

Discussion and action points
from the inclusive roundtable
discussion in South East Asia on

'Promoting and protecting the rights of children working and/or living on the street'

Lien Centre for Social Innovation
Singapore Management University

Singapore, 10 – 11th December 2013



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Executive summary

Through the power of social media, over one million people¹ were looking on and supporting pioneering talks in South East Asia on how we can protect and promote the rights of children living and/or working on the street².

The talks drew expert stakeholders from business, NGOs, UN and international agencies, academia and government officials from Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and the Philippines, and was hosted by Singapore's Lien Centre for Social Innovation. The meeting was opened by Singapore's Representative to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children. The voice of street-connected children was also present in the room through video clips of documentary interviews.

Action was on the minds of all participants given the position of street-connected children in the current policy environment at both the international and national level, the children's main challenges to realising their rights in South East Asia, and the emerging role of business and other stakeholders in realising these rights.

It is clear that street-connected children face new and emerging challenges – the rise of cyber sex crime, human trafficking, lack of skills and connections to tap into Asia's economic growth, climate change and severe weather events (most recently the impact of typhoon Haiyan) and well as a general sense that street-connected children are at risk of being left behind at the highest policy levels regarding the post Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The roadmap for recognition of street-connected children's unique situations, the multiple deprivations of their rights and, most crucially, global coordinated action feels potentially *further away than ever*. The conversation came back again and again to the lack of guidance for States on how to interpret and implement the Articles in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child for Children in Street Situations, the lack of reference to street-connected children in the post-Millennium Development Goals discussions, and the lack of collaboration and resources to provide an ecosystem of safety and support for street-connected children.

We were reminded that Children in Street Situations are often the most difficult to define and the most difficult to reach due to their extreme stigmatisation and exclusion from mainstream services. Some of the questions raised included: Where are their champions? Where are their friends? Where are their patrons? Where are the child protection specialists? Where are the caring local businesses? Where are their documents? Where are their allies? Where is the world on this issue?

New and groundbreaking thinking slowly began to emerge in the room. The talks, we realised, were not the end of the conversation but the beginning. New and exciting direction was taking shape:

- Given that 30 years of relatively concerted action on street-connected children have yielded no game changing solutions, we dared to question the long held concept of removing children 'from the street', who rely on it for survival, and instead flipped this to start exploring how we can make the street safe for them? We want to minimise the harm they suffer whilst on the street, thereby strengthening our ability to support children to find a future beyond it. How do we ensure a truly coordinated cross-sector approach to supporting street-connected children, ensuring that police officers, community figures, welfare agencies, NGOs and a sensitised society become champions of street-connected children's rights? How do we ensure that violators of street-connected children's rights are held accountable? How do we end the cycle of generations of street-connected children and their families?
- Vulnerable children need an ecosystem of support. The participants in the room started to map the individuals and organisations with different degrees of direct and indirect influence on an individual child, for whom the street is a central reference point. How do we ensure that these influential individuals and organisations are better sensitised to their role and how do we demonstrate good practises? How do street-connected children help us shape this activity?

¹ This support came via the social media campaign using the hashtag [#togetherforstreetkids](#). Significant viral support came for the talks and was boosted by high profile celebrities and sporting agencies but made significant by the level of serious engagement by members of society globally. For further insight into the social media campaign please see <http://www.aviva.com/togetherforstreetkids>

² The terminology around 'street children' is complex. The title of the roundtable reflects the title of UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/12 (2011), as well as the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights report on the 'Protection and promotion of the rights of children working and/or living on the street' (19/35 2012). The report recognises that the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child refers to 'children in street situations', whilst some NGOs use the term 'street-connected children'.

