demand perpetrators are brought to justice and institutions that enable child marriage are legally prevented from doing so or closed.
6. **We will support all children living in our community who have suffered violence including those affected by conflict, climate disaster and exploitation .** We demand the urgent protection and rehabilitation of children to ensure their basic needs are met, and that they are supported to recover from any trauma and welcomed by our community.

Every child in our community will be liberated through EDUCATION:

7. **We will ensure every boy and girl in our community goes to, and finishes, primary and secondary school.** We demand the government funds quality and compulsory public schools which are free, inclusive and staffed by trained, well-supported teachers.
8. **We will end discrimination and remove all barriers to children attending school in our community.** We demand policies from our government which tackle any poverty- or sanitation-related issues, and which end violence within, or on the way to, school.
9. **We will ensure all children and young people understand their rights and are empowered to advocate for themselves and their peers.** We request schools and the education ministry to

support our community effort by adopting human rights education in schools into the curriculum or extra-curricular activities.

Every child in our community will be INCLUDED:

10. **We promise that our commitments will target the most excluded children in our community and focus on the realisation of their rights.** We demand the prioritisation of children and young people who are most affected by injustice. This includes those who are:
- a) facing systemic discrimination based on their ethnicity, language, gender inequality sexual orientation, faith, race, caste or disability;
 - b) living in extreme poverty, rural communities, and disaster- or conflict-affected areas; and
 - c) all children on the move including those fleeing violence, disasters, conflict, and extreme poverty.

Every child in our community will have access to services which are SUPPORTED:

11. **We commit to ending exclusion for good through increased, sustainable public resources to deliver this charter.** We demand that companies pay their fair share of taxes and our government to stop offering harmful tax breaks.

Everyone in our community will be ACCOUNTABLE:

12. **We commit to delivering this charter and will be held accountable by children and young people in our community.** We will form a representative group comprising children and young people, parents, teachers, local authorities, and employers to review our progress every six months and report back to everyone in our community.