

**CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
ALSO SUFFER THE IMPACT OF INSTITUTIONAL CRISIS**

The Network for Human Rights of Children and Adolescents (REDHNNNA), a coalition of social organizations, educational, community centers and research institutes and advocates working in promoting and defending the rights of children and adolescents in Venezuela, being concerned about **the effects of the current political and social and economic institutional crisis in our country and its direct impact on children and adolescents**, especially because of serious threats and violations of their rights to life, education, health, adequate standard of living, full protection and security, **DECLARES:**

1. **That it is an inescapable, non-delegable and urgent obligation of the Government to ensure the best interests of children and adolescents and their comprehensive protection, in view of their special condition as subjects of development**, in order to decrease the impact generated in their emotional and psychic integrity by the daily uncertainty of not having in their homes food of sufficient quantity, variety and quality, also by being direct or indirect victims of daily violence and spectators to the climate of contentiousness and the increasingly exacerbated and unnecessary use of aggressive and insulting language by the political and community leaders of our country.
2. **That the National Government also has the binding obligation to take urgent action to remedy the serious crisis of food, lack of medicines and prompt medical attention suffered in Venezuela**; guaranteeing with absolute priority a privileged attention to children and adolescents who currently lack adequate services and protection programs for their full development.
3. **That mothers, fathers, educators and leaders have a duty to exercise restraint and protection roles for children and adolescents** who are under their responsibility, promoting by their example values of respect, solidarity, honesty and love.
4. **That the organs of National, State and Municipal Public Power should give priority to the protection and care of children and adolescents**, taking immediate measures and a rights-based approach to cater to those who are most vulnerable such as those confined to health care institutions, centers for attention, and police stations and who, unfortunately, are barely surviving in conditions of extreme poverty.
5. **That it is necessary and urgent to be rid of public discourse which instigates violence and intolerance between rival political factors and also be rid of illegitimate restrictions on**

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various forms of expression and denunciation used by Venezuelan society to express their dissatisfaction with the acute economic, political and social crisis and its many ramifications particularly in children and adolescents.

6. That extreme concern is caused by the continuous, arbitrary and unjustified situations of institutional instability, reiterated denial of legally established powers, and especially restrictions on the effective exercise of constitutional rights, promoting such a state of helplessness, vulnerability and violence, that it is practically impossible to have the benefits of a public administration at the service of all citizens, especially children and adolescents.
7. That it becomes indispensable for the country to have a dialogue under conditions of transparency, respect and tolerance, that yields tangible results in the short term for resolving the serious political differences that affect all citizens of the country, including children and adolescents. Positions biased by hatred and resentment must be abandoned, moving towards the effective and timely implementation of constitutionally foreseen mechanisms of public consultation of citizens, without restrictions or undue delay.

We express our solidarity and commitment to the children and adolescents who are in Venezuela, especially those who are suffering most in this crisis. Despite the difficulties, we encourage them to not lose their hopes and their dreams, because they are entitled to a better present and a better future. Today more than ever, their opinions and suggestions are valuable and necessary, because life is giving them the opportunity to practice from the heart, values such as solidarity, respect, commitment and love with their mothers, fathers, other relatives, teachers and peers. As organizations dedicated to the defense, promotion and restoration of their human rights, we reiterate the duty to demand and build opportunities for their full and happy development.

In Caracas, on the 2nd day of November 2016.

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