- Finally, we need avenues to work together more broadly around the issue of street-connected children; to share insights, research, interesting practises and stories of what's working. We wanted to find simple ways to communicate and share for instance via social media, to keep the agenda of street-connected children alive for wider stakeholders and the public all year round. Street-connected children are one of the most vulnerable groups that still do not have a recognised UN day, which would give the issue global recognition, permanence and encourage accountability. For street-connected children the agenda waxes and wanes in the public imagination and we are in danger of needing a tragedy to move this issue forward similar to the shootings in Brazil in the early 1990s³. We agreed to stay connected as an expert group and to nurture a much wider global audience who we hope will become a global community of advocates for street-connected children's rights.

The talks acted as a symbolic step forward from our current position in South East Asia. The next steps that we shaped together are presented here as recommended action points and summarised on page 20 in the '**main conclusions and key actions**' section. We believe they present the opportunity to advance street-connected children's rights in the region in a coordinated and comprehensive way. Please do consider the role you may be able to play in making them a reality.

³ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23417669>

Introduction

On 9 March 2011 the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) held its annual day of discussion on the rights of children working and/or living on the street. The discussion led to a fruitful consideration of this subject by the Council and to the final adoption of Resolution 16/12 entitled “A holistic approach to the protection and promotion of the rights of children working and/or living on the street”⁴.

In Resolution 16/12 the UNHRC expressed its profound concern that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical and has been negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis and called on States to give priority attention to the prevention of the phenomenon of children working and/or living on the street by addressing its diverse causes through economic, social, educational and empowerment strategies. The resolution also invites regional organisations, the private sector, employers’ and workers’ organisations, civil society organisations, including child-led organisations and any other actors, to accelerate action against child labour, especially its worst forms, in line with international obligations and declared commitments. During the annual day of discussion some participants recommended to involve the private sector and utilise corporate social responsibility strategies to enhance programme design and policy interventions on children working and/or living on the street⁵.

I. OHCHR report on children working and/or living on the street

At the request of the UNHRC (Resolutions 16/12), OHCHR prepared a study on challenges, lessons learnt and best practises in a holistic, child rights and gender-based approach to protect and promote the rights of children working and/or living on the street. (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Study/Pages/childrenonthestreet.aspx>) The report, prepared by OHCHR through a unique cross-sector partnership with the Consortium for Street Children (CSC), Aviva and UNICEF concludes that the actual number of children who depend on the streets for their survival and development is not known and that the number fluctuates according to socio-economic, political and cultural conditions, including growing inequalities and patterns of urbanisation. The report analyses the causes that lead children to the street and the challenges they face in their everyday lives. It recognises that before reaching the street, children have experienced multiple deprivations and violations

of their rights. It further elaborated on the definition of a ‘street child’, and understood these as a child for whom the street is a central reference point, one which plays a significant part in his/her identity and everyday life – a ‘street-connected child’.

OHCHR and partner organisations intend for the report to serve as a platform for future work at national, regional and local level, as investing in children is an essential ingredient to building a society which respects human dignity and human rights.

The report makes a number of substantive recommendations to States, including the decriminalisation of survival behaviours such as begging, loitering, vagrancy, running away and ensuring that street children are not treated like criminals or delinquents for survival activities. It also recommends that States ensure the prevention and prohibition of all forms of violence against children and address stigmatisation and discrimination of children in the streets, including through public sensitisation campaigns on the experiences and rights of street-connected children.

It further recommended to foster a collaborative approach in which the interests, inter-connections and expertise of non-State actors – children and families, civil society, academia, the private sector, human rights institutions and intergovernmental organisations – are recognised and brought together in partnerships that ensure children are afforded effective protection.

It recommends that States guarantee operational budgets for specialised interventions and funding for research to assess their cost-effectiveness. In cases where States are unable, in the short-term, to provide the necessary resources, the private sector and/or international community might be approached to engage as partners, to ensure that specialised interventions, by delegated duty bearers, have the means and capacity to fulfil the rights of children who have developed connections to the street. In particular, States should propose and lead, in partnership with the UN, civil society and the private sector, national, sub-regional and regional multi-stakeholder forums that include children, youth and local community representatives to discuss and agree criteria for good practises.

