



LAUREATES & LEADERS
- FOR CHILDREN -

JUSTICE FOR AFRICA'S CHILDREN

LAUREATES AND LEADERS FOR
CHILDREN JOINT STATEMENT
AND BACKGROUND NOTE

LAUREATES AND LEADERS FOR CHILDREN JOINT STATEMENT

We, the Laureates and Leaders for Children from across the world, have come together to demand that world leaders deliver justice for Africa's children. Freedom remains out of reach for millions of Africa's children, even when the world is wealthier than it has ever been. Humanity is losing its moral compass.

In June 2021, the ILO and UNICEF announced the first shocking increase in the number of child labourers worldwide in two decades, during the first four years of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2019). Even before the start of the pandemic when the world grew \$10 trillion richer, the number of child labourers in the world rose to an appalling 160 million children, over half of which (i.e. 86 million) are in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is the consequence of racial and systemic discrimination against Africa.

The historical and systemic exploitation of Africa is partly to blame but injustices and discrimination perpetrated by our generation are stealing the lives and the futures from millions more children. With the advent of COVID-19, these inequalities have taken on new dimensions and are increasing at a rapid pace, including through the blatant and shameful manifestation in the form of vaccine apartheid. The weight of these inequalities, unfortunately, is borne disproportionately by the poorest and most marginalised children. Moreover, underfunded, under-implemented or selectively enforced policies and programmes mean that already vulnerable groups such as ethnic and religious minorities, rural and agricultural communities, girls, and children on the move are much more likely to be in extreme poverty and child labour. All of this is compounded by corruption and conflict which has a devastating effect on children's rights.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that Africa has the lowest social protection coverage in the world, and functions that were the least covered include access to education, sickness benefits, benefits for children and family, unemployment protection, and pensions benefits.

African countries are among the most resource rich in the world, yet they don't receive the profits they are due because of a discriminatory global tax system. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the world had a common enemy like never before, but instead of uniting humanity with our response, we disproportionately helped businesses and people in richer countries and left the most vulnerable to fend for themselves. We know that only 0.13% of the \$12 trillion released as COVID relief globally was allocated to multilateral funding to low-income countries. The rest was largely used to bail out large corporations. The emergency IMF Special Drawing Rights gave \$2,000 per European child and \$60 per African child. The international community's continued and institutionalized subjugation of Africa is appalling and must end.

Africa is heading towards its first economic recession in 25 years, as a result of the pandemic. This, along with the lack of access to vaccines, means that adults lose employment and families are pushed into even more severe poverty, forcing children to fill in as exploited and enslaved workers. The immeasurable suffering of our children is set to magnify even further, and we can no longer afford to look the other way.

The good news is that there is a powerful and proven solution, direct social protection for children. We know it works as seen through the examples of Bolsa Familia in Brazil, mid-day meals in India, and cash transfers in Ghana and Uganda. Universal social protection systems, such as pension programmes in Kenya and Tanzania, and social protection floors can support and strengthen families. Emergency social protection measures to help the poorest families during the COVID-19 pandemic worked where they were put in place. Social protection eliminates extreme poverty and inequality which drives millions into child labour.

It has been used for decades and in richer countries is the largest item of government expenditure. Just a tiny fraction, i.e. less than \$53 billion, spent in poorer countries annually would extend social protection to all children and pregnant women in low income countries and substantially reduce extreme poverty. The globalisation of social protection is a historic idea whose time has come.

Africa's children are our children. It is our individual and collective moral obligation to protect them. To end child labour in Africa, we call on the courage, compassion and humanity of all world leaders to:

- Ensure direct child benefits to every child in Africa by prioritising domestic budgets and targeted programmes, while the international community meets its aid responsibilities through child-focused funding of the UN Secretary-General's Global Accelerator on jobs and social protection
- Achieve just representation of African countries in global decision-making, end discrimination in Special Drawing Rights, and establish fair tax and trade rules with African countries as equal partners
- Cancel all debt for low- and lower-middle-income countries in Africa, hold corrupt leadership or businesses to account, and eliminate vaccine apartheid by temporary waivers of intellectual property rights and access to raw material to counter COVID-induced vulnerabilities in Africa and around the world
- We also call on African leaders to empower young people to come forward and claim their voice. They are the most powerful voices for change and the architects of Africa's future. Together with a strong civil society and a supportive government, youth can be the masters of Africa's destiny.

Agenda 2030 is heading toward imminent failure if we do not end child labour in Africa. We are, yet again, breaking our promises to our children. As long as Africa's children are working in fields, mines, shops and homes, they are not in schools. They are forced to

work in place of millions of adult jobs thus prolonging intergenerational cycles of poverty and inequality.

Africa is a mirror to the world. The realisation of the rights of a girl in a Sub-Saharan African country, who is exploited and abused and denied her right to dream, will be the true assessment of our efforts to achieve the promise to leave no one behind. She is our child. Until every child in Africa is free, none of us are free.

We, Laureates and Leaders for Children, stand with the children, youth, citizens and leaders of Africa to fight for our shared vision and responsibility to give every child in Africa a free, safe, healthy and educated childhood. It is time for justice for all of Africa's children. It is time to stand with Africa.

