



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

7 May 2015

Dear Ms. Rowling,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 17 March 2015. I commend you for this important contribution on the rights, empowerment and protection of children in the post-2015 development agenda.

Children are the torch-bearers of sustainable development and cannot be left behind. Your timely input will certainly inform the ongoing intergovernmental discussions. The visibility of children issues is growing, including amongst Member States, as exemplified by the recent establishment of a new Group of Friends of Children and Post-2015, supported by the United Nations Children's Fund and child-focused civil society stakeholders.

The commitment and advocacy of all stakeholders are paramount to secure the necessary political will and popular awareness needed to deliver a truly transformative sustainable development agenda to succeed the Millennium Development Goals and ensure a life of dignity for all. As we scale up efforts to communicate and promote this important agenda in an accessible and child-friendly manner, I count on your continued engagement and support.

I also urge you to continue to engage with Ms. Amina Mohammed, my Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, who supports my efforts on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

*Ban Ki-moon*  
BAN Ki-moon

Ms. J. K. Rowling  
Founder and Life President  
Lumos  
London

DEV/03/001  
DEV/07/002  
#15-02312



**Note to the Chef de Cabinet  
(through the Deputy Secretary-General)**

Reply to Ms. J. K. Rowling, Founder and Life President of Lumos

1. Please see attached for your approval a thank you and reply letter addressed to Ms. J. K. Rowling, commending her on her important contribution on the rights, empowerment and protection of children in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

Thank you for your kind consideration.



Amina J. Mohammed  
7 May 2015

**Received in ODS**  
7 May 2015

**Seen by:**

FZ

15-02312

Nelson

ACTION

COPY

ATM ✓  
DGG/cac  
SPU  
PA

RECEIVED

MAR 17 2015

15-02312

EOSG/CENTRAL



Protecting Children. Providing Solutions.

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon  
UN Secretary General  
1st ave. and 46th street  
New York, NY 10017 USA  
United States of America

17 March, 2015

Dear Secretary-General,

I am aware that representatives of the United Nations Member States, UN agencies, and other stakeholders will be meeting in New York from 23-27 March 2015 to share perspectives on how the post-2015 goals and targets should be framed.

I applaud all involved for including so many of children's holistic needs, including health care, education, and protection from violence, in the Synthesis Report of the UN Secretary General on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda as well as the Open Working Group Proposal for Sustainable Development Goals. I trust you will give continued attention to these critical issues in the final report.

I wholeheartedly support the idea that the post-2015 agenda will 'leave no one behind'. Yet, as currently conceived, the Sustainable Development Goals are leaving families – and children living outside of family care – very far behind. They are not mentioned once.

Decades of research has shown that children living without nurturing and protective family care often experience abuse, neglect, lack of stimulation, and toxic stress, all of which can have a profoundly negative effect on their development and prospects in life.

In order to truly eradicate poverty and foster equality, and to seriously put children at the heart of the global development agenda, we must recognise and support the critical role that families play in promoting children's development, health, education, and protection. Services delivered to children do not work in a vacuum. They are most effective when they consider the vital role of family in children's lives and well-being.

This is about human dignity, equitable access to services, and the realisation of every person's human



Lumos Head office  
Gredley House,  
1-11 Broadway,  
Stratford, London  
E15 4BQ

Lumos Bulgaria  
5 Neofit Rilski  
Str. fl.3  
Sofia 1000

Lumos Czech Republic  
Národní 9  
Prague 1  
110 00

Lumos Moldova  
14/1 Banulescu Bodoni  
Str.  
Chisinau, Moldova  
MD-2012

EU Liaison Office  
Rue Royale 35  
4th floor  
B-1000 Brussels  
Belgium

DEV/03/091  
DEV/091/002





Protecting Children. Providing Solutions.

rights, all of which are at the core of the post-2015 agenda. Indeed, the Convention on the Rights of the Child affirms that the family has the primary responsibility to protect and care for the child and that governments have the responsibility to protect, preserve, and support the child-family relationship. An ambitious global development agenda cannot be achieved when the essential role of families in nurturing children who go on to build successful and resilient communities is overlooked.

