



Brussels, 20 November 2013
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STATEMENT

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

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"Today we celebrate Universal Children's Day.

Today is an opportunity to reiterate the EU's strong commitment to the implementation of our policy on the promotion and protection of children's rights everywhere in the world. Violence against children is a global phenomenon that cuts across boundaries of culture, class, caste, ethnic or religious origin, education or income and occurs in many different settings. The challenges children face vary from country to country but their inalienable rights are universal.

On this day I commend the courage of Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani schoolgirl and campaigner who was shot for campaigning for better rights for girls. I was particularly pleased that she was awarded the 2013 Sakharov human rights prize by the European Parliament.

Our partnership with the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and civil society organisations working on children's rights is of the utmost importance in promoting children's rights worldwide."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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