SIGNATORIES

(in alphabetical order)

NOBEL LAUREATES/NOBEL PEACE WINNING ORGANISATIONS

Mr. Houcine Abassi
2015 Nobel Peace Laureate

Dr. Peter Agre
2003 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Dr. Harvey Alter
2020 Nobel Laureate in Medicine

Prof. Hiroshi Amano
2014 Nobel Laureate in Physics

Amnesty International
1977 Nobel Peace Laureate

HE Óscar Arias Sánchez
1987 Nobel Peace Laureate

Dr. Barry Barish
2017 Nobel Laureate in Physics

Mr. Abdessattar Ben Moussa
2015 Nobel Peace Laureate

Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn
2009 Nobel Laureate in Medicine

Dr. Martin Chalfie
2008 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Mr. Michael Christ
International Physicians for the Prevention of
Nuclear War
1985 Nobel Peace Laureate

Prof. Aaron Ciechanover
2004 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Mdm. Lisa Clark and Philip Jennings
International Peace Bureau
1910 Nobel Peace Laureate

Prof. Mario R. Capecchi
2007 Nobel Laureate in Medicine

His Holiness the Dalai Lama
1989 Nobel Peace Laureate

Dr. Johann Deisenhofer
1988 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Prof. Peter C. Doherty
1996 Nobel Laureate in Medicine

Mdm. Shirin Ebadi
2003 Nobel Peace Laureate

Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei
2005 Nobel Peace Laureate

Mdm. Beatrice Fihn
International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
2017 Nobel Peace Laureate

Prof. Andrew Fire
2006 Nobel Laureate in Medicine

Prof. Joachim Frank
2017 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Prof. Jerome Friedman
1990 Nobel Laureate in Physics

Mdm. Leymah Gbowee
2011 Nobel Peace Laureate

Prof. Avrem Hershko
2004 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Prof. Roald Hoffmann
1981 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Prof. Gerard 't Hooft
1999 Nobel Laureate in Physics

Prof. Takaaki Kajita
2015 Nobel Laureate in Physics

Mdm. Tawakkol Karman
2011 Nobel Peace Laureate

Prof. Finn Kydland
2004 Nobel Laureate in Economics

Mdm. Mairead Maguire
1976 Nobel Peace Laureate

Mr. Mohamed Fadhel Mahfoudh
2015 Nobel Peace Laureate

Prof. Eric Maskin
2007 Nobel Laureate in Economics

Prof. Edvard Moser
2014 Nobel Laureate in Medicine

Prof. May-Britt Moser
2014 Nobel Laureate in Medicine

Dr. Denis Mukwege
2018 Nobel Peace Laureate

Prof. Yoshinori Ohsumi
2016 Nobel Laureate in Medicine

Prof. Giorgio Parisi
2021 Nobel Laureate in Physics

Prof. Edmund S. Phelps
2006 Nobel Laureate in Economics

Dr. William Phillips
1997 Nobel Laureate in Physics

Mr. Abdur Rahim Khan
Grameen Bank
2006 Nobel Peace Laureate

HE José Ramos Horta
President of Timor Leste (2007-2012)
1996 Nobel Peace Laureate

Sir Peter Ratcliffe
2019 Nobel Laureate in Medicine

Sir Richard J. Roberts
1993 Nobel Laureate in Medicine

Mr. Kailash Satyarthi
2014 Nobel Peace Laureate

Prof. Jean-Pierre Sauvage
2016 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Prof. Susumu Tonegawa
1987 Nobel Laureate in Medicine

LEADERS

HRH Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

HRH Princess Rym Al Ali
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Mdm. Farida Allaghi
former Libyan Ambassador to the EU

HE Salim AlMalik
Director-General, Islamic World Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organisation

Mr. Abdulaziz Altwaijri
former Director-General, Islamic World Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organisation

Mata Amritanandamayi
Spiritual Leader

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon
United Nations (2007-2016)

Mdm. Irina Bokova
Director-General, UNESCO (2009-2017)

Mdm. Sharan Burrow
General Secretary, ITUC

Mdm. Lorena Castillo Garcia
First Lady of Panama (2014-2019)

Mr. Hikmet Cetin
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey (1991-1994)
Speaker of the Parliament (1997-1999)

Mr. Martin Chungong
Secretary-General, Inter-Parliamentary Union

Rt. Hon Helen Clark
Prime Minister of New Zealand (1999-2008)

HE Emil Constantinescu
President of Romania (1996-2000)

Mr. Richard Curtis
UN SDG Advocate

Mr. David Edwards
General Secretary, Education International

HE Chiril Gaburici
Prime Minister of Moldova (2015)

HE Ameenah Gurib-Fakim
President of Mauritius (2015-2018)

Mr. Mo Ibrahim
Founder, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Mr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu
Secretary-General OIC (2004-2014)

HE Dalia Itzik
Interim President of Israel (2007), Speaker of Knesset
(2006-2009)

HE Mladen Ivanic
President of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014-2018)

