



Välkomsttal IC-konferens, Magnus

Your Royal Highness, helplines, and partners; it is a true privilege to be able to, finally, welcome you to the 10th International Consultation of Child Helplines. I am truly glad to see so many people gathered here, in my hometown, Stockholm.

In 2016, at the International Consultation of Child Helplines in Bangkok, I, as a relatively new secretary general for Bris, had my first personal meeting with the global helpline movement.

A movement I fell in love with.

Since then, I have had countless meetings with many of you in this room - and for each one of these meetings I have become more and more aware of the importance of the work that we do together as child helplines– **every day, every hour, every minute.**

I'm proud to be a part of this movement, together with each and one of you.

Once again, we are now able to gather - physically - in the same room. To all familiar faces and new ones, I want to wish you a warm welcome.

The theme of this year's consultation is *resilience*. One of the key questions we will work on is how we can ensure children's resilience in a world where pandemics, wars, armed conflicts, climate threats, energy crises and economic crises follow each other.

What kind of support do children need in times of crisis - and how can we guarantee that they have access to the help they need? And what have we, as Helplines, experienced and learned during these last years, that can help us be better prepared for any future developments?

This, and much more will be at the center of our discussions.

In your everyday work, you already, make an important difference in the lives of thousands of children. You are all a part of making children's rights become a reality. Through joint efforts, we as Child Helplines across the world can have an even greater impact in further strengthening the rights of every child.

Child Helplines play an important role. A top priority in safeguarding children must therefore be to ensure that Child Helplines can operate in every country. Children have the right to and must be given the opportunity to independently receive support.

The necessity of Child Helplines became clearer than ever when the covid-19-pandemic struck – when we all had to distance ourselves from each other, and many of us had to

change our routines in our everyday lives, while witnessing the consequences that children had to face because of lockdowns and social distancing.

I think I can speak on behalf of all of us when saying that we need each other's support in uncertain times. I hope these days will be an opportunity for us to come together and exchange knowledge, share ideas, insights, and strategies for our work ahead.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Erling-Persson Foundation and the city of Stockholm – this conference would not have been possible to organize without your support. I would also like to thank all of Bris' other partners, who together finance and support Bris national helpline for children, such as the **Postcode Lottery and Telia**.

Finally, I want to thank all my colleagues from around the world who have put in a great amount of work to make this conference happen. And all my fantastic coworkers at Bris and the CHI who have made this event possible.

Yet, the best part still lies in front of us.

Thank you, and again, warm welcome (to the International Consultation of Child Helplines).