



Position Statement, 2016 World Health Assembly

Violence Against Children

International Pediatric Association

May 2016

The International Society for Social Pediatric and Child Health (ISSOP, www.isop.org), the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN, www.ispcan.org) and the International Pediatric Association (IPA, www.ipa-world.org) wish to highlight child maltreatment as a human rights violation and a devastatingly costly global public health problem. All forms of violence against children including war, physical or sexual abuse, inter-generational trauma, and exposure to domestic violence result in great physical, psychological, developmental and social harm. Exposure to violence in childhood, has known long lasting consequences for health and wellbeing in adulthood.

Every authority at the national level must collaborate to support evidence based preventative interventions, mitigate the effects of armed conflict on children and families and offer healing intervention for children who have been harmed.

- ISSOP, ISPCAN and IPA will work to ensure that child protection is part of the preparation for every child health worker. The health sector must have a vigorous role in preventing and ameliorating the effects of violence against children.
- The definition of violence against children must include domestic abuse, community interpersonal violence and armed conflict.
- UNICEF and WHO are urged to continue to emphasize global and national obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and other conventions protecting children, including the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict.
- Nations and the community of nations are urged to enact and enforce laws guided by the UNCRC that will protect the well-being of children. Prevention of violence against children in wars, in the community and at home must be recognized as a high priority nation building strategy.
- Measurement, monitoring and policy focused research is essential at national and international levels to foster effective decision making.

The International Pediatric Association (IPA) is a non-governmental organization with a membership of 144 National Pediatric Societies from 139 countries, 10 Regional Pediatric Societies representing all areas of the world, and 13 International Pediatric Specialty Societies. The IPA works collaboratively with member societies to mobilize networks of pediatricians for advocacy and programs in child health, working whenever possible with UN agencies. IPA works in close partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) on global vaccine priorities, and with AAP and the Albert B Sabin Vaccine Institute (SVI) on the Measles and Rubella Initiative.

President's & Administrative Office

15, Bacopoulou Str. N. Psychico, Athens 154 51, Greece

Tel.: +30 697 447 7132; Fax: +30 210 777 1663 e-mail: adminoffice@ipa-world.org

Executive Director Office

141 Northwest Point Blvd, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007, USA

Tel.: +1 847 434 4293; Fax: +1 847 228 5027 e-mail: adminoffice@ipa-world.org