



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON  
**VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

**Global Refugee Forum**

**Special Representative of the  
Secretary-General on Violence against Children**

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**Pledge**

**18 December 2019, Palais des Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland**

Children make up 52% of all refugees. Children are the most vulnerable groups amongst the refugee population and are also highly resilient with the right support and opportunities.

Despite the many actions and promising practices undertaken by various stakeholders, many refugee and displaced children are still exposed to intensive stress and physical, emotional, sexual violence. They are deprived of liberty, separated from their families, not registered at birth or are stateless, have no access to education, to healthcare, including mental health and psychosocial support.

Families and caregivers of these children lack access to services and to appropriate support.

Host communities are not provided with the support required to ensure inclusion and integration of refugees in national protection, social, education and health systems and services.

Responses are still fragmented, confined in emergency or resettlement camps, and not embedded in the local and national system and services.

**We need to do better and act faster** to ensure an enabling, inclusive, protective, healthy and empowering environment for refugee and displaced children, including support to families, caregivers and to host communities.

**This calls for a multi-stakeholder and child rights centered approach that will contribute to bridging the divide between humanitarian, development and protection sectors.**

**This calls also for a strong political will, sustainable financing and multi-stakeholder partnering.**

**The Global Refugee Forum is a key opportunity to recall the urgent need to put children at the heart of the implementation of the Compact.**

*The decade of action to deliver the SDGs by 2030 is a good opportunity to do better and faster to fulfil the promise of just, peaceful, inclusive societies where children live free from violence, while ensuring no child is left behind.*

*If we fail to invest in an integrated and multisectoral response to children, families and host communities during crises, we will pay the price later in higher social costs and lost economic opportunities.*

**There is a need to act NOW, and to call for more pledges, mainly from States.**

**As the SRSG on VAC,**

**I pledge**

- **to advocate, mobilize and to work closely with all key stakeholders at all levels,**
- **to involve and amplify the voices of refugee children and youth,**

**to ensure that refugee or displaced children are not left behind**