

**2<sup>nd</sup> Children's World Congress on Child Labour and Education**  
**4 - 8 September 2005, New Delhi, India**  
**Children's Declaration (précis): We are the Present, Our Voice Is the Future**

As heads of state prepared to meet in New York for the UN Summit to review progress on the Millennium Development Goals, in New Delhi, child delegates from around the world, most former child labourers, have agreed a declaration placing key demands on their governments and the international community and placing **peace, elimination of child labour, universal education and poverty elimination and decent work for adults as the key interlinking priorities.**

After four days of discussions on the urgent need to eliminate child labour – in which 246 million children worldwide are presently engaged - and provide universal education, and exchanging their own experience of exploitation, abuse and denial of education, **we, the children,** made the following key conclusions:

Child labour exists in all continents and some 180 million toil in its worst forms: bonded labour, sexual exploitation, drug trafficking, armed conflict and a wide range of work which injures their mental and physical health. Effective action, especially against trafficking, is urgently required.

Most child labourers are denied access to education. Governments must provide compulsory, quality, formal and full time education, free of cost for all children, regardless of gender, race, religion, caste, ethnic or national origin or citizenship, economic status, language or disability.

Children's participation at all levels must be ensured.

The rights of adult workers to organise in free trade unions and bargain collectively are essential in the fight against poverty.

- **We, the children, declare our commitment:**
- To spread awareness about child labour in our communities and villages;
- To work to establish a national children's parliament in every country, which should elect a representative to national government and met at regional and international levels.
- To establish an international network to exchange information, educate us about child labour, and publicise governments' failure to fulfill their promises. That network should met regularly.
- We will use the performing arts to spread our message.
- We will use the media, demand it covers child labour issues more, and create our own media to express our opinions

**We promise to continue to take action to eliminate child labour and make a better world for children. Now we ask all of you to join us, because only together can we truly achieve freedom for all. In this friendship, we will create a healthy and peaceful world for all.**