

**SAFE** **CHILD RIGHTS**  
**LIVEABLE CITIES**  
**ACTION** **ACTIVE MOBILITY**  
**SPEED VACCINE** **GREEN**  
**INJURIES** **VISION ZERO** **EDUCATION** **PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE**  
**POVERTY** **ADOLESCENT HEALTH**  
**PREVENTING ROAD TRAFFIC INJURIES**  
**EVERY JOURNEY.**  
**EVERY CHILD.**  
**SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
**SCHOOL** **SAFE ENVIRONMENT**  
**IMPROVING AIR QUALITY**  
**HEALTHY** **BREATHE LIFE** **CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**STREETS**

DECLARATION OF  
**EVERY CHILD'S RIGHT TO**  
**SAFE & HEALTHY STREETS**

**#EVERYLIFE**

# DECLARATION OF EVERY CHILD'S RIGHT TO SAFE & HEALTHY STREETS

**Every child has the right to health and a safe environment, including the right to protection from air pollution and traffic danger.**

Yet every day around the world at least 3000 children are killed or seriously injured by road traffic. For adolescents, road traffic injuries are now the leading global cause of death.<sup>1</sup>

300 million children live with dangerously toxic levels of air pollution, to which road traffic is a significant contributor. Two billion children are living in urban areas which breach WHO air quality guidelines.<sup>2</sup> As a consequence, many will suffer long term health effects including asthma and heart disease.

This must be a new priority for child rights, equity and social justice. It is the poorest children and communities who live alongside the busiest and most dangerous roads, breathing the most toxic air.

The international community must intervene to tackle these emerging public health epidemics.

A legal mandate for action is provided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.<sup>3</sup>

The global policy framework includes specific targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals addressing road safety, air quality, liveable cities and non-communicable diseases<sup>4</sup>; and an explicit demand, in the Habitat III New Urban Agenda, for 'a safe & healthy journey to school for every child as a priority'.<sup>5</sup>

An ethical policy dimension for prioritising children is provided by Sweden's 'Vision Zero' philosophy, now being adopted and adapted in cities across the world, with its recognition that 'children have special rights within the society and therefore also in the road transport system...Children have to rely on adults and the society for their protection at all times'.<sup>6</sup>

To support and spur practical delivery of this child rights agenda by governments and cities, we the undersigned adopt and pledge to campaign for the realisation of the following principles in the Declaration of Every Child's Right to Safe & Healthy Streets:

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization <sup>2</sup> UNICEF Clear the Air for Children, 2016 <sup>3</sup> The Convention on the rights of the child, United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/25 of Nov 20 1989, in specific article 3, 6, 19 and 24. <sup>4</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

<sup>5</sup> <http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda> <sup>6</sup> The Tylosand Declaration, 2007, describes principal rights of citizens' road traffic safety under Vision Zero [https://www.unicef.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/roadsafe/unda/Sweden\\_Tylosand\\_Declaration.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/roadsafe/unda/Sweden_Tylosand_Declaration.pdf)

EVERY JOURNEY.  
EVERY CHILD.

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## ARTICLES

1

**Every child has the right to use roads and streets without threat to life or health.** We call for action to ensure every child has a safe and healthy journey to school by 2030.

2

**Every child has the right to breathe clean air,** which at minimum meets WHO guidelines. We support the 'Breathe Life' campaign to achieve safe air quality levels by 2030.

3

**Every child has the right to an education, without risk of injury.** Safe and healthy journeys to school are a litmus test for a city's wider approach to environmental sustainability, human development and social justice.

4

**Every child has the right to explore their world in safety.** Healthy streets - prioritising people, not cars - encourage walking, cycling, outdoor play and regular exercise; and are vital for tackling climate change, improving air quality, preventing road traffic injuries and reducing non-communicable diseases.

5

**Every child has the right to protection from violence,** intended or unintended. Reducing urban traffic speeds to levels proven safe for children is a Speed Vaccine, the essential foundation of a 'safe system', and must be deployed as a priority action for child and adolescent health.

6

**Every child has the right to be heard.** We commit to ensuring that the voices of children, demanding their basic right to a safe environment, echo across the world. Leaders at the highest level must now listen, and act: for every child, on every journey. For every life.



**“THERE CAN BE NO KEENER REVELATION OF A SOCIETY’S SOUL THAN THE WAY IN WHICH IT TREATS ITS CHILDREN.” NELSON MANDELA**



A schoolboy halts traffic in Dar Es Salaam to protest an injury to a fellow student.

**EVERY JOURNEY.  
EVERY CHILD.**

**#EVERYLIFE**



**CHILD HEALTH  
INITIATIVE**



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

For more information:

[www.everylife.org](http://www.everylife.org)



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