

## **Background**

Each year, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) makes important decisions affecting the lives of people around the world. Its resolutions recommend a course of action for all United Nations Member States on a wide array of topics from human rights to education, development, climate, violence against children, and peace and security, among others. One of these resolutions addresses children's rights. **The focus of the 2019 UN General Assembly Resolution on the Rights of the Child is children without parental care.** The resolution will be informed by a report of the Secretary-General on the same topic, prepared by UNICEF with input from Member States and civil society partners.

The 2019 UNGA Resolution on the Rights of the Child, together with the report of the Secretary-General, offer an important opportunity to place children without parental care on the global agenda, review progress made in preventing unnecessary family-child separation and providing appropriate alternative care, and recommend specific actions to strengthen care reforms globally. This focus is particularly timely as 2019 is also the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children](#) and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).

**Given the opportunities that 2019 presents, it is vital that children's advocates engage at global, regional, and national levels to ensure that the 2019 UNGA Resolution on the Rights of the Child strategically addresses key challenges in ensuring the rights of and protections for children without parental care.**

## **UNGA Advocacy Coalition**

In November 2018, representatives from 14 organizations, networks, and agencies met in New York to discuss the 2019 UNGA Resolution on the Rights of the Child. At the meeting, participants agreed to work together to develop and propose key recommendations and messages for Member States to include in the draft resolution.

Following the November meeting, an online platform for the UNGA Advocacy Coalition was established and many other organizations joined the effort, making the process as inclusive as possible. Several calls were organized, and a working group collaborated to develop and negotiate key recommendations on behalf of the coalition. The final negotiated text reflects the broadest agreement among almost all members and provides a strong basis for joint advocacy with Member States at national, regional, and global levels.

The **Key Recommendations** reflect agreed commitments by States under international standards, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, as well as previous UNGA resolutions and other negotiated documents. The recommendations are bold and focused on what needs to be done to implement the commitments made by governments towards children, families, and communities.

The 64 recommendations are divided under 8 key priority areas:

1. **Recognize and prioritize the role of families**
2. **Support families and prevent unnecessary family-child separation**
3. **Protect children without parental care and ensure high-quality, appropriate alternative care**
4. **Recognize the harm of institutional care for children and prevent institutionalization**
5. **Strengthen child welfare and protection systems and services**
6. **Ensure adequate financial and human resources**
7. **Improve data collection and regular reporting**
8. **Ensure full participation of children without parental or family care**

Please note that changes to the text at this stage are no longer possible, as it is carefully drafted and negotiated language among a broad coalition of organizations bringing together a wide range of experiences and perspectives, but we hope and trust it provides a strong basis for your endorsement. **To date 215 organisations, agencies, and networks at national, regional and global levels have already endorsed, including UNICEF.**

If you'd like to sign on, please send an electronic copy of your logo in jpg or png format to Sarah Johnson (Sarah.johnson@bettercarenetwork.org).

Feel free to share this with other organizations that may be interested.

**Please note that we are asking stakeholders to reach out directly to others but not to share the Key Recommendations more broadly through social media or public fora or websites. We are mindful that the UNGA is a member states led process and want to be respectful of the leading role these states need to play in developing and adopting the resolution.**