

Liz Zirkle's statement for the Launch of the Exhibition

Surviving Terrorism: Victims' Voices

Friday, 17 August 2018

Hello, my name is Liz Zirkle.

I am the Director of Programs at Tuesday's Children and I am grateful for the opportunity to talk about our work and the urgent need for long-term healing with a global commitment to supporting victims of Terror.

The tragedy of September 11, 2001 reminds us all that no one has immunity from terrorism.

Please recall how before the smoke had cleared, the international community emerged steadfast to create, implement and deliver post traumatic growth for those who have been forever changed. We must continue our commitment to transforming victims' experiences of trauma and loss into positive action.

We talk about “long-term healing” a lot at Tuesday’s Children, and we know it can be the pivot point from an era of grief to a pathway of resilience. As a global community, we must navigate around the psychological trauma rippling through generations, by providing our youth with the resources and tools that can empower them to recognize the dignity of others and work towards peace. Those who have attended our programs express how they are committed to reversing the cycle of violence and resisting the negative pull of hatred.

We implore you and your fellow Member States to join us in the commitment to: Work across borders, to share best practices, and to help victims to connect and support one another. An example of this is Tuesday’s Children’s peacebuilding initiative, Project COMMON BOND. Project COMMON Bond allows for cultural exchange between individuals whose common bond of loss due to terrorism challenges religious, economic, ethnic, racial, political, and other social differences that often spawn extremist sentiment and abstract violence worldwide. As affirmed by one young participant from Kosovo who said, “Through Project COMMON Bond I learned, that: believing in

each other, teamwork, communication and respecting each other's dignity, are the only keys into bringing peace and enhancing the World.”

On this inaugural International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, It is crucial to make long-term individual and community-based resilience strategies a mainstay of United Nations efforts as there is limitless strength when working together in a global community supporting victims of terrorism.

Thank you very much.