Save the Children
Fiji

KIDS
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NATIONAL CHILDREN'S FORUM

28 – 29 OCTOBER, 2016

ALBERT PARK STADIUM

SUVA



OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN'S FORUM

WE the children of Fiji being represented here at The National Children's Forum at Albert Park, Stadium, Function Room 1 on this day dated 28 – 29 October, 2016 which was organized by Save the Children Fiji hereby declare that as children of Fiji, we have the right to be heard and that our voices through these requests be heard by our government.

That through collective agreement we hereby request that as Duty Bearers and as the Government of the day, the Fiji government which has recognised "The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child" uphold these rights.

That further to these rights we demand that "our" Fijian Government look into the four areas which we have deliberated on:

PUBLIC SPACES

- Providing more protection for children in public spaces i.e Public toilets, public transport, markets, public beaches and any other public venue.
- That in these spaces, our welfare is taken into account. That where there are public beaches, the city councils provide lifeguards for the welfare of all people who use these beaches.
- That all Municipal markets are child friendly and have policies that protect the rights of children.
- That there be no discrimination and any form of violence and that we have the right to feel safe in our own communities.
- That at National Carnivals or carnivals organised by Municipal/City Councils, the Government creates safe spaces for children.
- That the Government ensure that awareness raising on the rights of the child is taken to the public and our communities.
- That we have a right to a clean and healthy environment and that in doing so, our Government ensures that in public areas, we have access to clean and healthy facilities.
- That a healthy environment is being promoted.
- That we have access to proper roads and in doing so the Government provides proper footpath for us to walk safely.
- That no child should be harassed, discriminated regardless of age, gender, ability, disability and socio economic background while travelling in any public transportation.
- Raise awareness on existing laws and regulations to all public service providers.
- That should these public service providers are not compliant, they should be prosecuted.

SCHOOLS

- That the Ministry of Education is inclusive in its polices (No child shall be discriminated in any form due to his/her ethnicity, religious beliefs, disability, gender and socio economic background)
- That its policies protect us while in school.
- That we are free to feel safe and secure.

- That the Ministry of Education ensures that one or more of its teachers are trained in basic first aid.
- That our teachers who are our custodians, while in the confines of school treat us with respect.
- That while in the confines of school or engaged in school activities, we are protected and that if something should occur, polices and measures are already in place to protect us.
- That in the event of natural disasters, if and where our schools are affected, safe spaces for children must be a priority.
- That all schools affected by natural disaster, be rebuilt as promptly as possible.
- That our parents/guidance if seen to be negligent, our school administration/community will take proper action to keep us safe.
- That in cases of bullying, sexual harassment, theft or any form of abuse or offense while in the confines of school, the perpetrator and the victim be treated with respect and that appropriate action be taken with positive disciplinary measures. That if this does not work, the Social Welfare be called upon to intervene and provide support for both parties.
- That we have access to safe learning facilities e.g fencing around school grounds.
- That schools promote the rights of children.
- That all school administrators are accountable for the welfare of its students.
- That Parent/Teacher bodies discuss matters pertaining to children.
- And we commit to obeying the rules in school.

HOMES

- That while in the confines of our homes, we are treated with respect, dignity and love.
- That we feel safe and have no fear of being abused, physically, sexually and emotionally.
- That we are free to practice whatever belief we have.
- That our voice is heard and that our opinions matter.
- That we have access to proper housing and that while this might not happen due to our socio economic situation, "our" Government is able to assist to provide this basic need.

WEB

- That the Government has stricter policies to prevent children in having access to pornography or any other media material which is deemed inappropriate for children. This is limited to pornography and visual materials.
- That Internet café owners are accountable in having policies that prevent any child accessing these materials. That they are able to block these sites and if found lacking, taken to task.
- That we are able to use the Web without fear of discrimination and cyber bullying.
- That while using the web in the confines of schools, teachers be vigilant and mindful without infringing on the rights of the child, the content in which they are able to have access to.
- That all organisations and adults seek informed consent from children prior to uploading any media content including images of children on any media platform.

The above while not able to cover all but the essence of our discussion, we remind our Government of its commitment to protect the rights of children and that 'Article 1' under The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that, "Everyone under 18 has all these rights".

This 'National Children's Forum' is not the first and will not be the last and therefore we would like to continue this on an annual basis.

It is therefore our last request, that seeing as the discussions are very fruitful, that "our" Fijian Government commit to funding if not 100%, then a portion under the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation to fund our forum.

WE, THE CHILDREN OF FIJI COMMIT TO UPHOLDING OUR RIGHTS RESPONSIBLY.