



United Nations Office for Partnerships

World Childhood Foundation holds Symposium to celebrate its 10 year anniversary, in NYC October 21st

*In the presence of the founder Her Majesty Queen Silvia and Her Royal Highness
Princess Madeleine of Sweden*

Theme: Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children – 10 years in the field

World Childhood Foundation USA, in association with the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP), is pleased to invite you to the “2009 Childhood Anniversary Symposium: Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children – 10 years in the field”, at United Nations Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber on Wednesday October 21st 2009, 9.30am-1.00pm.

Childhood's 10-year anniversary will be celebrated in New York with a symposium about sexual abuse and exploitation of children, a field that has received increased attention in the last decade. The Childhood Anniversary Symposium is built on the theme of the Articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which forms the basis for Childhood's work. This year, UNCRC celebrates 20 years.

Her Majesty Queen Silvia, founder of World Childhood Foundation and a champion for the protection of vulnerable children, will give an overview of Childhood and its future direction, followed by presentations on the Childhood's model of supporting projects working with children who are at risk for sexual abuse and exploitation.

A panel discussion with Childhood project and corporate partners, along with other representatives working with children at risk, will focus on prevention and intervention approaches on how to spread public awareness about child sexual abuse and exploitation. The panel will also converge on how existing as well as new stakeholders can provide sustainable intervention strategies for the well-being and protection of children who are victims of this kind of abuse. Some of the speakers are **Marilyn Carlson Nelson**, Chairman, Carlson Co., **Jenny Bowen**, founder of Half the Sky in China, **Natasha Jackson**, GSMA Mobile Alliance, and **Mats Agurén**, Secretary General of World Childhood Foundation. A full program is attached.

World Childhood Foundation was started in 1999 with the aim of helping some of the most vulnerable children in the world; street children, children in institutions, sexually abused children and young mothers, with a special focus on girls. Since the beginning, Childhood has given out almost 40 million US dollars in support to more than 500 projects in 16 countries.

Accreditation and info:

To obtain press accreditation, please apply for a **UN accreditation** to gain entry to the United Nations Secretariat building. For information on UN media accreditation process, please visit the website of the UN Media Liaison and Accreditation Unit: www.un.org/media/accreditation

If you are interested in participating in the press briefing by Her Majesty Queen Silvia following the symposium, please contact **Maja Svenonius**, Information Officer, at maja.svenonius@childhood.org or +46 704 46 24 04 by COB on October 20th, 2009.

For further information about Childhood and the symposium, please contact **Charlotte Brandin**, Executive Director, Childhood USA, at charlotte.brandin@childhood-usa.org or 917 822 3623.

For further information about the UN Office for Partnerships, please contact **Lucie Hrbkova**, Chief of Office, UNOP, at hrebkova@un.org or 212 963 3441.

World Childhood Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the most vulnerable children worldwide, especially those who are victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Special attention is given to girls and young mothers. Supporting over 110 programs in 15 countries, Childhood focuses on prevention, intervention and education in urban, suburban and rural areas worldwide. Program countries include Belarus, Brazil, Estonia, China, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Sweden, South Africa, Thailand, Germany, Ukraine and the United States. To learn more about Childhood, please visit www.childhood-usa.org

The United Nations Office for Partnerships serves as a gateway for public-private partnerships with the United Nations system, in furtherance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNOP provides Partnership Advisory Services and Outreach to a variety of entities, including academic institutions, companies, foundations, government agencies, and civil society organizations. The Office encourages investment in high-impact initiatives by assisting in the design of programmes and projects; helping establish and manage networks; advocating the use of the MDGs as a framework for action; and advising on UN procedures and best practices.

Furthermore, the Office manages the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, established by the Secretary-General in 1998 to serve as the interface for the partnership between the UN system and the UN Foundation – the public charity responsible for administering Mr. Robert E. Turner's \$ 1 billion contribution in support of UN causes. The United Nations partnership with Mr. Turner's Philanthropy has enabled the UN system to find creative solutions to global problems. The Office also manages the United Nations Democracy Fund, established by the Secretary-General in 2006 to support democratization throughout the world.