Bogotá to Manila: Young People's Perspectives on Ending Violence Against Children

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | STATE OF YOUTH CIVIL SOCIETY REPORT 2026

In November 2024, governments at the first Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children in Bogotá made 411 pledges, from 112 countries.

At the Second Global Ministerial Conference in Manila, the State of Youth Civil Society Report 2026 asks whether those pledges are reaching the children and young people they were made for.

Eight young researchers in Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Nigeria, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe tested the pledges against lived experience through 26 focus group discussions, 35 key informant interviews, three mapping exercises and a case study. Their findings sit alongside listening exercises held in 2025 with 96 young people in Uganda, Kenya, Peru and at an Asia-Pacific youth summit in Philippines, existing studies of the cost of violence, and the University of Oxford's analysis of government pledges.





Two partner contributions add further youth-generated evidence: the Migration Youth & Children Platform (MYCP) Global Youth Consultation, on children affected by migration and displacement; and The Shift's research with students at the University of Manchester, UK on sexual violence in higher education.

RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT

Key findings



1. Pledges need clearer and more measurable commitments.
2. Young researchers reported a lack of progress.
3. Pledges are unknown to the young people they seek to serve.
4. Silence becomes a response to systems that fail.
5. Violence is costly – prevention pays, but few countries have counted.
6. Child marriage and faith norms need specific asks.
7. Young people are carrying costs that governments have not budgeted for.
8. Evidence from partners points the same way.





Read the Full Report Here