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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 January 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Nurturing Futures: Preventing Violence against Children

Violence against children is a phenomenon that exists in every country, community, ethnic or religious group, irrespective of the social status of the child or the family. It happens everywhere: at home, at the kindergarten, out in the street, among friends, in child care facilities, at law enforcement institutions, etc. Children become victims to different forms of violence and abuse: physical, psychological, sexual, bullying, online, neglect, trafficking, sexual and labor exploitation, or arranged child marriages. Violence impacts the physical and mental development of children, reducing their learning skills, their ability for verbal interaction or for joining peer groups. (i) Every five minutes, a child dies as a result of violence. Global estimates indicate that one billion children – over half of all children aged 2-17 years – have experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence in the past 12 months alone. And nearly 3 in 4 children aged 2-4 years repeatedly suffer physical punishment or psychological violence at the hands of parents or caregivers. These shocking statistics can be significantly reduced with targeted action. (ii)

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan through various initiatives, including the establishment of Pathshala Schools, value-based education for girls, and awareness campaigns such as Humari Awaz, Good Touch-Bad Touch, and My Childhood-My Rights, our organization is actively working to create a protective environment for children.

Pathshaala:- Quality Education for Girl Children: (iii) Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan recognizes the pivotal role education plays in preventing violence against children. The establishment of Pathshaala Schools reflects our commitment to providing accessible, quality education to rural and marginalized children. These schools serve as centers of learning where children, especially girls, are empowered through value-based education. Our curriculum goes beyond academic subjects, emphasizing ethical values, gender equality, and responsible use of technology. By incorporating these elements, we aim to instill a sense of self-worth and resilience in children, equipping them to navigate challenges and make informed decisions that contribute to their well-being.

Empowering Girls through Value-Based Education: Recognizing the vulnerability of girls in rural and marginalized areas, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan places a special focus on providing value-based education to empower them. Through targeted programs, we aim to break down gender stereotypes, promote equality, and create an environment where girls feel confident and safe. Our initiatives include workshops, mentorship programs, and extracurricular activities that create leadership skills and self-esteem. By educating girls about their rights and teaching them to use technology safely, we empower them to be proactive in their own protection and contribute positively to their communities.

Awareness Campaigns for Building a Shield Against Violence: Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan recognizes the power of awareness campaigns in preventing violence against children. The Humari Awaz Campaign focuses on spreading awareness about gender equality, challenging societal norms that perpetuate discrimination. Through workshops, discussions, and community engagement, we strive to create an environment that values and respects the voices of all children.

The Good Touch-Bad Touch Campaign is an essential initiative to educate children about molestation and abuse. Through age-appropriate discussions and educational materials, we empower children to identify inappropriate behavior, speak up against abuse, and seek help when needed. This campaign aims to break the silence surrounding such issues, fostering an environment where children feel safe to share their experiences.

The My Childhood-My Rights campaign is a targeted effort to raise awareness about the detrimental impacts of child marriage. By engaging communities in discussions and providing information about the legal age for marriage, we strive to prevent child marriages and protect the rights of young individuals. Through this campaign, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan aims to create a social norm that values the childhood and rights of every child.

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan through all these efforts have been playing pivotal role for securing and protecting the rights of the children. Along with this we are adopting the following SDG's- No Poverty, Good Health & Well Being, Quality Education and Gender Equality. India has also taken significant strides in addressing the issue of violence against children, showcasing a commitment to their protection and well-being.

The enactment of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in 2012 stands as a monumental testament to the country's dedication to safeguarding its youth. The POCSO Act, 2012 is a comprehensive law to provide for the protection of children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interests of the child at every stage of the judicial process by incorporating child-friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated Special Courts.(iv)

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):(v) The NCPCR plays a crucial role in monitoring and safeguarding the rights of children in India. Through its initiatives, it addresses issues such as child labor, trafficking, and abuse, working towards creating a secure environment for children to thrive.

Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS):(vi) The ICPS is a government program that focuses on preventing and responding to violence against children. It includes various components such as child helplines, child protection committees, and shelters for children in need of care and protection.

National Policy for Children:(vii) India has a National Policy for Children that emphasizes the rights of every child, including the right to protection from abuse and exploitation. The policy outlines measures to ensure the holistic development and well-being of children.

While acknowledging the progress made, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan appeals to the United Nations Human Rights Council to continue supporting initiatives that prevent violence against children globally. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan remains committed to preventing violence against children and creating a protective environment where they can thrive. Through education, awareness campaigns, and collaboration with communities, our organization strives to empower children and build resilience against violence.

(i) <https://www.unicef.org/bulgaria/en/stop-violence-against-children#:~:text=Strategies%20that%20have%20proven%20their,education%20and%20the%20promotion%20of>

(iv) <https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/POCSO-ModelGuidelines.pdf>

(vi) <https://wcd.nic.in/integrated-child-protection-scheme-ICPS>

(vii) <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=118660>