⁴ http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/16/12

⁵ See OHCHR summary report of the annual day discussion (A/HRC/17/46)

II. June 2012 follow-up meeting between OHCHR-AVIVA-CSC and other key stakeholders to the report on children working and/or living on the street

A follow-up meeting between OHCHR-CSC-AVIVA was held in June 2012 to consider the main recommendations of the report and discuss possible follow up to ensure their implementation. Participants considered, in accordance with one of the recommendations of the OHCHR report organising regional multi-stakeholder forums, with a particular focus on the role of business and children's rights. Aviva suggested a first pilot meeting in Singapore for the South East Asia region. Aviva is a member of the CSR Asia Community Investment Roundtable as well as a participant in the UN Global Compact.

III. The private sector and children's rights

Developed by UNICEF, the UN Global Compact and Save the Children – the Children's Rights and Business Principles (the Principles) are the first comprehensive set of principles to guide companies on a range of actions they can take in the workplace, marketplace and community to respect and support children's rights. While the business and human rights agenda has evolved significantly in recent years, a child rights perspective has not yet been explicitly addressed.

The Principles build on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as well as on existing standards, initiatives and best practises related to business and children, and seek to fill gaps to present a coherent vision for business to maximise the positive impacts and minimise negative impacts on children. In so doing the Principles help to elaborate both expectations of, and opportunities for business in relation to children.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) adopted its General Comment Number 16 on "State Obligations regarding the Impact of the Business Sector on Children's Rights" in February 2013. The General Comment is a pronouncement of the Committee's interpretation of the framework required by State's parties for implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocols with regard to the business sector. It provides guidance to States on the measures of implementation they are required to take: to prevent and remedy violations of child rights by business actors; to ensure business enterprises carry out their responsibilities in the

realisation of the rights of the child; and to encourage business to contribute positively to the realisation of these rights. Such measures include relevant legislation, regulation and policy but also administrative measures as well as awareness-raising and collaboration.

The General Comment recognises that while there is no legally binding international instrument on the business sector's responsibilities vis-à-vis human rights, "duties and responsibilities to respect the rights of children extend in practise beyond the State and State-controlled services and institutions and apply to private actors and business enterprises. Therefore all businesses must meet their responsibilities regarding children's rights and States must ensure they do so." The General Comment also acknowledges that voluntary actions of corporate responsibility by business enterprises are not a substitute for State action and regulation of businesses or for businesses to comply with their responsibilities to respect children's rights.

IV. AVIVA-OHCHR-CSC roundtable

Aviva has engaged with several companies already through the development of an Insight Report examining the experiences and practises that five businesses from different sectors have established in supporting, protecting and enhancing the rights of children, in particular street-connected and other vulnerable children, in order to extend the conversation to other business globally and to provide a 'business sector' insight into the current developments in this space. The companies involved in this paper are Aviva, Adidas, HSBC, The Body Shop, Kuoni and Microsoft – each representing a different business sector. The paper was presented in Autumn 2013 (http://www.aviva.com/media/upload/Leadership_report_PDF_1.pdf).

At the completion of the Insight Report common themes and areas of concern will be identified to be part of the discussion at the roundtable. This will allow enhanced dialogue with UN agencies, State representatives and civil society in ways to engage business in the promotion and protection of children's rights, thus fostering a collaborative approach in which the interests, inter-connections and expertise of all stakeholders are recognised and brought together in partnerships that ensure children are afforded effective protection.

The host for the roundtable in Singapore is the Lien Centre for Social Innovation, a partnership between the Lien Foundation and Singapore Management University.

The vision of the Lien Centre for Social Innovation is to be a thought leader and catalyst for positive social change in Singapore and beyond.

Day 1 10 December 2013

Initial introductions and openings were made by David Schofield, Group Head of Corporate Responsibility at Aviva, Mr Koh Choon Hui, Singapore representative to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and Jenny Huq, Acting Centre Director at Lien Centre. The introductions were followed by keynote statements by Nishit Majmudar, CEO of Aviva Singapore, Jyothi Sanghera, Chief of Section on Human Rights and Social and Economic Issues, OHCHR and Andrew Johnston, CEO, Consortium for Street Children.

