Satellite Event

Addressing children’s care as integral to global efforts to end violence against children

Wednesday 6th November 2024
14.00-16.30 COT
Hilton Corferias, Salón Cerro,
Bogotá, Colombia

This event will highlight the critical role violence against children plays as a driver of child-family separation and placement in alternative care, often exposing children and young people to face further violence in the care system meant to protect them, including through institutionalization as a form of violence against children.

It will enable sharing of lessons learnt and good practice strategies and mechanisms to prevent, address, and remedy VAC in the context of children’s care, including specific mechanisms to prevent unnecessary child-family separation, promote safe, positive, and nurturing family environments, respond to VAC in alternative settings, and to eliminate child institutionalization.

Participants will discuss opportunities for the more systematic integration of strategies and measures to address VAC in the context of children’s care as part of the implementation and scaling up of efforts to achieve the SDG target of ending violence against children, including in pathfinding countries. This will include the involvement of care-experienced advocates and their networks in the global child and youth led movement dedicated to child violence prevention as well as the platform for public survivors.

Plenary session (1 hour)

- Dr. Najat Maalla M’jid, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (Eliminating VAC to prevent child-family separation and violence in alternative care)
- Maicol Londono (Colombia Care Leavers Network- LAC Network of care leavers) (the experience and recommendations from care experienced children, young people and adults)
- Government champions (TBC) (Country efforts and learning to strengthen family care, prevent VAC and separation, and end child institutionalization)
- Hon. Anne Musiwa, Member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Regional efforts in African continent to reform care and protection systems for children without or at risk of being deprived of parental care)
- WHO/ INSPIRE (TBC): Integrating solutions to address VAC against children and young people in care as part of global efforts on VAC, including Pathfinding countries 2.0 recommitment.

Deep dive panel discussion on solutions and recommendations to address specific aspects of VAC and Care: (1 hour). Panelists (TBC)

- Preventing child-family separation and placement in alternative care by addressing VAC as a driver, including specific strategies for children with disabilities and their families.
- Family based alternative care for children who have experienced VAC, including for children with specific support needs (emergency, high risk of violence, medical and psycho-social, educational, etc.)
- Ending child institutionalization as a form of VAC and other forms of VAC in residential care (including mechanisms/good practice to respond to it including safe mechanism for reporting, responding, redress and access to justice)
- Focus on specific ‘asks’ to address VAC against children and young people in care as part of global efforts on VAC

**Conclusions and closing** (30 mins)

Translation available: English, Spanish and French.

In person participation is open for up to 100 persons and online virtual participation will also be enabled.

Organizers: Better Care Network and Lumos (on behalf of Working Group on VAC and Care)
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