HE Ivo Josipovic
President of Croatia (2010-2015)

Mr. Mats Karlsson
Vice-President of the World Bank (1999-2002)

Mdm. Kerry Kennedy
President, RFK Human Rights

HE Jakaya Kikwete
President of Tanzania (2005-2015)

Mr. Peter Kodjje
General Secretary, All Africa Student Union

HE Jadranka Kosor
Prime Minister of Croatia (2009-2011)

HE Aleksandr Kwasniewski
President of Poland (1995-2005)

HE Zlatko Lagumdžija
Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2001-2002)
Deputy Prime Minister (2012-2015)

HE Stefan Löfven
Prime Minister of Sweden (2014-2021)

HE Moussa Mara
Prime Minister of Mali (2014-2015)

HE Rexhep Meidani
President of Albania (1997-2002)

Mr. Amre Moussa
Secretary-General, Arab League (2001-2011)

Mr. Rovshan Muradov
Secretary-General Nizami Ganjavi International Center

Mr. Narayan Murthy
Founder, Infosys

HE Joseph Muscat
Prime Minister of Malta (2013-2018)

Mr. Francis M. O'Donnell
Former UN Resident Coordinator, Ukraine

HE Džoomart Otorbayev
Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan (2014-2015)

HE Rosen Plevneliev
President of Bulgaria (2012-2017)

Mdm. Hedva Ser
UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

Mr. Ismail Serageldin
Vice-President, World Bank (1992-2000)
Co-Chair, Nizami Ganjavi International Center

Mr. Gurjit Singh
Former Ambassador to Germany, Indonesia, Ethiopia,
ASEAN, and the African Union

HE Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of India (2004-2014)

HE Petar Stoyanov
President of Bulgaria (1997-2002)

HE Eka Tkeshelashvili
Deputy Prime Minister of Georgia (2010-2012)

Mdm. Marianna Vardinoyannis
UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

HE Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga
President of Latvia (1999-2007)
Co-Chair Nizami Ganjavi International Center

Mdm. Kateryna Yushchenko
First Lady of Ukraine (2005-2010)

JUSTICE FOR AFRICA'S CHILDREN: BACKGROUND NOTE

In June 2021, the ILO and UNICEF announced there had been a shocking increase in the number of child labourers worldwide during the first four years of the Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2019). Even before the start of the pandemic, in a world that had never been richer, 8 million more children¹ were working at the expense of their health, education, and childhood.

However, these global aggregates masked an even bigger increase in sub-Saharan Africa where the number of child labourers increased by a staggering 16 million.² This is the equivalent of over four hundred more African children becoming child labourers every hour³ since the world pledged to 'leave no-one behind'. Africa now has more child labourers than the rest of the world combined.⁴

Child labour is caused by many factors, some children are forced into child slavery, some are trafficked from their families and others are orphaned without access to a government support. However, by far the most common cause of child labour is extreme poverty. The children who are forced to work, are the same children who are missing an education, suffering from malnutrition and have the least access to healthcare and clean water. Families left so poor, in the 21st century, that their children work in order to have food to eat.

This extreme poverty is the result of ongoing national and international discrimination against the most marginalised children and their communities. The historical exploitation of sub-Saharan Africa is a major cause, but new and ongoing injustices still deny African children their share of the world's resources, with devastating results for millions of girls and boys across the continent.

WIDENING INEQUALITY 2015-2019

Between 2015 and 2019, the world became \$12 trillion richer, around \$1,600 per person.⁵ This should have been good news for all children, especially those living in low-income countries. However, this increase in wealth wasn't shared equally. While the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita increased by nearly \$5,000 in high income countries in these four years, in Sub-Saharan Africa it didn't increase at all.⁶

In fact, in 2016, high income countries increased their wealth per person more in a year than sub-Saharan African countries had in the previous 50 years.⁷ The same was true in 2017. This ever-increasing inequality is shameful and morally indefensible.

It also outweighs progress elsewhere. Although ODA provided an important \$47 per person per year to sub-Saharan Africa from high income countries between 2015-2019,⁸ it is dwarfed by wealth per person increasing by \$1,240 per year in rich countries whilst falling in low-income countries in the same period.⁹

NATURAL RESOURCES AND GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE PER CHILD

Many African countries have more natural resources than countries with 50 or even 100 times their GDP per capita. The problem is that the profits from these resources are moved offshore. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is in the top ten of countries with the most natural resources in the world.¹⁰ The DRC supplies 70% of the world's cobalt¹¹ which has helped increase global growth by literally powering most of the world's electronic goods - tablets, mobile phones, laptops, and now cars. Yet the DRC government receives only a fraction of the money from these resources leaving it with insufficient funds to support children in DRC properly, resulting in widespread child labour including in the cobalt mines themselves.