Roundtable objectives and scene-setter

Louise Meincke, Advocacy Director, CSC, shared the recommendations that the Committee on the Rights of the Child has made to key stakeholders on the issue of street children in the South East Asia region over a 20 year period:

- National strategies and data collection;
- Provision of nutrition and healthcare;
- Access to education and justice;
- Support family reunification;
- Eliminate discrimination;
- Conduct research on children in street situations.

Louise emphasised that the most important objective set out for the roundtable is to make sure the views of street-connected children are considered in this discussion. Some current platforms to consider are:

- The International Day for Street Children (www.streetchildrenday.org);
- Consultations with street-connected children such as the 'children's voices paper' conducted in preparation for the UN OHCHR report.

Discussion 1: What are children's rights in the context of children working and/or living on the street?

Speakers: Bernard Gastaud, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and Jane Calder, Regional Adviser, Child Protection in Asia, Save the Children. Moderator: Jyothi Sangher, OHCHR.

Main discussion points:

- There is a scarcity of good practises regarding the rights in the context of children working and/or living on the street;
- It is crucial to know what children are wanting or hoping for in the future;
- The cost of inaction, both economically and emotionally;
- How to overcome the challenges faced by street children, including the lack of acknowledgement of the issue and the involvement of governments;
- How to make 'streets safer' for street children.

Action points:

- The discussion highlighted the importance of authoritative guidance from the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the interpretation and implementation of the UNCRC in relation to Children in Street Situations;
- The potential engagement with the UPR process at UN level to ensure street children concerns are raised;
- The importance of the visibility if these issues and the potential of social media (www.aviva.com/togetherforstreetkids and [#togetherforstreetkids](https://twitter.com/togetherforstreetkids)) – continuing the engagement online with a broader audience.



Discussion 2: What are the main challenges for children working and/or living on the street in South East Asia?

Speakers: Dr Najat Maala M'jid, UN Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; Grace Agcaoili, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF; Sebastian Le Mouellic, FRIENDS International; Dorothy Roz, Executive Director, ECPAT International. *Moderator: Guy Thompson, Child Frontiers*

Main challenges for children working and/or living on the street:

- Phenomenon has become socially accepted because of its chronic nature and generations of street children;
- There is a lack of family strengthening programmes and weak institutions and policies;
- Issue of counting – no numbers or outdated data with diverse estimates;
- Migration of children – without nationality in country where they reside;
- Working children – no education;
- Commercial and sexual exploitation.

Main discussion points:

- Though the street child issue is not a recent phenomena in SEA, there is a lack of information on street children due to unreliable statistics;
- There are various profiles of street-connected children and challenges faced by them, but they can be resourceful and resilient;
- Interventions are project based and dependent on funds which often runs out before there has been a measurable impact;
- There have been fragmented responses to street children on the street - there are few robust and sustainable policies or cost-benefit analysis of interventions to influence policies – Save the Children are finalising a report looking at the cost of inaction on violence against children;
- Street children are one of the highest risk groups regarding commercial sexual exploitation.

Action points: To move away from fragmented responses:

- Evaluate and document 'lessons learned' and scale up good practises so that programmes are less duplicative, become more child centric and increase in their use of innovative practice. Build trust between NGOs to unite with a common goal and one voice, as well as strengthening the institutions of government;
- Develop and disseminate cost-benefit analysis calculations and engage street children themselves to help gather data;
- Support the building and implementation of comprehensive child protection systems that can adapt to support street children;
- Build sustainable and strong partnerships between Governments and other key stakeholders to ensure implementation at local and national levels;
- International guidance should be developed by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to support Governments and other stakeholders in their work with street children, through the development of a General Comment on Children in Street Situations.



Discussion 3: How do we align the actions of business and child rights?

