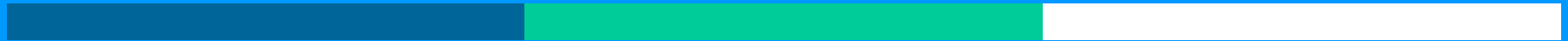


# Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children

## Partnering with Social Workers



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# The Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children

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- ❑ Mandate by the General Assembly
- ❑ Core support: UNICEF, WHO, OHCHR
- ❑ Wide partnership – NGOs, academics
- ❑ Children and young people
- ❑ UN Inter-Agency group
- ❑ Report due October 2006



Young participants at East Asia & Pacific Regional Consultation

# The Study:

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- ❑ Definitions
  - WHO World Report on Violence and Health
  - Convention on the Rights Definition of Child
- ❑ Settings:
  - Home & Family
  - Workplace
  - Community
  - Schools
  - Institutions
- ❑ Research
- ❑ Questionnaires to Governments
- ❑ Regional Consultations; Public Submissions
- ❑ Editorial Board; Versions; languages

# Violence against children: the facts

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- ❑ WHO estimates 57,000 homicides of children in 2000
- ❑ 30 percent of children in East Asia and Pacific say that “people hit each other”- Papua New Guinea: 75%
- ❑ South Africa 2002 survey – school teachers responsible for 32 percent rapes before age 15

## *Vulnerability*

- ❑ Aboriginal children in Australia 10 to 14 detained 30 times the rate for non-Aboriginal children

## ***Costs of Violence***

- ❑ Cost of violence estimated 96 billion dollars yearly in the US
- ❑ In Venezuela 11.8 percent of GDP in 1997 lost due to violence

# What they said

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*It should be modern,  
NOT to be violent...*

"We have no time for study and education, no time to play and rest, we are exposed to unsafe working conditions and we are not protected."

**"Yes, the consultation opened many doors and mouths too! Something that was unspeakable earlier has now been blurted out by children who led the way in this process.**

"You were not there to protect me as a child, and I'll live with that damage for the rest of my life. But I vow, as a young person in this society, to put an end to this violence for the next generation. You can stand by me, or you can turn your back."

# The Emerging Issues

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- ❑ **Strengthening national commitment and action**
  - ❑ **1. Develop, implement and monitor a coordinated, systematic national response to violence against children**
- ❑ **Preventing violence against children**
  - ❑ **2. Support families.**
  - ❑ **3. Promote non-violent norms**
  - ❑ **4. Strengthen legal frameworks.**
- ❑ **Responding to violence against children**
  - ❑ **5. Promote the recovery and rehabilitation of children who have been victimized.**

# Emerging Issues.....

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- ❑ 6. Create accessible reporting mechanisms
- ❑ **Systematic data collection**
- ❑ 7. Implement data collection systems to aid understanding, prevention and monitoring of violence against children.
- ❑ **Advocacy**
- ❑ 8. Improve awareness and understanding of violence against children.
- ❑ **Strengthening capacity to address VAC**
- ❑ 9. Implement capacity building measures.
- ❑ 10. Develop and utilize codes of conduct and standards of practice

# Emerging issues.....

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- ❑ **Involving children**
- ❑ 11. Recognize children as partners
- ❑ **Protecting especially vulnerable children**
- ❑ **12. Implement targeted programmes.**



# The Challenge: Building Effective Child Protection Systems

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- Government commitment
- Legislation
- Attitudes to violence against children
- Open discussion
- Children's life skills and participation
- Capacity of community and family
- Services and rehabilitation
- Monitoring and reporting

# Emerging opportunities for collaborative work

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## 1. **International Guidelines for Children without parental care:**

- Drafted in consultation with many NGO's and practitioners. International Social Services
- Young people have provided valuable feedback and input into the first draft.
- To be reviewed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in May.
- **Draft available: Comments welcome before it goes to CRC.**
- **Comments to ISS: [sylvain.vite@iss-ssi.org](mailto:sylvain.vite@iss-ssi.org)**

# Monitoring tools and manuals

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- ❑ Monitoring Manuals for Children in Formal Care and Juvenile Justice
  - Developed with NGOs and partners
  - Indicators for Minimum acceptable standards and guidelines on how to collect them.
- ❑ Juvenile Justice Manual
  - Jointly developed with Penal Reform International

# Measuring violence against children

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- ❑ Developing indicators
  - Challenges in mapping prevalence
  - Using the Protective Environment as a proxy
- ❑ Using household surveys
  - MICS Module on “child disciplining”
  - Retrospective instrument
  - Adult and child schedules
- ❑ A Participative Assessment Tool

## A question for us to reflect on

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*"Do you think that if you just tell families to stop hitting children they will stop? What makes you think that will work?"... "I want to know what can be done when we go home, because we will have changed and maybe our parents will not be so happy if we ask them to have our rights or if we tell them about our rights."*

(Child participant, Europe and Central Asia regional consultation)