



20 November 2023

Press release

### **Universal Children's Day: Upholding and respecting every child's rights**

November 20th is a significant day that marks the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 by the UN General Assembly. Comparably, it is a date when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. Subsequently, 1990 commenced with the anniversary of the date on which 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 inception in 1954, the Universal Children's Day is observed as a day of promoting the welfare of all children in the world including international homogeneity and awareness.

In recognising this day and in a joint effort with all countries in the globe and their respective communities, CoRMSA endeavours in protecting and promoting the rights of all children encompassing migrant children, regardless of their nationality, race or origin through various advocacy activities. These includes the right to basic services (education and healthcare) as well as a name and a nationality. CoRMSA further pursues its mission in creating socially cohesive societies defiant from xenophobia, racism and other related intolerances.

CoRMSA believes that it is time we collaboratively raise our voices with other civil society organisations on these issues that matter to all children and calling for adults and respective heads of state to create a better society and future for them. Furthermore, CoRMSA continues with its unwavering efforts to raise awareness and call for solidarity for children across the world who are victims of gender-based violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination based on their nationality, race, ethnicity, language and documentation status and joint efforts in ending all this and promoting equality and inclusion.

CoRMSA also calls the South African government to honour its international obligation as a signatory to numerous international conventions, of ratifying the rights of every child. CoRMSA further calls the government to robustly leverage its progressive policies and legislation in upholding and respecting the fundamental rights of these children as set out in our Constitution. This will create a just society and better world for all children in the universe.

For more information, please contact us on: 011 403 7560