It is the same story across the continent, Zambia is one of the world's top 10 copper-producing countries;¹² Mali is one of the world's top 20 gold-producing countries;¹³ and Tanzania is among the seven African nations in the world's top 10 diamond producing countries.¹⁴ Yet they are all among the poorest countries in the world. If you calculate the tax revenue each country has to spend per person, the government of Zambia only has \$217 to spend per person per year; the government of Mali only \$127; and the government of Tanzania \$122.¹⁵ The Netherlands receives more tax revenue than all of East and Southern Africa put together.¹⁶

Corruption and unequal allocations within countries are also important factors, but the huge and increasing global inequality is the key reason millions of children are still working in child labour and dying from extreme poverty despite the world's wealth doubling in the last 20 years.¹⁷ The reality is that even if the governments of low-income countries allocated all their tax revenue to support children, it would not be enough for basic services. In this situation, the French government would have \$55,965 to spend per child, and the Madagascan government would have \$136 per child - more than 400 times less.¹⁸

ONGOING INTERNATIONAL INJUSTICES (2020-2021)

THE UNJUST AND UNEQUAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The world had a common enemy like never before in COVID-19, but instead of uniting humanity with our response, we left the most vulnerable to fend for themselves. The G7's 'global agenda for action' allocated \$12 trillion in response funding¹⁹ but just 0.13% went to multilateral funding to low-income countries.²⁰ Single industries received more COVID-19 support funding than all the low-income countries in Africa put together.²¹ We have seen record house prices and stock options driven by excessive stimulus in rich countries,²² while tens of millions more children are now in extreme poverty in Africa.²³

The allocation of vaccines has also been tremendously unequal. African countries request for the information to make their own vaccines have been denied and they have had to watch rich countries stockpile more vaccines than they need.²⁴ Vaccine apartheid²⁵ means African countries still don't have enough vaccines to protect even their doctors and nurses.²⁶ Italy has vaccinated more people than all of Sub-Saharan Africa put together.²⁷ Scientists pooled knowledge and rushed against time to discover a vaccine and then world leaders denied poorer countries access to it so a few companies could make a big profit.²⁸ The inequality in the response to COVID-19 has been immoral and inhumane.

DISCRIMINATORY SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS ALLOCATION

In August 2021, the IMF announced an historic development to address the global liquidity crisis due to COVID-19²⁹ which was particularly affecting poorer countries unable to do the quantitative easing undertaken by the US and EU central banks. The Special Drawing Rights (SDR) they issued should have been some rare, good news for children in low-income countries during the pandemic. However, instead of allocating this emergency global funding by each country's population or giving more to the poorer countries who couldn't do quantitative easing, it was decided to give most of it to rich countries. When you compare the SDR allocations by the number of children in each continent, it means they were worth over \$2,000 per European child and just \$60 per African child.³⁰ Even though the emergency use of SDRs was proposed as an initiative to help low-income countries, rich countries couldn't help using their disproportionate power to keep most of the funds for themselves. High income countries control 65% of the IMF's votes³¹ and all too often selectively enforce austerity on poorer countries. The UK and Belgium, despite having just 1% of the world's population,³² control more IMF votes than all 54 countries in Africa put together³³ (as they have since the IMF was founded in colonial times).³⁴

THE NEW GLOBAL TAX DEAL EXCLUDING AFRICAN DEMANDS

In April, US President Biden proposed a new initiative to introduce a fairer global tax system including moving "toward an end to profit shifting and offshoring".³⁵ It was a possible step towards tax justice for the low-income countries that lose so much under current international tax rules.

However, as predicted,³⁶ only a handful of low-income countries were included in the discussions and critical issues for developing countries were ignored. In the end, the world's major extractive companies were simply excluded³⁷ from the agreements. The OECD, which convenes and leads global tax negotiations, only has high- and upper-middle-income countries as members, with no African members at all.³⁸ Rich countries have again drawn up their own rules. Though Kenya and Nigeria and a majority of low-income countries haven't backed the deal,³⁹ it moves ahead bringing a fairer tax system for some, but not to those who needed it the most.

These three serious injustices are just a few of the most recent examples. They are part of a broader set of modern-day international exploitation and discrimination that perpetuates the extreme poverty and inequality that drives child labour.

Others include:

DEBT: Even before the pandemic 30 African countries spent more on debt than healthcare⁴⁰ despite average child mortality rates in Sub-Saharan Africa being almost twice as high today as the United States 70 years ago.⁴¹

TRADE: Africa's share of global trade since 1970 has actually fallen from 4.4% to 2.7%.⁴² Rich countries are preventing African countries from adopting the industrial policies they themselves used to broaden their exports and various import barriers in richer countries limit Africa's ability to move up value chains.

BROKEN ODA COMMITMENTS: The UN target for rich countries is to contribute just 0.7% of their wealth in ODA. In 50 years only six countries have achieved it.⁴³

ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS: Corrupt leaders that steal from their people are enabled to move their money into banks and houses in richer countries. In their report '*Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries*' the OECD acknowledge the "general consensus that illicit financial flows likely exceed aid flows and investment in volume".⁴⁴

INJUSTICES WITHIN AFRICA

The increase in inequality and child labour is also a result of discrimination, injustice, and lack of political goodwill in leadership within Africa.

