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Sheraton Laval

Les enfants et la violence:

Nos responsabilités individuelles, familiales et collectives.

Children and Violence:

Our Individual, Family and Collective Responsibilities.

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MONTREAL DECLARATION TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Never before in human history have so many children been victims of so many forms of violence as occurs today.

In industrialized societies large numbers of children live in social wastelands amid great turmoil as traditional institutions and the family undergo fundamental transformations. As a result, many children spend their formative years in an environment of uncertainty, conflict and loneliness and become victims of physical, social, and psychological violence. Moreover, the legal system frequently exacerbates rather than helps improve the situation.

Children in developing countries are also victims of social and economic violence, despite the influence in these societies that institutions of marriage, family and clan continue to exert. Child labor and prostitution, street children, destitution, hunger and disease are examples of the violence that affects one in three children in poor societies.

Already a decade has passed since a vast majority of countries signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Yet, the situation continues to worsen. Any violence against children is unacceptable and no society should tolerate this.

**Organisation pour la Sauvegarde des Droits des Enfants
Organization for the Protection of Children's Rights**

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We propose the following Montreal Declaration to end violence against children:

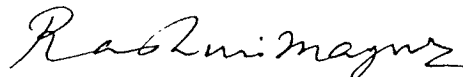
- We urge policy-makers, planners, and leaders, to take all possible actions to bring an end to every form of violence against children.
- Children must have safe parental care regardless of the parents' civil status and child-friendly legal systems must be designed.
- All children are entitled to a positive family environment for their healthy development and growth.
- Children must be provided sufficient educational opportunities, nutrition, healthcare, recreational facilities and an enriching family or appropriate alternative environment.
- The sex trade in children must be abolished immediately and sanctions must be enforced against all who participate and support the industry.
- All child labor, and in particular, child labor in the toxic and harmful industries must be abolished. In the event that children need to work in any society for economic reasons, and until the day that child labor is abolished totally, children must only be employed in clean, safe, protected and socially regulated environments.
- Societies must not tolerate the conditions that lead to street children. Every society must provide mechanisms to allow children to participate in the life of that society.
- Worldwide cultural exchange programs for children must be supported to ensure a global outlook, global understanding and global friendship.
- Programs must be developed worldwide to implement plans to free the children from violence.

Children are the most valuable human resource of the future.

What kind of future society we are going to have depends on how we free our children from the insidious effects of violence.



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