



Save the Children

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CHILDREN DEMAND END TO VIOLENCE

Today 400 children are gathering in schools and Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon to call on the Government and relevant stakeholders to put an immediate end to the daily violence against them.

The activities taking place across the country mark Save the Children's "World Day of Action against Violence" that brings children from around the world together to voice their opposition to all forms of violence and abuse that adversely affect their physical, emotional and psychological development.

The UN study on Violence against Children launched in 2006 confirmed that violence is a huge problem with devastating effects on millions of children all over the world. One in four children worldwide is suffering physical, sexual or psychological abuse, neglect or exploitation. Violence against children is preventable. It can and must be stopped. Governments around the world have promised to commit to the recommendations agreed upon at the UN last year. Today children are reminding them to live up to their word by establishing effective national protection systems that prevent violence from occurring and respond to it if it does.

Save the Children Sweden and its partners, Blue Mission, KAFA (Enough) Violence & Exploitation and the Child Protection Network* are holding activities in 6 schools around the country in addition to the Palestinian refugee camps of Baddawi and Nahr el Bared, to discuss the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children, and present children's artistic expressions. A child-friendly animated publication created by Save the Children Sweden will be distributed to the children to teach them about their rights.

Children in Lebanon are uniting with children worldwide demanding that the Governments listen to them and involve them in solutions that end violence against them. They are calling upon their government to

- make ending violence against children a top priority
- ban all forms of violence against children in all settings especially in schools
- create an effective national child protection system
- support the appointment of a Special Representative to the Secretary General to drive this crucial issue forward

"Sometimes I get beaten and I don't understand why...if somebody hits me it's not my fault...no one should get hit" said Karim, aged 11. 14 year old Salwa expressed how hurt she felt when teachers hit her and fellow students in class, "it makes me feel bad when they [teachers] hit or shout at us...it doesn't make us listen! Sometimes they humiliate us, it makes me feel small...it doesn't make me want to go to class...." Children stressed that violence against them is never justified and must be stopped.

Sanna Johnson, Regional Representative for Save the Children Sweden confirms that "it is high time for all parties to make ending violence against children a top priority. Subjecting children to any form of violence or abuse has horrific consequences that can last them throughout their lives. All parties are responsible for ending all kinds of violence against children in all settings."



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* *The Child Protection Network includes the following NGOs:*

- *Community Based Rehabilitation, General Palestinian Women Association*
- *Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation*
- *Injaz Educationnal Center*
- *MAFTA*
- *Majdel Kindergarden UNRWA*
- *Naba'a*
- *Palestinian Children and Youth Institution*
- *Palestinian Red Crescent Society*
- *Right to Play*

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To know more about Save the Children Sweden in the Middle East & North Africa please go to our website www.scsmena.org

For more information on the Global Day of Action visit www.rb.se/eng.

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