



# State of the World's Street Children: Violence

## TAKING ACTION

Street children are continuing to face violence from governments without an established policy of protecting their rights. Using violence as a solution, for social cleansing or to remove children from visible areas, is not an acceptable action. The UK Government must take action to ensure that street children across the world receive the care and attention they deserve.

The UK Government should encourage countries to:

1. Develop social policies which secure a social protection system with a wide variety of options for supporting children who have experienced multiple abuses and have created a variety of coping strategies. Such a system must have guaranteed resource levels and must incorporate children's perceptions and experiences into planning and evaluation.
2. Reform policing policies to introduce and sustain a culture of respect for children, including training police at all levels and imposing sanctions against individual police officers infringing children's rights.
3. Promote anti-violence campaigns to eliminate public stigmatization of street children.
4. Appoint a national Ombudsperson for children. The Ombudsperson should be fully resourced and have powers to pursue and publicize reports of violence against children in public spaces.
5. Reform juvenile justice policies to introduce and sustain a nonviolent culture of respect for children, including training for staff at all levels and imposing sanctions against individual staff infringing children's rights. Detention must be a last resort, for the most serious crimes and the shortest time possible.
6. Family and neighbourhood poverty should be addressed through integrated investment, employment, welfare and training schemes including, as appropriate, micro-credit, child benefit and social development programmes.
7. Promote policies which provide support for families and protection for children from external shocks and instability, guaranteeing financial and organizational resources to prevent children being sent to work on the streets or leaving home for the streets.

The UK Government should encourage the establishment of an international body charged with researching, developing and producing international statistical tables capable of capturing country-level variables associated with changes in children's exposure to violence and levels of street children's exposure to violence.

The Consortium for Street Children Violence Working Group will be taking action on the recommendations from the report and will follow up on protecting street children from violence. For further information, please contact Christian Harris, International Resource Centre Manager at the Consortium for Street Children on [Christian@streetchildren.org.uk](mailto:Christian@streetchildren.org.uk) or 020 274 0087.