



JOINING FORCES

For All Children

Press Statement: JOINING FORCES ALLIANCE PLEDGE SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILDREN'S CODE ACT

For immediate Release

September 26th 2022

Lusaka

As the implementation of the newly enacted Children's Code Act (12 of 2022) commences, the Joining Forces Alliance has pledged its commitment to working with the Zambian Government and other stakeholders in supporting its enforcement.

The Act reiterates the Government of Zambia's commitment to fulfilling its international and regional human rights obligations to eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings. Children make up more than half of the country's population and this Act is what will help create a Zambia that is fit for every child.

This further adds to the country's increasingly strengthened efforts in national planning and action to protect children. Zambia made a commitment to work towards ending all forms of violence against children by becoming the 31st path finding country in 2021.

Pathfinding countries are those whose government leaders do two things:

- Make a formal, public commitment to comprehensive action to end all forms of violence against children; and
- Request to become a pathfinder within the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

The adoption of the Act will therefore help Government fulfil its commitment as a path finding country by ending all forms of violence against children including child marriage.

We are also glad that the Act bans corporal punishment in all settings. This means that it is not justifiable under any circumstances to impose physical harm on a child whether at home, school, Church or anywhere else.

To ensure that the ACT is implemented effectively, we call upon Government to ensure adequate resources are mobilized.



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This is because Legislation and plans can only be effectively implemented when underpinned by adequate, well-budgeted financial support.

Signed on behalf of the Joining Forces

Simba Machingaidze

ChildFund Zambia Country Director

For more information, please contact:

- Priscilla Chama – Email: pchama@childfund.org or mobile 260 977450009
- Hermis Maunda Call: +260 960634830
- Petronella Chindumba – Email: petronella.chindumba@sos-zambia.org or call:+260967892901
- Kambani Phiri – Email: Kambani_Phiri@wvi.org or Call: +260957726812