- Speakers for this session were Kevin Koh, OHCHR; Beth Verhey Senior Adviser, Corporate Social Responsibility, UNICEF and Bindu Sharma, International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children. *Moderator: Jared Tham, Singapore Management University*

Main discussion points:

- There is a growing momentum around the topic of business and human rights and business and child rights, which is increasing awareness and strengthening practice globally. Examples include the General Comment on Business and Child Rights, and the UNICEF, Save the Children and the Child Rights and Business Principles;
- In order to achieve this, business and government need to be even more proactive to bridge their silos;
- The role of NGOs is evolving – creating awareness and conducting advocacy can also support and enable implementation by other stakeholder groups;
- NGOs can help overcome issues of implementation where good intentions can reduce the impact, for example companies have built schools in the region but not provided any teachers or asked the community what the real needs may be;
- Advocacy needs an image change as it does not have to be adversarial and companies can engage in it without fear of reputation damage, for example the work that Aviva has done with Save the Children India working with street hawkers to end child labour.

Action points:

Role for all businesses – big and small

- All businesses (MNC, SME and informal) need to understand the contributing role they can play in enhancing child rights and therefore whilst MNCs can take a global lead, other businesses must be informed of their vital role;
- Business needs to ensure that human and child rights are embedded into their companies and employees are aware of the relevant social issues which their business can help address.

Collaboration needs to get easier

- Business and Government need to work together to ensure the right importance and expansion of access to education and vocational training to create sustainable livelihoods;
- Increase efforts for key stakeholders to come together;
- Develop and support multi-agency approaches at a local and national level within government.

Discussion 3 (continued): How can business act as a partner in the promotion and protection of children rights?

Speakers: Kerri- Ann Mower, Head of corporate Responsibility, AVIVA Asia; Nicoleta Panta, Count Every Child Advocacy Manager, Plan International and Tara Dermott, Head of Development, MTV Exit. *Moderator: Jyothi Sanghera, OHCHR*

Main discussion points:

- Aviva's report: 'Joining the dialogue: vulnerable children and businesses'⁶, a business to business report, is about some of the challenges that businesses have grappled with on this issue. It also raises questions that require further collaborative work, for example, how do businesses engage with social issues where they do not have the necessary skills?;
- Business collaborating on systemic issues relating to child rights still feels quite unusual, for example, the work Aviva has done on raising the importance of birth registration for street children in Indonesia with Plan International and the Indonesian government;
- Overview of the impact social media campaigning can have in changing attitudes and informing policies is a very exciting development, for example MTV Exit's work.

Action Points:

- Continued encouragement of business to share their stories and challenges, through 'softer' platforms which are not necessarily initially a formal agreement;
- Facilitate innovative approaches to supporting street children – for example through digital birth registration;
- Continued exploration and best practise sharing on how social media can be used to support child rights promotion and achievement.

⁶ Aviva, 'Joining the Dialogue: Vulnerable children and Business', available at http://www.csr-asia.com/report/Joining_the_dialogue-Vulnerable_children_and_business.pdf

Discussion 4: Moving forwards. How do we learn from each other? Examples of cooperation – existing good practises and lessons learnt

Moderator: Dr Sarah Thomas de Benitez

Main discussion points:

- Policy guidance on the issue of children with street-connections have not changed from 1994, but there has been a shift on the issues and how street children themselves are perceived. The mindset shift is what will create the next level of momentum on policy guidance;
- Research is evolving and there is an understanding that we need to include child protection systems in matters relating to all children wherever they are as well as the voices of children themselves;
- It is important to have new recommendations based on the UN OHCHR report and General Comment No. 16 on Business and Children's Rights.

Sarah extracted four bundles of themes/ideas based on Day 1's discussions which should be unpacked and discussed in more detail:

1. Children on the streets

– understanding children's agency, the constraints, their voices and what we mean by being safe whilst on the streets

2. Organising principles

– about roles, responsibility, accountability

3. Scaling resources to make sustainable change happen

– data, money, capacity, social media

4. Building institutional trust

– values, creating shared values, authenticity and the importance of building trust in partnerships.

