

The Consortium for Street Children celebrates the Day of the African Child

On the 21st Day of the African Child, international charity the Consortium for Street Children (CSC), welcomes the choice of this year's theme '*All together for urgent actions in favour of street children*'.

The African Committee for the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), who are organising the day on 16th June, have called for each African nation to produce a comprehensive report on street children in their country and commemorate the day.

2011 has seen the issue of street children move up the international policy agenda:

- In March The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) dedicated a day to specifically discuss street children and unanimously adopted a resolution on street children's rights - the first since 1994*.
- In April the International Day for Street Children was launched - celebrated in over 33 locations worldwide by street children, policy makers (including the UN), NGOs, corporates, schools and celebrities.

CSC is the leading international network dedicated to the rights of street children worldwide. Since 1993 the charity has worked with its members to give street children a voice and ensure that their rights and needs are distinguished, but not isolated, from other children in international policy debates and strategies.

Sally Shire, Chief Executive of CSC said:

“Street children are some of the most resourceful in the world, yet their rights are continually violated and denied - often at the hands of those that are tasked to protect them. ACERWC's decision to devote this year's Day of the African Child to street children is a welcome addition to a year of tremendous milestones for street children's rights. Hopefully the mounting pressure placed on governments will encourage them to make understanding and fulfilling the rights of street children a priority.”

As part of the day CSC is making a number of recommendations to the ACERWC including:

- Recognising the International Day for Street Children and using its mandate to urge State Parties to do the same
- Ensuring State Parties act on the recommendations in the African Day assessment report

- Committing to revisit the issue of street children in 3-5 years to assess overall progress

The full set of recommendations can be seen here:

http://www.streetchildren.org.uk/uploads/publications/ACERWC_statement_June_2011.pdf

*A/HRC/RES/16/12

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Notes to Editor:

- The Day of the African Child is a yearly commemoration of the children killed in Soweto in 1976 who were fighting merely for the right to a racism-free education.
- The Consortium for Street Children (CSC) is the leading international network dedicated to the rights of street children¹ worldwide. Through our 60 members operating in over 130 countries worldwide, we are Louder Together. CSC welcomes and supports the Committee's decision to dedicate the 2011 Day of the African Child to street children.

¹ CSC defines street children as children at risk of going onto the streets, children who work on the street, and children who live and work on the streets.