All children count, but not all children are counted. As a result, some of the world's most vulnerable children – those living in institutions, living on the street, trafficked, in forced labour, or engaged with armed groups – have become invisible to global policy makers and have fallen through the cracks of this otherwise comprehensive agenda. The Sustainable Development Goals present an opportunity to ensure countries measure and count children outside family care and prioritise programmes to ensure all children can be raised in families. ✓

Of the estimated eight million children living in institutions globally, more than 80% are not orphans and have living parents. The primary reason for their admission to institutions is poverty and a lack of access to basic health, education and social services. It would be possible to end this practice within our lifetime, but this requires concerted efforts at all levels.

Strengthening families must be a global priority if we are serious about ending the unnecessary institutionalisation of children and combatting child homelessness, pornography, trafficking, labour, and other forms of exploitation and abuse that ruin the lives of children and have a negative impact on our individual and collective human, social, and economic development.

I urge you to commit to specifying in this process targets for a significant reduction of numbers of children outside family care, including a reduction by half of the number of children living in institutions by 2030. In this way we can truly ensure that no one is left behind.

Yours sincerely,

J.K. Rowling  
Founder and Life President, Lumos



Lumos Head office  
Gredley House,  
1-11 Broadway,  
Stratford, London  
E15 4BQ

Lumos Bulgaria  
5 Neofit Rilski  
Str. fl.3  
Sofia 1000

Lumos Czech Republic  
Národní 9  
Prague 1  
110 00

Lumos Moldova  
14/1 Banulescu Bodoni  
Str.  
Chisinau, Moldova  
MD-2012

EU Liaison Office  
Rue Royale 35  
4th floor  
B-1000 Brussels  
Belgium



**Fw: Letter from JK Rowling for the attention of H.E. Mr Ban Ki-Moon**

SGCentral to: Hazel Foster  
Sent by: Jill Annitto

17/03/2015 02:54 PM

----- Forwarded by Jill Annitto/NY/UNO on 17/03/2015 02:54 PM -----

From: Georgette Mulheir <Georgette.Mulheir@wearelumos.org>  
To: "sgcentral@un.org" <sgcentral@un.org>,  
Cc: "alake@unicef.org" <alake@unicef.org>, "dg@unesco.org" <dg@unesco.org>,  
"saundersm@unhcr.org" <saundersm@unhcr.org>, "registry@ohchr.org" <registry@ohchr.org>,  
"chanm@who.int" <chanm@who.int>  
Date: 17/03/2015 02:50 PM  
Subject: Letter from JK Rowling for the attention of H.E. Mr Ban Ki-Moon

---

Dear Secretary-General,

I am writing you as the Chief Executive of Lumos, an international non-governmental, non-profit organization founded by J.K. Rowling to end the institutionalisation of children by 2050. An estimated 8 million children globally are separated from their families and raised in institutions – also known as orphanages. Decades of research shows the severe harm caused to children's health and development when they are denied the vital individual care and love a family provides.

Recognising the important and ongoing negotiations to define the post-2015 global development agenda, J.K. Rowling, Lumos' President for life, has asked me to share with you this letter for your consideration. In the letter, she notes her concern that so far, families – and children living without them – are not mentioned anywhere in the framework. Families play a vital and irreplaceable role in children's health, development, education and protection. If families are missing, societies struggle to meet other goals for children. We share with our Founder and President a sincere hope that children outside family care will not be left behind.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. We hope you will support its recommendations as you move forward in the negotiation process.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Georgette Mulheir

.....  
Georgette Mulheir  
Chief Executive Officer, Lumos  
t: +44 20 7253 6464  
.....



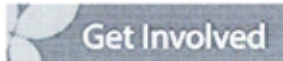
Protecting Children. Providing Solutions.

Please note we have recently moved to the following address:

Gredley House, 1-11 Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 4BQ

t: +44 20 7253 6464 | e: [georgette.mulheir@wearelumos.org](mailto:georgette.mulheir@wearelumos.org) | [www.wearelumos.org](http://www.wearelumos.org)

With your help, we can change the lives of millions of children



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

This email and any attachments to it are confidential. Any use, copying or disclosure other than by the intended recipient is unauthorised. If you are not the person for whom this email is intended, please notify the sender immediately by calling +44 20 7253 6464 or emailing [postmaster@lumos.org.uk](mailto:postmaster@lumos.org.uk) and delete this message and any copies from your computer and network.

Lumos Foundation (Lumos) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales number: 5611912 | Registered charity number: 1112575 | Registered office: Gredley House, 1-11 Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 4BQ.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon - J.K. Rowling Letter.pdf