Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the occasion of the Universal Children’s Day

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made the following statement:

"Universal Children’s Day is an opportunity to reiterate my strong commitment to implement the EU’s policy on the promotion and protection of children’s rights everywhere in the world. The rights of the child will continue to be a fundamental component of the EU’s Human Rights Policy in the European External Action Service.

We are committed to raising children’s rights with our partner countries and within the United Nations, to cooperate with civil society and to protect and promote children’s rights and needs through both our development cooperation and humanitarian aid which fund projects all over the world targeting violence against children, supporting children affected by armed conflicts, and child participation.

Regrettably, child rights continue to be abused around the world. There is no room for complacency. I will strive to put an end to the violations of all rights of children, not only in principle, but in practice, and we will continue to focus on the effective implementation of our policy, set out in the EU Guidelines on the Rights of the Child, so that all children may fully enjoy their rights."

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