



The Campaign for US Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

September 1, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As leaders of U.S. organizations that work to support children and families both in the United States and abroad, we strongly urge you to send the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to the U.S. Senate this year.

This is the 25th anniversary of the CRC, the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. Since its adoption in 1989, the CRC has proven a powerful tool to improve laws and policies for children and families around the world. Although the Clinton Administration signed the CRC in 1995, the treaty has never been submitted to the Senate for consideration.

Americans care deeply about the well-being of all children, and believe in the power of family. Our Nation's failure to join almost every other nation in the world as a party to the CRC tarnishes our global reputation as a defender of children and family. As you once noted, it is "embarrassing" to be in the same company as Somalia as a CRC holdout, and you pledged to review the CRC to reinforce U.S. global leadership in human rights.

Here at home, as you know, our own children face unprecedented exposure to adversity, poverty, violence, abuse, and exclusion. As it has all over the world, the CRC would provide us with a comprehensive framework to analyze, document, and report on conditions for children, including how government agencies consider the views of parents and youth. It would help officials at all levels of government develop policies and programs that better meet the needs of children and families.

Twenty-five years after the CRC came into force, and 19 years since the United States signed it, it is time to take the next step toward ratification.

We urge you to ensure that the CRC is submitted to the U.S. Senate this year. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jin In
Founder

4Girls Global Leadership (4GGL)

Karen Hanscom
Executive Director

**Advocates for Survivors of Torture and
Trauma (ASTT)**

Aniedi Okure, OP
Executive Director

Africa Faith & Justice Network (AFJN)

Dr. James M. Perrin, MD, FAAP
President

American Academy of Pediatrics

Dr. Lorretta Johnson
Secretary-Treasurer

American Federation of Teachers

Zainab Al-Suwaij
Executive Director

American Islamic Congress

Dr. Bernard Bauer
Interim Executive Director, Development and
Communications

Amref Health Africa

Abraham Foxman
National Director

Anti-Defamation League

Diane Whitehead
Executive Director

**Association for Childhood Education
International**

Emily Arnold-Fernandez
Executive Director

Asylum Access

Anthony Vance
Director of Public Affairs

Baha'is of the United States

Raimundo Barreto
Director of Division on Freedom and Justice
Baptist World Alliance

John Gillies
Co-Chair

Basic Education Coalition

Peter Yeo
Executive Director

Better World Campaign

David Diggs
Executive Director
Beyond Borders

Professor Gertrud Lenzer
Founding Director, Children's Studies Center
for Research, Policy and Public Service
**Brooklyn College, The City University of
New York**

George Srour
Founder/Chief Dreamer
Building Tomorrow

Jody Kent Levy
Director & National Coordinator
**Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of
Youth**

Katherine Kaufka Walts, J.D.
Director
**Center for Human Rights of Children,
Loyola University Chicago**

Ruth Rosenbaum, TC, Ph.D.
Executive Director
**Center for Reflection, Education and
Action (CREA)**

Curt Goering
Executive Director
Center for Victims of Torture

Reid Maki
Coordinator
Child Labor Coalition

Christine James Brown
President & CEO
Child Welfare League of America

Anne Lynam Goddard
President & CEO
ChildFund International

Marian Wright Edelman
President
Children's Defense Fund

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley
Director, Refugee & Immigration Ministries
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. John L. McCullough
President & CEO
Church World Service

Scott Wright
Director
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach

John Straw
Executive Director
Concern America

Michael Schreiber
President
Concern Worldwide (US)

John Surr
Member, Steering Committee
Concerned Educators Allied for a Safe Environment (CEASE)

Kevin Ryan
President & CEO
Covenant House

Susan Henderson
Executive Director
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

Carol Smolenski
Executive Director
ECPAT-USA

Sarah Andrews
Executive Director
Edge of Seven

Rev. Stephen Bouman
Executive, Congressional and Synodical Mission
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla
Executive, Global Mission
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bruce Lesley
President
First Focus

Patrick Carolan
Executive Director
Franciscan Action Network

Maurice Middleberg
Director
Free the Slaves

Diane Randall
Executive Secretary
Friends Committee on National Legislation

Ed Gragert
Executive Director
Global Campaign for Education, US

Evie Hantzopoulos
Executive Director
Global Kids Inc.

