

INVITATION to a High-Level Meeting



“Out of the Shadows: Shining Light on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation” The Launch of an Economist Intelligence Unit Benchmarking Index

Wednesday, October 3rd, 2018; 10:00 AM – Noon
ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters in New York

On October 3rd, the **World Childhood Foundation USA (WCF)** together with the **Swedish Mission to the UN**, and in partnership with **The Oak Foundation**, the **United Nations Office of Partnerships**, **The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children** and **Together for Girls**, will convene leaders from governments, academia, civil society and the private sector to launch a groundbreaking index on child sexual abuse and exploitation. This 40-country benchmarking tool, developed by **The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** with the support of the WCF and the Oak Foundation, will help to measure progress toward reaching Sustainable Development Goal target 16.2: ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against, and torture of, children.

The participating leaders will discuss how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework is addressing the wellbeing of the world’s most vulnerable children, and how it can help to prevent the global epidemic of violence and child sexual abuse and exploitation. Today, more than half of the world’s children are exposed to violence, abuse and neglect, including more than 200 million children who are victims of sexual abuse. Children in institutions, un-accompanied migrant and refugee children, and children with disabilities are all at significantly higher risk of abuse and exploitation. The evidence shows that violence, abuse and neglect in childhood causes a range of health problems, impedes learning and development, and often has a lifelong negative impact on individuals and those around them. These negative outcomes are reason enough for governments, communities and the private sector to engage more effectively in collective action in order to both prevent and, ultimately, end violence.

The eminent speakers will represent governments, UN agencies, and the private sector as well as practitioners and survivors. The core findings of the EIU report will be discussed together with evidence-based local and global solutions and success stories from the field.

RSVP: Please register [here](#) by **Thursday, September 27th**. If you do not hold UN accreditation, non-transferrable event tickets will be provided at the Visitors’ Entrance on 46th Street and 1st Avenue, **at 9:20 am** prior to the event. Please be on time and don’t forget to bring your ID.