Pre-existing inequalities within countries, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated economic crisis, are playing a crucial role in driving more children into child labour. Discriminatory national budgets, policies, and their selective implementation mean that members of ethnic and religious minority groups, rural communities, and children on the move are much more likely to be in extreme poverty and child labour.

INEQUALITY IN EDUCATION BUDGETS

Government spending on essential services such as social protection and education rarely benefits the poorest children at the same level as their wealthier peers. Resources and overall budgets remain too low to deliver the rights of every child, let alone to ensure equity for children in the poorest communities whose needs are too often deprioritised in favour of their less-marginalised peers. For example, a UNICEF analysis of education spending in 2015 found that, on average, 10% of education funding in low-income countries goes to the poorest children, while 38% goes to the richest.⁴⁵

The disparity of outcomes this causes within a country can be astonishing. In Nigeria, which currently has 10.1 million out-of-school children, 90% of the richest children complete secondary school, compared with only 15% from the poorest households.⁴⁶ Girls are more likely to drop out. Worldwide, only 50% of refugee children have access to primary education, and just 2% of humanitarian funding is allocated to education⁴⁷ even though refugee children are vulnerable to trafficking and child labour. When education financing discriminates against the poorest families, a critical route out of poverty and child labour is barricaded.

GOVERNMENT INACTION ON CHILD LABOUR

A number of countries, and the African Union, have a comprehensive action plan to eradicate child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery in Africa. The AU action plan requires that the Member States produce a report on Agenda 2063-SDG Target 8.7 every two years, providing information on the indicators. However, many countries place such a low priority on the needs of children trapped in child labour, that they have not yet produced a single report or implemented the measures in their own National Action Plans.

All too often this is compounded by a lack of effective welfare systems for poorer families and children. Without support, orphans and child-headed households are forced to fend for themselves and their siblings, leading to child labour and child malnutrition.

ESCALATING ARMED CONFLICT

In countries such as the Central African Republic, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Ethiopia, conflict is reversing hard-won gains in poverty reduction and child labour. While the majority of the world's weapons are made and exported by high income countries,⁴⁸ leaders in Africa need to take responsibility for the failure to agree and implement peacebuilding initiatives. Despite continental efforts led by the AU to '*Silence the Guns*' in Africa by 2020, this deadline passed with the majority of Member States failing to either honour their pledges or show the financial or political will to address drivers of conflict including extreme poverty.

From experiencing physical and mental harm, disruption to their education, fleeing their homes or being forced to participate in violence they had no part in creating, armed conflict too often impacts children the hardest. For example, there are an estimated 250,000 children forced into being child soldiers in Africa today, approximately the size of the armies of the UK and France put together.⁴⁹

CORRUPTION AND FAILED GOVERNANCE

Corruption and misspent or 'missing' government funds that benefit the elite are by no means unique to African countries; however, the impact of this systemic failure has far more devastating consequences when the majority of the population lives in poverty with no social protection coverage. Every year, an estimated \$88.6 billion leaves the continent as illicit capital flight,

this is almost half of the annual financing gap Africa faces to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.⁵⁰

Capital flight, combined with the off shoring of national assets, steals from the children of that country and is a criminal failure of leadership. This theft of funds for individual gain also erodes trust in the government and signals weak or 'buyable' leadership, undermining the belief in democracy and increasing instability.

SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR EVERY CHILD

The indefensible scale of these injustices is clear and present. Inequality between Africa and the rest of the world is growing. The share of aid going to Africa is falling.

The 10% of children in the world⁵¹ who are child labourers are more invisible than ever, mining the minerals for our screens but rarely on them.

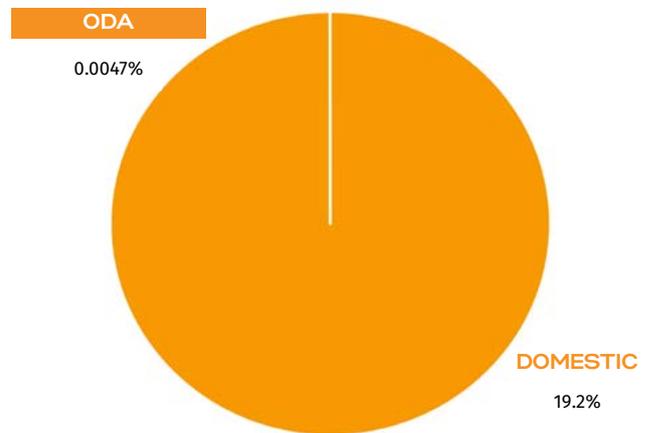
The results of this immorality are devastating. A recent report released by Laureates and Leaders for Children showed how more children have died from poverty since 1990 than all the military and civilian deaths in all the wars of the 20th century put together.⁵² This is our generation's responsibility.

The world's wealth has more than doubled in the last 20 years. How rich do we have to be before we will act? The discrimination, injustices, and indifference causing unnecessary child deaths, child labour and slavery, are happening now.