1. Children on the streets

Main discussion points:

- Need to create more 'safety on the streets' whilst respecting children's agency: it is important to help children realise how they can protect themselves on the streets. For example, we cannot stop children from using substances but we can teach them about the dangers of substance misuse and harm reduction;
- However, safe streets should be for everyone;
- We need to recognise that many children would rather be on the streets than in institutions or that for that child at that time, the street may be safer than 'home';
- How best to engage Governments?

Action points:

- Stakeholders should reach out and connect with street-connected children through professionally trained workers for example peer educators, social workers and the police. Local communities also need to be included and empowered to participate;
- Support the availability of 'hotlines' for children;
- Street child related agencies and actors, especially academics and policy makers/influencers, to explore further this notion of child protection for street-connected children.



2. Organising principles

Main discussion points:

- Looking at the who, what, when and how;
- All actors including governments, businesses, NGOs, communities and families have the responsibility to protect the rights of the child;
- The importance of a 'social contract' – built on collaboration around a context specific goal supported by guiding principles and legal frameworks;
- The importance of a systems approach to child protection, which is flexible to address the street children issue.

Action points:

- Identify actors at all levels to map efforts, including youth organisations, to ensure proper link up;
- Identify and engage with current international policy initiatives – for example, the Post-MDG agenda, which has so far not included child protection, and the development of a General Comment on Children in Street Situations by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- Move forward on implementing a 'social contract' type initiative aimed at supporting street children better in their local environment.

3. Scaling resources to make sustainable change happen

Main discussion points:

- How to collect data, what to use the information for, and purpose of disseminating information?;
- Non-traditional methods of data collection are necessary as the ongoing methods are not working for children with street-connections, whilst participatory approaches work well with street-connected children;
- Capacity depends on commitment which is based on levels of knowledge and expertise;
- People working with street children are siloed and so we need to find a way to share more information and practise;
- In terms of social media the challenge is to translate online action onto the ground.

Action points:

- A more coordinated approach to acquiring funding – large scale plans should be made to attract sources of large-scale funding (business, foundations, governments etc);
- A coordinated approach should be made to report to governments when a lack of resources leads to inaction, i.e. establishing a solid evidence base;
- A coordinated approach should be made to assess capacity and how to fill existing gaps;
- People working with street-connected children to be able to connect up and learn from one another.

4. Building Trust

Main discussion points:

- Communication across stakeholders is key to building trusting relationships;
- Accountability needs to be built within an organisation –this also relates to how organisations are able to partner with each other so the responsibility and/or enthusiasm does not just sit in one place;
- Small groups of dedicated, passionate, strategic people are the ones that make change;
- Even within a collaborative approach, someone must take the initiative to push ahead first thus making it easier for others to follow;
- Building trust and partnerships, can also be learned and developed as a core capability for organisations to ensure sustainable collaboration.

Action points:

- To tackle the issue of non-institutionalisation of human and child rights into their core practises;
- All sectors should pay attention to partnership capability as a key enabler of the inclusive innovative collaboration discussed here.

Discussion 5: Moving forwards. How can we work together? Turning challenges into opportunities. Focusing on the priorities

The format of this discussion focused on three key areas, deemed to have the most energy and potential, drawn from the above discussion by Dr Sarah Thomas de Benitez:

1. Social contract and mapping

2. Advocacy and social media

3. Practical tools and guidance

Theme 1: Social contract and mapping group

Main discussion points:

- What are our next steps to get an inclusive, 'on the ground' collaboration initiative pilot in place between all the key stakeholders?

Action points:

- Reconvene a smaller group focusing on South East Asia and identify one or two specific contexts to make the social contract work;
- This plan will be guided by strategic mapping work;
- The group that come together must have a clear child right's based intent;
- Need help with translation to gain access to each other's insights and to share tools.

