

UNITED NATIONS



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(NGO "W")
Violence Against Children

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

4 March 2008

Dear Ms. Cecchetti,

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary-General dated 20 February 2008 concerning General Assembly resolution 62/141 on the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children. We appreciate the active role you have taken in this area and have taken note of your recommendations regarding the fulfilment of the Special Representative's mandate.

Yours sincerely,

Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

Ms. Roberta Cecchetti
Convenor
Working Group on Children and Violence
Geneva

28-01932

United Nations

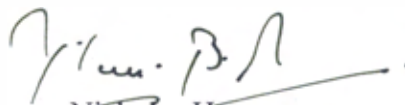



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: Mr. Nambiar,

Please find attached, for your approval and signature a letter addressed to Ms. Roberta Cecchetti, Convenor of the NGO Working Group on Children and Violence, responding to a letter regarding the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children.


Nicholas Haysom
4 March 2008


Cc: KWS

28-01932

NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child
Grupo de las ONGs para la Convención sobre los derechos del niño
Groupe des ONG pour la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant

Mr. Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General
UN Headquarters
New York
NY 10017
USA

Geneva, 20 February 2008

Fax number: +1-212.963.4879

Copies to the Heads of UNICEF, OHCHR, WHO and ILO

Dear Secretary-General:

We are writing you in relation to the Resolution of the General Assembly (A/62/141) which requests the appointment of a "Special Representative on Violence against Children at the highest possible level, for a period of three years".

As child-focused NGOs, we have been actively involved in the process of the UN Study on Violence against Children since its inception and we joined more than 1,200 NGOs from around the world in expressing our strong support for the appointment of Special Representative to act as a high-level and high-profile independent advocate. We were very pleased to see that the overwhelming majority of UN Member States voted in favour of the establishment of this mandate.

The UN Study on Violence against Children revealed the horrific scale and impact of all forms of violence against children, in all regions, in their homes and families, in schools, care and justice systems, workplaces and in communities and sent a strong message to the world that protection of children from all forms of violence is a matter of urgency. We are strongly convinced that the establishment of a Special Representative on Violence against Children is the only way to ensure leadership, coordination and to achieve concrete action to end violence against children in all parts of the world.

We are therefore eager to welcome as soon as possible a Special Representative on Violence against Children at the level of the Under-Secretary General. We trust you will agree with us that the mandate requires someone with exceptional experience and skills.

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We would encourage you to consider the following criteria in selecting candidates:

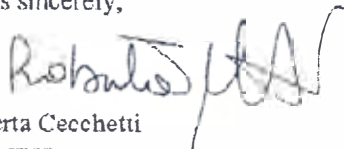
1. High level expertise in the field of children's rights and violence against children and professional experience of at least 5 years
2. Commitment to the prohibition, prevention and elimination of all forms of violence in all settings, including corporal punishment in the home
3. Independence from governments
4. Well respected internationally
5. Excellent communication and advocacy skills -- preferably fluent in at least 2 UN languages
6. Knowledge of the UN system and of institutional mandates and policies in the area of children's rights
7. Proven ability to engage with civil society actors, including in particular NGOs
8. Proven ability to engage with children
9. Willingness to hold no other mandates and commit to full time work as SRSG
10. Willingness to take strong public positions against violence against children even if they are unpopular

We hope you will agree that to enable the mandate-holder to act as a strong advocate against violence against children and to be able to engage at highest level with governments, UN agencies and civil society, the appointment should, as the resolution requests, be at the highest possible level; he or she must also be able to exercise his/her duties with independence, including from any existing UN agency.

We stand ready to provide any possible collaboration and advice you might require from us, confident that you would consider consulting NGOs as a deeply invested constituency of the selection process.

Thank you for your consideration of these critical issues.

Yours sincerely,



Roberta Cecchetti
Convenor
Working Group on Children and Violence

On behalf of:

Bureau International Catholique pour l'Enfance
Centre for Organisation Research & Education
Child Rights Information Network
Defence for Children International
Global Initiative to End Corporal Punishment
International Council of Women

International Federation of Social Workers
International Save the Children Alliance
Terre des Hommes International Federation
Women's World Summit Foundation
World Organisation Against Torture
World Vision International