

Invigningstal H.M. Drottningen, IC-konferens

Dear delegates,

I am honored to welcome you to the 10th International Consultation of Child Helplines. As I share the commitment to the rights of the child with all of you gathered here, I am happy to inaugurate this important consultation. I have had the opportunity to initiate several organizations working to promote the rights of children. Whether it is for children exposed to violence, empowering children's health or helping businesses integrating a child right's perspective.

Through my experiences I see what an important role civil society plays and especially what your everyday work signifies for children in need of help. Globally, Child Helplines run by both civil society and governments, are a vital part of supporting and helping children, especially in vulnerable situations.

Children are a particularly vulnerable group struck by many of the consequences of crisis. Since the outburst of the covid-19-pandemic, social distancing, school closures, lock downs and other fundamental changes in society have had a significant impact on children's lives. Mental health and violence are still the two main reasons for children contacting Child Helplines globally.

We must do more – together – to ensure that every child has access to their human rights. Every child has the right to live in peace and in dignity. Every child has the right to be safe and have their basic needs met, to be protected from every form of violence, to be in good health and to have access to healthcare.

In this room you represent child helplines from many countries and regions. Your challenges may differ in different parts of the world, but you also have a lot in common. During the following days you will take part of inspiring lectures, engage in workshops, share knowledge success stories, and best practices. I am certain that this will result in strengthening bonds and new energy in your important Child Helpline work.

But above all, I am convinced that these days together will empower you in your work ahead. Children have the right to participate in society and must be given the opportunity to raise their voices. As child helplines in the world, you listen to children – every day. Thank you for listening.

Together we can make their voices count.

I hereby declare the 10th International Consultation of Child Helplines open.