There is a powerful and proven solution: social protection. It eliminates extreme poverty and child labour. We know it works from countless examples such as Bolsa Familia in Brazil, midday meals in India, and cash transfers in Ghana and Uganda.⁵³ It has been used for many decades in richer countries and is the largest item of government expenditure in high-income countries. National social protection forms

40% of all government budgets in the EU (19.2% GNI), but support for social protection internationally is currently miniscule (0.0047% GNI).⁵⁴

GNI COMMITTED TO SOCIAL PROTECTION BY EU COUNTRIES - SPLIT BY DOMESTIC SOCIAL PROTECTION AND ODA TO SOCIAL PROTECTION



The globalisation of social protection is an historic idea whose time has come. Technology and the relative costs mean that social protection for all children in low-income countries worldwide is now possible. The financing gap to provide child and maternity benefits to every child and new mother in every low-income country is only \$52.9 billion⁵⁵ – the same as just two days of the COVID-19 pandemic support spending in G7 countries in 2020 or just 1.4% of the social protection expenditure in rich countries.⁵⁶ The results would be transformative. It would be a chance to truly realise the rights of every child and the commitment to leave no-one behind.

JUSTICE FOR AFRICA'S CHILDREN: OUR DEMANDS

WORLD LEADERS MUST:

1. Extend social protection to every child and pregnant woman in low-income countries with an annual allocation of \$52.9 billion and support the UN Secretary-General's global accelerator on social protection and retain emergency pandemic benefits until countries have fully recovered from COVID-19.
2. Ensure equitable distribution of government services and expenditures to poorer, rural, and marginalised communities; support peacebuilding; and hold corrupt leaders to account.
3. Ensure just representation of African countries in global decision-making including making the African Union a full G20 member.
4. Establish just tax and trade rules with African countries as equal partners and establish a legal framework for accountability against employment of children in global supply chains.
5. Meet the UN 0.7% ODA target and prioritise poorer countries, cancel debt for all low-income countries, and deliver equal allocations of SDR.
6. Urgently enact temporary waivers of vaccine intellectual property rights, raw material access, and provide 70% vaccinations in Africa in 2022.

ENDNOTES

1. p.8, Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward, ILO and UNICEF, 2021, https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_797515/lang--en/index.htm
2. p.74, Ibid & Global Estimates of Child Labour, ILO, 2016, https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575499.pdf
3. 16.6 million in four years averages 4.15million per year. This averages as 11,370 per day which averages as 474 every hour.
4. p.8 Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward, ILO and UNICEF, 2021, https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_797515/lang--en/index.htm
5. World Bank, dataset last accessed 2021, indicator NY.GDP.MKTP.CD shows Global GDP 75.027 trillion (2015) and 87.437 trillion (2019) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD> & global population (2019) indicator SP.POP.TOTL 7.67 billion which means average GDP growth per person of \$1617.99 per person <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD>
6. World Bank, dataset last accessed Dec 2021, NY.GDP.PCAP.CD GDP/capita \$40,444.07 in High Income Countries 2015 & GDP/capita \$45,406.63 in High Income Countries 2019 increasing by \$4,962.57 in 2015-2019 GDP/capita \$1,660.45 in Sub-Saharan Africa 2015 & GDP per capita \$1,600.88 in Sub-Saharan Africa 2019 decreasing by \$59.57
7. World Bank, dataset last accessed Dec 2021, NY.GDP.PCAP.CD

Sub-Saharan Africa GDP/capita 50 year increase (1970-2019)	High Income Country GDP/capita annual increase (Jan-Dec 2016)	High Income Country GDP/capita annual increase (Jan-Dec 2017)
\$1,383	\$1,634	\$2,478

8. World Bank, dataset last accessed Dec 2021, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/DT.ODA.ODAT.PC.ZS?locations=ZG>
9. World Bank, dataset last accessed Dec 2021, NY.GDP.PCAP.CD GDP/capita \$40,444.07 in High Income Countries 2015 & GDP/capita \$45,406.63 in High Income Countries 2019 increasing by \$4,962.57 in the 2015-2019 period or \$1,240.64 per year GDP/capita \$713.82 in Low Income Countries 2015 & GDP/capita \$688.28 in Low Income Countries 2019 decreasing by \$25.54 in the 2015-2019 period
10. Countries With The Most Natural Resources, Investopedia, Craig Anthony, April 2021 <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/markets-economy/090516/10-countries-most-natural-resources.asp>
11. Why Cobalt Mining in the DRC needs urgent attention, Council for Foreign Relations, October 2020, <https://www.cfr.org/blog/why-cobalt-mining-drc-needs-urgent-attention>
12. Top Copper Production by Country, Investingnews.com, Melissa Pistilli, Sep 2021 <https://investingnews.com/daily/resource-investing/base-metals-investing/copper-investing/copper-production-country/>

