

**OUTCOMES PROJECTIONS AND POTENTIALS FOR THE  
INTERNATIONAL STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (VAC)**  
*[September 28, 2004]*

**Submitted for consideration by the  
NGO Advisory Panel for the International Study on Violence Against Children**

*Below, the NGO Advisory Panel for the International Study on Violence Against Children provides its recommendations for outcomes to be sought through the Study. These are offered to serve multiple beneficial purposes for the Study, particularly to guide its goals, processes, and short and long term contributions directed toward understanding and eliminating violence against children and its destructive impact on children, their families, communities, and their societies.*

*The outcomes are organized into 12 categories: knowledge base-clearing house; public information; education and training; facilitation and mobilization mechanisms; standards and accountability; child participation; legislation and regulation; intervention tools; strategy, planning and prioritization; monitoring and reporting; research; and resource availability and allocation. It is suggested that these outcomes be pursued in a selective manner respecting their fit and their potential for constructive synergy for the periods during, at the end, and following the Study, as well as for application at international, regional, national, and local levels. The availability of valid indicators for these outcomes will be of critical importance to guiding progress toward their achievement. Where indicators do exist they should be promoted; where they do not presently exist, they must be developed.*

*Achievement of the cited outcomes will require cooperation and sustained efforts by governments, organizations, agencies, and experts, within and across socio-political and service sectors, at international, regional, national and local levels. The Study Secretariat, the Study processes, and Study report are expected to play critical roles in the pursuit of these outcomes by guiding, catalyzing, and promoting needed activities and developments. .*

*The NGO Advisory Panel will be pleased to provide further assistance in operationally defining VAC Study outcomes and indicators, and in strategic planning for their pursuit, achievement, evaluation and reporting. For further communication, contact the NGO Advisory Panel's coordinators: Jo Becker, Human Rights Watch ([beckerj@hrw.org](mailto:beckerj@hrw.org)) and Melanie Gow, World Vision International ([Melanie\\_Gow@wvi.org](mailto:Melanie_Gow@wvi.org)).*

**KNOWLEDGE BASE -CLEARING HOUSE**

- ?? The VAC knowledge base will be accessible by a variety of communication formats, including the Internet
- ?? An international clearing house/library (available through the Internet) will be established to archive (hold) and distribute useful reports, documents, and periodicals about VAC and its follow through
- ?? Methodology and good practices relevant to research, development and service projects will be widely accessible
- ?? Children's contributions will be included and made available
- ?? Child –friendly information will be available

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

- ?? International, national, and community media campaigns will be produced using a wide range of media forms to provide information on VAC Study findings and recommendations

- ?? Awareness of children's rights will be promoted nationally and in communities and schools to clarify their relevance for child protection and prevention of VAC
- ?? Children will be involved in the development of awareness campaigns and the dissemination of information
- ?? Zero tolerance of VAC campaigns will be created and promoted at all levels and through collaboration between media, government, and private companies based on successful models (e.g., HIV campaigns)

### **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- ?? Training/education curricula, materials, and programs will be produced to educate all professionals having the potential to prevent VAC and its impact (e.g., medicine, law, psychology, social work, education, police)
- ?? Compulsory education/training on children's rights will be included in the national standards for preparation and continuing service of key professions (e.g., police, child protection workers, health workers, lawyers, educators, other relevant community workers)
- ?? National and community parenting skills educational programs will be promoted with special emphasis given to child rights and prevention of VAC (with involvement of civil society, community-based and faith-based organizations)
- ?? Child rights will be included in informal and formal educational programs for children of all ages and for their communities

### **FACILITATION AND MOBILIZATION MECHANISMS**

- ?? All national governments and relevant international and national non-governmental organizations (INGOs and NGOs) will be informed by the UN of the VAC Study findings, conclusions, and recommendations for prevention and corrective intervention applicable at international, regional, national, and local levels
- ?? Mechanisms will be created within the UN to specifically address VAC (e.g., a special rapporteur, CRC complaint process)
- ?? The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), in cooperation with Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), will organize and promote educational programs for all existing UN mechanisms to develop ways to more deliberately and effectively address VAC
- ?? Focal points on VAC will be established in all relevant regional bodies, INGOs, and NGOs
- ?? Recommendations will be detailed for international, regional and national human rights mechanisms to give children the opportunity to report and challenge VAC
- ?? The creation of national ombudsmen for children, with VAC as a primary responsibility, will be promoted
- ?? Prevention of VAC Networks will be promoted at national and local levels to include professionals (e.g., police), lay adults, and children
- ?? A series of international, regional, and national conferences will be established to periodically review and revitalize work to end VAC

### **STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY (international or multi-level)**

- ?? New international minimum standards will be promoted for prevention of and protection from VAC
- ?? Zero tolerance of VAC will be promoted at all levels (i.e., international, regional, national, community, school, family)
- ?? Mechanisms to receive complaints, investigate abuses, and ensure accountability will be established in each country

