



# keep kids safe

prevention. healing. justice.

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
Vice President Kamala Harris  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20050

March 24, 2021

## Call for a U.S. Presidential Initiative to “End Sexual Violence Against Children”

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris:

Sexual violence against children and adolescents living in the United States is rampant, constitutes a public health pandemic, and causes grave physical and psychological trauma and social havoc.<sup>12</sup> To address this crisis, we request that you recognize April 8, 2021 in the United States as an annual “World Day for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Healing and Justice,” and that you launch a bold Presidential Initiative to “End Sexual Violence Against Children” during the first 200 days of your Administration, inclusive of prevention, healing and justice. The Initiative should include the following actions:

- **Mobilize Congress to Approve Comprehensive National Legislation, the “End Sexual Violence Against Children Act,” Informed by a U.S. Presidential Commission:** As President, we call on you to effectively address the pandemic of sexual violence against children in the United States by mobilizing Congress to pass comprehensive national legislation, increase federal funding for programs and research, and expand federal incentives to improve state laws to launch large scale prevention, healing, and justice programs to prevent violence, protect survivors, and reduce the cost of sexual violence against children to society.

<sup>1</sup> Sexual violence consists of a range of sexual acts against a child, including but not limited to child sexual abuse, incest, rape, sexual violence in the context of dating/intimate relationships, sexual exploitation, online sexual abuse and exploitation, and non-contact sexual abuse.

<sup>2</sup> Children is defined as 0-18 years of age.



As President, we call on you to institute a Presidential Commission to End Sexual Violence Against Children (The Commission). The Commission would be comprised of experts including researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and, importantly, adult survivors and would act as a catalyst to collect and synthesize data and research so that policymakers and the public would garner a comprehensive understanding of the crisis, the costs to society and the potential to scale-up available solutions to prevent, heal, and ensure justice.

- **Declare Sexual Violence Against Children a US Public Health Emergency:** As President, we call on you to use your executive authority to officially declare sexual violence against children and adolescents a public health emergency and mandate an annual U.S. Surgeon General’s report.
- **Expand US Support for Global Programs to End Sexual Violence Against Children:** As President, we call on you to expand US leadership to galvanize global action to end sexual violence against children and adolescents by integrating this issue in our foreign policy and by increasing international funding to support prevention, healing and justice programs.

Should questions arise, if you need additional information, or if you or your staff would like to meet with members of this movement to discuss these issues, please contact Denise Edwards at National Children’s Alliance: [dedwards@nca-online.org](mailto:dedwards@nca-online.org), Jill Ruck at Child USA: [jruck@childusa.org](mailto:jruck@childusa.org) or Paul Zeitz at Together for Girls: [drpaulzeitz@gmail.com](mailto:drpaulzeitz@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

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