Don Kraus
President & CEO
GlobalSolutions.org

Nina Smith
Founding Executive Director
GoodWeave

Dr. Margaret E. Greene, Ph.D.
President
GreeneWorks Global, LLC

Elizabeth MacNairn
Executive Director
Handicap International US

Kathy Spahn
President & CEO
Helen Keller International

Donna Cordner
CEO
HelpAge USA

Kenneth Roth
Executive Director
Human Rights Watch

Samuel A. Worthington
President & CEO
InterAction

Dr. Sarah Degnan Kambou, Ph.D.
President
International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

Judy Gearhart
Executive Director
International Labor Rights Fund

Nancy A. Aossey
President & CEO
International Medical Corps

David Milliband
President and CEO
International Rescue Committee

Julie Rosicky
Executive Director
International Social Service-US Branch

Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed
National Director of Interfaith & Community
Alliances
Islamic Society of North America

Armando Borja
National Director
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA

Lori Weinstein
CEO/Executive Director
Jewish Women International

Tom Defilipo
President & CEO
**Joint Council on International Children's
Services**

Robert Schwartz, Esq.
Executive Director
Juvenile Law Center

Mary Allan Sochet
Co-Chair
Kids Meeting Kids Can Make a Difference

Janet Mock, CSJ
Executive Director
**Leadership Conference of Women
Religious**

Gerry G. Lee
Director
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Len Morris
Editorial Director
Media Voices for Children

Professor Susan H. Bitensky
Director, Lori E. Talsky Center for Human
Rights of Women and Children
Michigan State University College of Law

Lawrence Couch
Director

**National Advocacy Center of the Sisters
of the Good Shepherd**

Rhian Evans Allvin
Executive Director

**National Association for the Education
of Young Children**

Sally Greenberg
Executive Director

National Consumer League

Jim Winkler
President & General Secretary

National Council of Churches, USA

Dennis Van Roekel
President

National Education Association

Jean Simpson
President

OMEP-USA

Mark Viso
President & CEO
Pact

Sister Patricia Chappell
Executive Director
Pax Christi USA

George Guimaraes
CEO
PCI

Donna McKay
Executive Director
Physicians for Human Rights

Ester Neltrup
President
Planet Aid

John W. Townsend, Ph.D.
Vice President and Director, Reproductive
Health

Population Council

Rev. Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Dr. Gary Barker, Ph.D.
International Director
Promundo-US

Dr. Madeleine Y. Gomez, Ph.D.
President

PsychHealth, Ltd.

Joanne Carter
Executive Director

RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund

Kerry Kennedy
President

**Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice
and Human Rights**

E. Wayne Holden
President & CEO
RTI International

Carolyn S. Miles
President & CEO
Save the Children

Wendy Schaetzel Lesko
Coordinator
School Girls Unite

Jean Stokan
Director

**Sisters of Mercy of the Americas'
Institute Justice Team**

Shawna Bader-Blau
Executive Director
Solidarity Center

Lynn Croneberger
CEO

SOS Children's Villages - USA, Inc.

Dr. Timothy Shriver, Ph.D.
Chairman

Special Olympics

Serra Sippel
President

**The Center for Health and Gender Equity
(CHANGE)**

John Coonrod
Executive Vice President
The Hunger Project

Bob Baskin
President

The Peace Alliance

Commissioner David Jeffrey
National Commander
The Salvation Army USA

Sally Kaplan
Coordinator

The Student Peace Alliance

Susan T. Henry-Crowe, MDiv.DD
General Secretary, General Board of Church
and Society

The United Methodist Church

Dr. George W. Holden, Ph.D.
President

**U.S. Alliance to End the Hitting of
Children**

Caryl M. Stern
President & CEO

U.S. Fund for UNICEF

Mollie Vickery
Executive Secretary for Children, Youth &
Family Advocacy

United Methodist Women

Paula Boland
Executive Director

**United Nations Association of the
National Capital Area**

Chris Whatley
Executive Director

**United Nations Association of the United
States of America**

Lynn Malooly
Chief Administrative Officer

Water for South Sudan, Inc.

Rodney Ferguson
President & CEO

Winrock International

Dayle Haddon
Founder

WomenOne

Sarah Costa
Executive Director

Women's Refugee Commission

Rick Leach
President & CEO

World Food Program USA

Bonnie Neugebauer
Co-Founder & Director of Development

World Forum Foundation

Donald Steinberg
President & CEO

World Learning

Richard Stearns
President

World Vision U.S.