13. Gold mine production, World Gold Council, June 2021, <https://www.gold.org/goldhub/data/historical-mine-production>
14. Top 10 Diamond Producing Countries in the World 2020, BizVibe, 2020, <https://blog.bizvibe.com/blog/top-diamondproducing-countries>
15. Combination of two World Bank databases, last downloaded Dec 2021, GC.TAX.TOTL.GD.ZS & NY.GDP.PCAP.CD. 2019 Zambian Tax Revenue (% of GDP) 16.68%, GDP per Capita \$1305.00, Tax revenue per Capita \$217.64 2019 Mali Tax Revenue (% of GDP) 14.5%, GDP per Capita \$879.12, Tax revenue per Capita \$127.47 2018 Tanzanian Tax Revenue (% of GDP) 11.7%, GDP per Capita \$1042.84, Tax revenue per Capita \$121.96
16. Combination of two World Bank databases, last downloaded Dec 2021, GC.TAX.TOTL.GD.ZS & NY.GDP.MKTP.CD 2018 East and Southern Africa Tax Revenue (% of GDP) 19.35%, Total GDP \$980 billion, Total Tax revenue \$189 billion 2019 Netherlands Tax Revenue (% of GDP) 24.02%, Total GDP \$ 910 billion, total Tax revenue \$218 billion
17. World Bank database NY.GDP.PCAP.CD, last downloaded Dec 2021, GDP per Capita World 1999 - \$5,407, 2019 - \$10,814
18. Combination of three World Bank databases, NY.GDP.MKTP.CD, GC.TAX.TOTL.GD.ZS, SP.POP.0014.TO, last downloaded Dec 2021, (U15 total multiplied by 1.2 estimate to approximate U18) produces this table for 2019:

COUNTRY	GDP Total (a)	Tax Revenue % of GDP (b)	Population Under 18 (c)	Tax income per child (d) = (a) * (b) / (c)
France	\$2,728,870 million	24.55%	11,971,760	\$55,965.50
Madagascar	\$14,191 million	10.467%	10,886,657	\$136.45

19. 2021 G7 Leaders' communiqué: Our shared agenda for global action to build back better, G7, June 2021, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/13/2021-g7-leaders-communiqué/>
20. p.24, A Fair Share for Children: Preventing The Loss Of A Generation To Covid-19, Laureates and Leaders for Children, Sep 2020, https://www.laureatesandleaders.org/_files/ugd/811759_44700bb3bf134c7fa1e15adade4daa51.pdf
21. p.23, Ibid
22. The Stock Market Keeps Hitting New Record Highs, Time.com, Nov 2021, <https://time.com/nextadvisor/investing/sp500-dowrecord-breaking-days/> & House prices climb to record levels in US and Europe - US existing home prices jumped 23.6% year-on-year in May to an average of \$350,300, Financial Times, June 2021, <https://www.ft.com/content/3082fe00-cdb7-4eb9-ab2d2309b9848114>
23. World Bank's Response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in Africa, World Bank, April 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/factsheet/2020/06/02/world-banks-response-to-covid-19-coronavirus-in-africa>

24. Rich nations stockpiling a billion more COVID-19 shots than needed, Reuters, February 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/rich-nations-stockpiling-billion-more-covid-19-shots-than-needed-report-2021-02-19/>
25. World has entered stage of "vaccine apartheid" - WHO head, Reuters, May 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/world-has-entered-stage-vaccine-apartheid-who-head-2021-05-17/>
26. Only 1 in 4 African health workers fully vaccinated against COVID-19, World Health Organisation, November 2021, <https://www.afro.who.int/news/only-1-4-african-health-workers-fully-vaccinated-against-covid-19>
27. Only 2.5% of Africans are vaccinated against COVID-19, The long road ahead for COVID-19 vaccination in Africa, The Lancet, Sep 2021, [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)01967-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)01967-X/fulltext), population of Africa 1,387,042,047 as estimated on 14th Dec by <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/africa-population/> gives the vaccinated population Africa in Sep 2021 as approximately 35 million. On the 1st of September 36,959,487 people were fully vaccinated in Italy (<https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations?country=ITA>)
28. Pfizer, BioNTech and Moderna making \$1,000 profit every second while world's poorest countries remain largely unvaccinated, Reliefweb, Nov 2021, <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/pfizer-biontech-and-moderna-making-1000-profit-every-second-while-world-s-poorest>
29. "It will particularly help our most vulnerable countries struggling to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.", 2021 General SDR Allocation SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS, IMF, August 2021, <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/special-drawingright/2021-SDR-Allocation#:~:text=A%20general%20allocation%20of%20Special,Stability%20of%20the%20global%20economy>
30. Ibid (% of SDR allocation) & World Bank, (SP.POP.TOTL & 1.2* SP.POP.0014.TO.ZS) calculates SDR per child as: (% SDR Allocation per continent * Total SDR Allocation) / (Number of children per continent) =

	% of \$650 billion SDR Allocation	SDR Allocation per child
EUROPE (44 COUNTRIES)	32.5%	\$59.66
AFRICA (54 COUNTRIES)	5.2%	\$2043.64

31. 31 IMF, Dec 2021, <https://www.imf.org/en/About/executive-board/members-quotas> & World Bank categorisation of High-Income and Low-Income Countries, Dec 2021 <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups> shows 64.79% of the votes are controlled by High Income Countries
32. Population UK 67,215,293, Population Belgium 11,555,997, Population World 7,752,840,547 gives 1.02% of the world's population. Source: World Bank, SP.POP.TOTL (2020), last downloaded Dec 2021.