- ?? National leaders will be encouraged to make and fulfill public commitments to support VAC prevention programs
- ?? National governments will be encouraged and held accountable to apply the recommendations of the VAC Study
- ?? The UN Convention standards relative to VAC and the CRC's responsibilities and procedures in monitoring and guiding governments toward relevant good practices will be communicated effectively to the general public and child advocates

**CHILD PARTICIPATION (understood to cut across all other sections listed)**

- ?? The Study report will be written in a form easily understood by children and youth
- ?? Child participation will become established in all VAC related programmes
- ?? Regional, national and local congresses/assemblies/commissions/councils of young people will review and advise programs to prevent VAC
- ?? Surveying of child opinions and consultation with children will be included in VAC prevention programs
- ?? National governments will establish systems to assure youth representation in their deliberations

**LEGISLATION AND REGULATION (national and intra-national levels)**

- ?? National legislation, laws, policies, and regulations will be promoted banning all violence (including corporal and capital punishment) against children in all settings
- ?? Integration of CRC standards in national laws and practices will be accelerated, including standards dealing with protection from violence, promotion of full healthy development, and juvenile justice principles
- ?? Existing laws on prevention of VAC will be updated and strongly promoted
- ?? Under 18's will be excluded from adult criminal justice system adjudication and punishment
- ?? Improved mechanisms to monitor legislation that protects children in general and disabled children in particular will be established

**INTERVENTION AND TOOLS**

- ?? Multiple models and strategies for intervention to prevent violence and its impact will be identified, constructed and promoted (e.g., peer counseling and peer to peer models, child help/crisis hot line, emergency networks for high risk children)
- ?? Detailed models for national and local systems to remedy breaches of child's rights to protection will be recommended and promoted
- ?? A wide range of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of VAC measures will be constructed, tested, and promoted
- ?? Prevention, rehabilitation/recovery, and reintegration programmes will be constructed, tested and established through government actions for children in organised armed violence
- ?? Programs will be established at international, national and local levels to involve child serving and influencing professions (e.g., medicine, social work, psychology, education) in cooperative and coordinated efforts to prevent all forms of VAC
- ?? Violence prevention programmes will be recommended and promoted for all schools
- ?? Community awareness, education, and mobilization programs will be constructed and promoted for periodic application
- ?? Guidelines and programmes to assist in child friendly investigations to detect and intervene in violence in the home, school, work environments, and other settings will be constructed and disseminated

- ?? International, national and local media will be encouraged to portray youth positively by investigating youth projects
- ?? All children will be given the opportunity to be members of organized groups and processes working to advance the rights of children
- ?? Support centres for victims of violence will be promoted

### **STRATEGY, PLANNING AND PRIORITIZATION**

- ?? Priorities will be set for research, development and practice/service to deal with acute problems, underreported and underserved needs, high risk populations, and special opportunities relevant to prevention of VAC
- ?? Regional, national and local intersectoral plans of action for prevention of VAC will be encouraged and facilitated
- ?? National governments will be encouraged to educate their agencies and local governments on the findings of the VAC Study, lead and facilitate intersectoral mapping operations to achieve needs and opportunities assessments, determine implications for their spheres of influence and constituents, and facilitate cooperation in programs to prevent VAC.

### **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

- ?? A report of VAC Study findings and recommendations will be presented to the UN General Assembly by the CRC, UNICEF, WHO, and OHCHR, in cooperation with the NGO Advisory Panel.
- ?? The CRC's framework for State Party reports on standards relative to VAC issues will be refined and detailed to respect the VAC Study findings; expectations for reports in these areas will be increased in demand qualities and rigor
- ?? A permanent coalition, made up of relevant UN organizations/agencies and international NGOs working with the CRC, will be established to monitor the application of recommendations of the study, including government commitments and action
- ?? The UN will establish an annual (or periodic) review process to clarify the status, progress and needs internationally for programs to prevent VAC
- ?? A formal 5-year review of the influences and effects of the VAC Study, including follow-through on its recommendations, will be conducted by the UN and the CRC and reported through international conferences and wide variety of reports and public media
- ?? Monitoring mechanisms for VAC relevant legislation, laws, regulations and practices at regional, national and local levels will be improved for children in general and for high risk child populations specifically (e.g., children with disabilities, institutionalized children)
- ?? Regular monitoring to prevent VAC will occur in high risk settings, such as detention centers, institutions, foster care, programs for children with disabilities

### **RESEARCH**

- ?? Areas of VAC needing additional research will be identified
- ?? Core research instrumentation on VAC will be constructed, tested, and made available to governments and researchers for surveillance
- ?? International indicators on VAC and protection of children from violence will be developed
- ?? A periodic (every 5 year) survey / audit of VAC will occur in every nation and a public report [status, needs, trends] will be made
- ?? Recommendations and toolkits for research on VAC will be made available to national governments and shared with all interested parties for application in monitoring VAC and increasing awareness, understanding, and viable interventions for VAC in all its forms and contexts of occurrence

## **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY AND ALLOCATION**

- ?? Increased funding will be made available to develop national child protection networks and mechanisms
- ?? Government and international agency funding will be made available to promote community-based VAC prevention programmes