Theme 2: Advocacy and social media

Main discussion points:

- What to advocate for, how and to whom?

Action points:

- Need to create an inclusive coordination body made up of businesses, government, NGOs, academics and research bodies at the country level;
- Ensure that the post-2015 MDGs include specific child protection guidelines, of which street children form part of, through a dedicated advocacy and social media strategy.

Theme 3: Practical tools and guidance

Main discussion point:

- What do governments, as the main duty bearer of children's rights, need in order to uphold and implement the rights of the child in relation to street children?;
- What do the other actors need?

Action points:

- Need to systematically collect, distil and disseminate existing good practises and progress at the international level;
- Need for coordination across different tools and guidelines;
- Need for authoritative guidance that gives governments a step by step manual on how to tackle the issue of street children, for example a General Comment on Children in Street Situations;
- Introduce better data collection guidelines.



Summary Conclusions and Key Actions: Summary of main conclusions and key actions by the convening group

In drawing together these conclusions we are conscious that this inclusive roundtable represents just the start of a very important conversation.

However, the roundtable was always designed as a conversation about how we might move, together, to action. Therefore we have highlighted the main actions, outlined in the discussions that were felt to have the most energy and potential. This is not to underestimate the impact of the wider actions discussed above (for example building partnership capability in all sectors or reaching out via specially trained workers to engage street children directly). It is to focus us on the practical steps we can take to best enable, and continue to explore collaboration not just in dialogue but in action.

Conclusion and Action 1

Social contract and mapping: Structuring inclusive collaboration for children living and/or working on the street – a collaborative pilot in practice.

At the roundtable, it was strongly felt that due to the challenge of working with street-connected children there were many lost opportunities for structuring collaboration to help change things on the ground. Examples of good collaboration did exist but it was patchy and in pockets. Street-connected children, like other vulnerable children, need a reliable child rights based ecosystem that is moving in one direction to identify, prioritise and address situations on the ground.

In this action we plan to co-create a way forward by illustrating what a child rights based ecosystem on the ground is by identifying a case study location in South East Asia. As action for street children is best completed locally, this action is about discovering and demonstrating what good collaboration looks like at a very practical level. This would include the mapping of needs and current provision by all sectors to understand the required focus of collaborative action, where each actor plays to their unique strengths. It is anticipated that this pilot approach, and the learning taken from it, could be utilised globally.

This would build on the report *Joining the Dialogue: Vulnerable Children and Business*⁷ which was launched at the roundtable.

We do not pretend that this is an easy thing to do. And we already know it will bring together people with conflicting views. However, communities need to know where to look for guidance, navigate the tensions and find the support to start owning the issue which relate to children living and/or working on the streets.

Proposed action:

Identify a location in South East Asia with a high concentration of street-connected children and families, and over a short period we intend to hold a “Week of Conversations” to meet as many members of the ecosystem as possible to ascertain their views on the issues, approaches and priorities. A volunteer project team will assemble to use the experience of this concentrated review of the ecosystem to make recommendations on the way;

- We welcome support from any part of the ecosystem and would also like to set up an advisory team of experts to support the project team to make meaningful impact for street-connected children;
- All participants are encouraged to read the report *Joining the Dialogue*. And we encourage roundtable participants to be part of a small group which will look towards solutions for the questions posed in the report.

This ‘deep dive’ would provide lessons learnt for other locations with the aim to provide strengthened guidance for what good collaboration looks like at a very practical level.

⁷ http://www.csr-asia.com/report/Joining_the_dialogue-Vulnerable_children_and_business.pdf

Conclusion and action 2

Advocacy and Social Media

Throughout the roundtable it was felt that the creation of an online Hub, specific to South East Asia, would empower the participants to better share information and good practises, to avoid duplication and establish partnerships of trust. Such a Hub would focus on the insights and research surrounding street-connected children in South East Asia and be an enabler for other key action points from the roundtable, including the collaborative pilot in Indonesia.