33. 2021 General SDR Allocation SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS, IMF, August 2021, <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/special-drawingright/2021-SDR-Allocation#:~:text=A%20general%20allocation%20of%20Special,stability%20of%20the%20global%20economy> & World Bank categorisation of High Income and Low Income Countries, Dec 2021 <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups> gives share of the IMF votes as: UK (4.03%), Belgium (1.3%) and adding all Sub-Saharan African countries together (4.84%)
34. For much of the IMF's history, votes were even more unfair with no votes at all for low-income countries.
35. p.13, Made In America Tax Plan, US Treasury, April 2021, https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/MadeInAmericaTaxPlan_Report.pdf
36. Biden's global tax plan could leave developing nations 'next to nothing', Financial Times, May 2021 <https://www.ft.com/content/9f8304c5-5aad-4064-9218-54070981fb4d>
37. "with the large exceptions of financial companies and 'extractives' such as oil companies", G20 Signs Off On 15% Global Minimum Corporate Tax—Here's How It Will Work, Forbes, July 2021, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/graionsdangor/2021/07/11/g20-signs-off-on-15-global-minimum-corporate-tax-heres-how-itwill-work/?sh=7899ac2d1c7e>
38. <https://www.oecd.org/about/>
39. "Why African nations doubt OECD tax plan", DW, Oct 2021, <https://www.dw.com/en/why-african-nations-doubt-oecd-taxplan/a-59653146>
40. "COVID-19 & African Debt: Further distress or the beginning of a new paradigm?" Mo Ibrahim Foundation, June 2020 <https://mo.ibrahim.foundation/sites/default/files/2020-06/debt-distress-covid19.pdf>
41. 40.11 child mortality rate per 1,000 live births in the US in 1950 <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1041693/united-statesall-time-child-mortality-rate/> & child mortality rate in low-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2019 75.8 per 1,000 live births
42. Opinion: Making the WTO work for Africa, African Business, Sep 2020, <https://african.business/2020/09/tradeinvestment/opinion-making-the-wto-work-for-africa/>
43. "Six countries (United Kingdom, Netherlands, Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway and Sweden) met the target of 0.7 per cent of donor GNI. Of the six countries that met the 0.7 target in 2015, the three Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway and Denmark) have a long history of providing high levels of ODA and have in fact met the target continuously since the 1970s, underwritten by a broad political consensus in support of generous development assistance. The Netherlands have also met the target since the 1970s, while Luxembourg and the United Kingdom have attained it since 2000 and 2013, respectively. Official Development Assistance, Inter Agency Task Force on Financing for Development Issue Brief Series, August 2016. The UK has since suspended its commitment to 0.7% during the COVID-19 pandemic.
44. 44 p.17, Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries, OECD, 2014, https://www.oecd.org/corruption/Illicit_Financial_Flows_from_Developing_Countries.pdf

45. p.5, Addressing the learning crisis: An urgent need to better finance education for the poorest children, UNICEF, 2020 <https://www.unicef.org/media/63896/file/Addressing-the-learning-crisis-advocacy-brief-2020.pdf>
46. p.8, Fighting Inequality in the time of COVID-19: The Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2020, Oxfam, <https://www.inequalityindex.org/#/>
47. p.6, End Discrimination, End Child Labour, 100 Million Campaign, June 2021, http://www.100million.org/images/files/REPORTS/100M_WDACL_EDECL_2021_EN.pdf
48. Trends In International Arms Transfers, 2020 , SIPRI, March 2021, https://sipri.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/fs_2103_at_2020.pdf
49. "Globally it is estimated that there are up to 250,000 child soldiers", Rise in children forced to join militias raises fresh fears over South Sudan, The Guardian, Sep 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/sep/18/rise-inrecruitment-of-child-soldiers-raises-fresh-fears-over-south-sudan> & 108,800 personnel in the British army <http://www.armedforces.co.uk/Europeandefence/edcountries/countryuk.htm#Summary> & 112,800 in the French army <http://www.armedforces.co.uk/Europeandefence/edcountries/countryfrance.htm>
50. Tackling illicit financial flows to secure Africa's future, curb conflict, Africa Renewal, Feb 2021, <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/february-2021/tackling-illicit-financial-flows-secure-africas-future-curbconflict#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20UN%20Conference,the%20continent's%20gross%20domestic%20product> &
51. "160 million children – 63 million girls and 97 million boys – were in child labour globally at the beginning of 2020, accounting for almost 1 in 10 of all children worldwide", p.5, Executive Summary, Child Labour Global Estimates 2020, Trends and the Road Forward, ILO June 2021, https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipecc/documents/publication/wcms_800278.pdf
52. p.19, A Fair Share to End Child Labour: Universal Social Protection for Children in Low-Income Countries, Laureates and Leaders for Children, Sep 2021, https://www.laureatesandleaders.org/_files/ugd/811759_806e57eb7d294879a80ff68cae9b9782.pdf
53. p.9, Ibid
54. p.15, Ibid
55. p.12, Ibid
56. p.14 & p.16 Ibid