



international pediatric association
association internationale de pédiatrie
asociación internacional de pediatria

For release: March 15, 2014

Media Contact: William J. Keenan, keenanwj@slu.edu (314-577-5642)

Pediatric Medical Organizations Call on Global Community to Protect Children From War in Syria

Since the conflict in Syria began three years ago, millions of children have been forced from their homes, witnessed horrific abuse and violence, and have been deprived of basic access to education and health care. The International Pediatric Association (IPA) and undersigned member pediatric organizations join other humanitarian organizations in calling on leaders to end the violence against children in Syria.

“We are all called to protect the innocents of the world,” said Dr. Andreas Konstantopoulos, President of the International Pediatric Association, which represents 174 pediatric societies around the world. “The global community has the responsibility to end the violations against children that are occurring in Syria. An entire generation is being shaped by this conflict, and we have grave concerns about the long-term, catastrophic consequences for Syria, the region and beyond.”

UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children, World Vision, and Mercy Corps have launched [No Lost Generation](#) -- a public call to stop the violence and suffering for children, ensure humanitarian access and respect for humanitarian law, and invest in protection, education, support, and peacebuilding. The IPA, representing more than 500,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists, joins UNICEF in urging key leaders to:

- End the violence against the children of Syria. All those involved in the fighting must fully respect humanitarian law, end the recruitment of children, and commit to a peaceful resolution to this conflict.
- Stop blocking humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian organizations must be allowed to safely reach all those who are suffering.
- Halt all attacks against humanitarian workers and facilities - especially schools and hospitals.
- Renew the commitment to reconciliation and tolerance.
- Invest in the education and psychological protection of all children affected by the conflict.

“Children in Syria have been exposed to horrific violence, malnutrition, lack of health care, and separation from their families, and we urge leaders to invest in the psychological and medical support children need to emerge from the shadow of this conflict,” said William Keenan, MD, Executive Director of the IPA. “Beyond the immediate toll of the violence, many children have gone without access to the type of preventive health care – including immunizations – which we know is so important to a healthy trajectory in life.”

The IPA and the undersigned pediatric societies around the globe call on all local, national and international leaders to protect children’s rights in Syria and enable them to build a better future for their nation and themselves.

1. American Academy of Pediatrics
2. Jordan Pediatric Society
3. Bahrain Pediatric Society
4. Tunisia Pediatric Society
5. Algeria Pediatric Society
6. Syria Pediatric Society
7. Saudi Pediatric Association
8. Sudan Pediatric Society
9. Iraq Pediatric Society
10. Pediatric Society – Palestine
11. Lebanese Pediatric Society
12. Libya Pediatric Society
13. Egyptian Pediatrics Association
14. Moroccan Federation of Pediatrics (MFP)
15. Yemen Pediatric Society
16. Mauritanian Pediatric Society
17. Algerian Pediatric Society
18. Argentinean Pediatric Society
19. Bahrain Pediatric Society
20. Pediatric Society of Belize
21. Bolivian Pediatric Society
22. Chilean Pediatrics Society
23. Colombian Pediatric Society
24. Pediatric Association of Costa Rica
25. Cuban Pediatric Society
26. Dominican Pediatrics Society
27. Ecuadorian Pediatric Society
28. Egyptian Pediatrics Association
29. Pediatric Association of El Salvador
30. Hellenic Pediatric Society
31. Pediatric Society of Guatemala
32. Haitian Pediatric Society
33. Pediatric Society of Honduras
34. Iraq Pediatric Society
35. Italian Pediatric Society

36. Jordan Pediatric Society
37. Libya Pediatric Society
38. Mauritanian Pediatric Society
39. Mexican Pediatric Association
40. National Pediatrics Confederation of Mexico
41. Moroccan Federation of Pediatrics (MFP)
42. Pediatric Association of Nicaragua
43. Pediatric Society – Palestine
44. Panamanian Pediatrics Society
45. Pediatric Society of Paraguay
46. Peruvian Pediatric Society
47. Portuguese Society of Pediatrics
48. Puerto Rican Pediatric Society
49. International Society for Social Pediatrics and Child Health (ISSOP)
50. Saudi Pediatric Association
51. Spanish Pediatric Association
52. Sudan Pediatric Society
53. Syria Pediatric Society
54. Tunisia Pediatric Society
55. Turkish National Pediatric Society
56. American Academy of Pediatrics
57. Pediatric Society of Uruguay
58. Yemen Pediatric Society
59. Lebanese Pediatric Society
60. Dominican Republic Pediatric Association
61. South African Pediatric Association
62. Turkish Pediatric Association

###

The International Pediatric Association represents 174 national and international pediatric societies around the globe. IPA is dedicated to the well-being and protection of all children. For more information, visit www.ipa-world.org.