CSC launched, with the support of Aviva and HSBC, the Global Resource Centre in 2011 (www.streetchildrenresources.org). It was felt that this online platform, which already hosts two Hubs (Research and Shared Learning), could ideally be developed to facilitate the suggested South East Asia Hub.

Furthermore, during the roundtable the importance of engaging a wider audience through social media and international platforms was emphasised. This included the social media campaign spearheaded by Aviva in the lead up to the roundtable, using the (www.aviva.com/togetherforstreetkids and [#togetherforstreetkids](https://twitter.com/togetherforstreetkids)).

The importance of the International Day for Street Children (www.streetchildrenday.org) was also discussed as a platform from which to raise the voices and concerns of street children themselves. The theme for the 2014 celebrations are "If the whole world were listening, what would you say...?" Children with street connections worldwide will be asked this question and their answers, whether in writing, drawings, audio or visual, will be amplified for social media engagement, including the production of a video/animation. Those involved in International Day for Street Children are calling upon the UN to officially recognise the Day.

Proposed actions:

- CSC will do a scoping exercise, in partnership with Aviva and HSBC, on the potential development of a South East Asia Hub, hosted on the Global Resource Centre;
- Aviva will facilitate a follow up Scriberia social media campaign for participants and their networks to use to communicate the outcomes of the roundtable;
- All participants are encouraged to go to www.streetchildrenday.org and get involved with this year's theme by submitting their own reflections on the question "If the whole world were listening, what would you say...?" and encourage their respective organisations to engage street children to input into the social media campaign, as well as sharing the campaign amongst their social networks.
All participants are also encouraged to add their name to the Demand A Day petition. Such actions will also support the call for a General Comment on Children in Street Situations by the UNCRC Committee, as outlined in Conclusion and Action 3 opposite, by showing the concern, interest and magnitude in the issue.

Conclusion and Action 3

Practical tools and guidance: Encourage and support the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to develop a General Comment on Children in Street Situations

Throughout the discussions it was apparent that there was a need for guidance to governments and other stakeholders around the issue of Children in Street Situations. This would act as a 'protocol' as practical guidance that all countries will be able to implement and refer back to ensure that street children's rights are realised.

This guidance can help establish institutional collaboration at regional levels which can then be replicated at national levels.

This guidance would consolidate existing techniques and good practises supporting street children in the context of children's rights to avoid fragmented and short-term interventions. This includes the debate at the roundtable which focused on 'safe streets' for street children, a concept which should be elaborated and explored further.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is the only international body which can carry out such a task, and we therefore pledge our support to the Committee and its Working Group on Children in Street Situations.

Proposed actions:

- Government representatives at the roundtable are encouraged to share this brief and highlight the crucial role practical guidance would play in their support for street-connected children at a national level;
- CSC will facilitate an international delegation attending the UNCRC's Committee's next session in May to effectively communicate the need for such guidance;
- Participants are encouraged to share further evidence, case studies and research which will support the call for a General Comment.

CALL TO ACTION:

For further information, expressions of interest, to get involved, and to show your support:

- **Contact Louise Meincke**, Advocacy Director, at CSC regarding the **General Comment on Children in Street Situations** on Louise@streetchildren.org.
- **Contact Kerri-Ann Mower**, Regional Head of Corporate Responsibility, Aviva Asia on kerri-ann_mower@aviva-asia.com regarding the **collaborative pilot**.
- **Contact Louise Meincke**, Advocacy Director, at CSC regarding the scoping of a **South East Asia Hub** on Louise@streetchildren.org
- **Contact Louise Meincke**, Advocacy Director, at CSC regarding the **International Day for Street Children** on Louise@streetchildren.org
- **Contact David Schofield**, Head of Corporate CSR, Aviva regarding the **Scriberia initiative** on David.schofield@aviva.com
- **Contact Kerri-Ann Mower**, Regional Head of Corporate Responsibility, Aviva Asia on kerri-ann_mower@aviva-asia.com regarding the **feedback to the *Joining the Dialogue* report**.



