



20 November 2022

Press release

Universal Children's Day: Equality and Inclusion, For Every Child

November 20th is a significant day that marks the date on which the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since 1990, World Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on children's rights. The Convention sets out a number of children's rights which includes the right to be protected from violence and discrimination and the right to life, health and education, name and a nationality. Since its establishment in 1954, the Universal Children's Day is celebrated each year on the 20th of November to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

On the basis of the Convention and joint effort by all countries in the globe and their respective communities, on this Universal Children's Day, CoRMSA partakes in promoting, protecting and advocating for all children's rights including migrant children, and continuously build a living-friendly environment for them. CoRMSA raises awareness and calls for solidarity for children across the globe who have experienced gender-based violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination based on their nationality, race, ethnicity, language and documentation status.

Despite South Africa being a signatory to a number of international conventions, and in possession of progressive policies, lack of implementation of such legislations still remains a challenge. To this note, CoRMSA acknowledges the predicament of children in migration and their fellow counterparts and calls for a collaborative effort in ending racism, discrimination and gender-based violence and promote equality and inclusion. This will be done in honour of their constitutional and fundamental rights.

CoRMSA further calls for continued efforts in advocating for justice in order to build a better world for all children and not limiting these actions to the Universal Children's Day. This will be done by the government, civil society organisations and relevant authorities to ensure that the rights of children in migration and their fellow counterparts are respected and upheld.

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