



Press release

20 November 2021

Universal Children’s Day – “A Better Future for Every Child” and a call to document all children.

Johannesburg – 20 November 2021, the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA), joins the world in celebrating and promoting international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide and improving the welfare of all children under the theme, “A better future for every child.”.

November 20 is a very significant day which dates back to the day when the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the declaration of the rights of the child in 1954. It is also the date when the UN general Assembly adopted the Convention on the rights of the child in 1989. Since 1990, World Children’s Day marks the anniversary when the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on children’s rights.

Children (including asylum seekers, refugees, stateless, undocumented and migrant children) across the globe are raising their voices on the critical issues that matters to their generation. Their plight is very grave as they continue to face various challenges including lack of enabling documents, which makes them more vulnerable to discrimination, abuse and exclusion from accessing basic services such as education, health care and social security services. CoRMSA acknowledges the World Universal Children’s day as a day that offers an inspirational entry point to advocate, promote and celebrate children’s rights in a way that builds a better world for all children. CoRMSA notes that it is equally important that everyone including the relevant authorities listens to all children so as to improve the children’s welfare and protection from all forms of social ills and discrimination.

In support of this day in South Africa, constitutionally, section 28 under the Bill of rights stipulates all the children’s rights that every child should and must access and enjoy in South Africa. This includes, the right to a name and nationality for every child regardless of one’ s nationality status. As a result, on behalf of all children, CoRMSA calls the Department of Home Affairs to honour its constitutional obligation by issuing all children in South Africa with enabling documents such as birth certificates for easy access to basic services in order to create a better future for them. CoRMSA further calls all relevant authorities to protect children from abuse, exploitation, xenophobia and discrimination by creating safe and conducive societies that promote the well-being and togetherness of all children. CoRMSA also calls all adults to love and take care of their children and refrain from neglecting them. This way, the world can guarantee a future generation of its tomorrow’s leaders.

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