

Script

In the run-up to 20 November 2009, the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF is featuring a series of stories about this landmark international agreement on the basic human rights of all children—including progress made and challenges that remain. Here is one of those stories.

STORYLINE:

Actress Lucy Liu and former child soldier Grace Akalla joined UNICEF Executive Director Ann M Veneman to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of a landmark achievement—the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This year UNICEF has dedicated its flagship publication, the State of the World’s Children to the achievements of the Convention, the most ratified human rights treaty in history.

SOT Ann M. Veneman
UNICEF Executive Director (English)

” There are some remarkable achievements including a 28 per cent reduction in the annual rate of deaths of children under the age of five deaths since 1990. Advances have also been made in expanding access to HIV prevention and treatment enhancing access to improved water sources and increasing primary school enrolment.”

However Ms Veneman said the convention stands at a pivotal moment and The gains of the last twenty years should not obscure the work that remains to be done for children deprived of even the most basic rights.

SOT Ann M. Veneman
UNICEF Executive Director

An estimated one billion children are deprived of one or more services essential to survival and development. On average around twenty four thousand children under the age of five die every day from preventable causes such as pneumonia diarrhea and malaria. Nearly 200 million children are chronically malnourished.”

Shotlist

1. GVS UNICEF press conference,
2. SOT ANN M. VENEMAN
UNICEF Executive Director (English)
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5. GVS press conference
6. SOT GRACE AKALLO
Former Child Soldier (English)
“I can say this to you with complete conviction that exploitation of children is not simply a breach of an international treaty. It is pain, suffering and confusion and damage. It’s hope lost and hope betrayed.”
7. GVS press conference
8. SOT LUCY LIU
9. UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador (English)
10. “My hope is that together we will take a step to strengthen the protection against every threat to their childhood. It’s not merely the right thing to do, it’s the only thing to do, if our future on this planet as a human family is to hold any promise at all.”
11. GVS press conference

Grace Akallo, who was forced to become a child soldier at fifteen, called for more protection for children trapped in conflict.

SOT Grace Akallo

Former Child Soldier (English)

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UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Lucy Liu said the anniversary was an urgent reminder to place children’s rights at the heart of human development.

SOT Lucy Liu

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador (English)

“My hope is that together we will take a step to strengthen the protection against every threat to their childhood. It’s not merely the right thing to do, it’s the only thing to do, if our future on this planet as a human family is to hold any promise at all.”

Ms Veneman said the challenge of the next twenty years is to firmly put the rights of children at the centre of all human activity.

2.36

Script

Same as above

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