



RESOLUTION

Adopted on 2.6. 2023 by the International Senate in response to the Report of the Independent Special Commission

The International Senate,

Thanks the Independent Special Commission (ISC) and welcomes its final report as a testimony to past failures publicly acknowledged two years ago. The report will support ongoing efforts to improve our safeguarding, especially undertaken in the last two years, and better achieve our mission on behalf of children and young people who grow up alone. The Senate appreciates the role of ISC members and their work under complex circumstances. It is critical that the federation takes ownership of the findings and recommendations and works together to ensure an improved organization built on accountability and transparency.

Acknowledges the brave and critical role of whistleblowers and interviewees that have contributed to this report. We are deeply thankful, and it is undoubtedly because of you that we can pursue clear actions to improve and strengthen our organisation. We commit to continue taking positive and deliberate actions to improve our governance, leadership, management and culture of accountability.

Re-commits to all children and young people in SOS Children's Villages programmes: The purpose of our organisation is to support you. What is most important is that you feel safe and supported, so that you can grow up to be your strongest selves. We promise to continue to listen and pay special attention to those who feel unsafe. You have a right to be heard and involved in the decisions that affect you, so we will work with you to create more ways for you to participate in those decisions. We will do better at putting your needs first.

Expresses to all child and youth care practitioners in SOS Children's Villages: We extend to you our deepest appreciation for your commitment and efforts to ensure no child grows up alone. We are pleased that the ISC has recognized your contributions and highlighted areas where you need greater support and recognition.

We hereby:

- I. Set up an action-oriented plan to improve programme quality based on a child's rights-based approach, with a special focus on teenage pregnancy and substance abuse as well as the working conditions of child and youth care practitioners.
- II. Recognize the need to re-design our current governance structure. Emphasize the need to guarantee good governance, leadership and accountability on all levels of the Federation, and commit to leading a process that strengthens these at all levels of the Federation.



- III. Announce the establishment of an International Senate Risk Management & Compliance Committee and a review of existing International Senate Committees.
- IV. Acknowledge the need to thoroughly address power imbalances between members of the Federation and its structures by prioritizing localization based on the principles of solidarity, humility, self-determination and equity.
- V. Emphasize the importance of current efforts on child, adult and asset safeguarding. Commit to pursuing legal action in collaboration with local authorities for any persons found culpable of safeguarding violations. Instruct the federation to pursue active recovery of physical assets that may have ended up in private hands.
- VI. Strive to further professionalize our organization and detach it from an overall reliance on individuals past and present.
- VII. Ask all federation legal bodies to redefine the relationship with, and role of, historical leaders.
- VIII. Strengthen good governance in the federation by putting in place background checks, annual 'declaration of interests' and mandatory safeguarding training for all Senate and board members.

While the focus of the ISC report is rightly on our past failures, we hope that any public attention that this report draws will also shine a spotlight on the plight of over 220 million children and young people worldwide without adequate parental care who are in urgent need of support and care.