



Ballot box made of ice



Vote-counters

## For My Voice and your Round the Globe event, you will need to:

**1**

### Write speeches and poems

About what changes you want to see to ensure greater respect for children's rights.

**2**

### Make signs and banners

Get hold of pieces of card (e.g. sides of boxes), large sheets of paper, light-coloured fabric, paint/pens and sticks. Plan your slogans for the changes you want to see. Remember that your words must be visible from a distance. Full sentences don't work well. For instance, writing 'All girls in school' or 'No child marriage' is enough, and can be written in large letters.

**3**

### Plan a meeting place

Where do you plan to meet after your Global Vote to show your signs, give speeches and perhaps perform songs and dances to celebrate children's rights?

**4**

### Prepare for your Round the Globe event

What route will you take for your 3-kilometre walk with signs and banners? Perhaps to the most important buildings in your town so that as many people as possible will see you? In many countries, the police secure the route for the children's Round the Globe walk.

**6**

### Appoint voting officials

The following are needed, but you can also take turns:

- Voting officers, who mark off the voting register and hand out ballot papers.
- Voting supervisors, who make sure that everything is being done properly.
- Vote-counters, who count the votes for each Child Rights Hero.



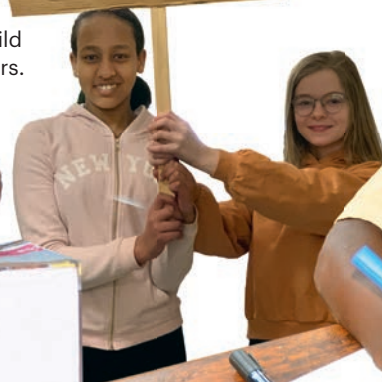
No to girls being taken out of school.



No to poverty.



No child soldiers.







**1** The voting queue in Burkina Faso

# Global Vote

Changemaker Day begins with the children’s democratic Global Vote, but some schools start the day with singing and dancing, perhaps even a speech, to celebrate children’s rights and to launch their school’s Changemaker Day. To date, almost 46 million children have voted to choose their favourite Child Rights Hero.

**2** Signing the voting register



**3** You receive your ballot paper here



**4** Go to the voting booth and mark your choice on the ballot paper

**5** Time to vote in Togo



Marking to prevent cheating



**6**

## Voting for the first time

“I had heard about children’s rights on the radio, but now I understand them better, especially that girls’ rights are the same as we boys’ rights. When I read The Globe, I discovered people who fight for respect for children’s rights. Changemaker Day went well at my school. We had both a Global Vote and a Round the Globe walk. I got to vote for the first time in my life.”

Prince, 12, Kèrè School, Benin

## Pleased to vote

“I was very pleased to be able to take part in the democratic Global Vote. I wish that our parents would also read The Globe so that they understand children’s rights. WCP taught me about my rights, and the Global Vote allowed me to exercise them to choose my Child Rights Hero.”

Chenai, 15, Rutendo, Zimbabwe



© IMAGES 2, 3, 4 AND 6 ARE FROM ZINVIÉ SCHOOL IN BENIN





## The Global Vote gives me hope

"The Global Vote gives me hope that my rights will be defended. For a long time children's rights have been violated because we didn't know about them. WCP has taught us about our rights and allows us to exercise our democratic rights, so that we can use them in the future."

Selina, 11, Kagande, Zimbabwe

## Democracy is important

"Democracy is important, and as Child Rights Ambassadors it is our mission to encourage other children to use their democratic rights, just like we did today, and also to increase knowledge in our communities about what democracy is and how important it is."

Ngoni, 17, Mbare, Zimbabwe

## Should get to vote about everything that concerns us

"It was the first time that I took part in a vote. I think that we children should regularly get to participate in choices that affect us. It is our right to be heard in matters that concern us."

Danile, 11, Bunia, DR Congo

## The government can learn something

"The Global Vote is a genuine democratic voting process, which we children are proud to participate in. Our parents and our government need to learn how we children with different backgrounds come together and prepare for voting without cheating, violence, vote buying and vote theft!"

Paul, 12, Ogori, Nigeria

## Making our own decisions

"No one tries to influence us about who we should vote for, so the vote is fair. We make our decisions ourselves. We children organise the vote, and being part of it feels fantastic."

Davida, 13, Makeni, Sierra Leone



**7**

**Counting the votes**  
at Kèrè School, Benin



## Our voices are heard through the Global Vote

"We have learned from the World's Children's Prize program about some amazing people in the world who make sure that children's rights are respected. Above all, we have understood that everyone must be treated the same. We have talked a lot about the right of all children to go to school and that there are many children in the world who dream of being able to go to school. With the WCP program, we feel that we can get involved and change the world and make our voices heard in the Global Vote."

"We have gained knowledge that makes us realise how serious climate change is and that we must act now!! We want to feel proud when facing the future generation and that they understand that we fought to take care of the planet."

Ottilia, Eija, Ingrid, Lisa & Liv, 11, Ålstensskolan School, Sweden



# Soldiers prevent Global Vote

For many years, children from the Karen region of Burma, the country also known as Myanmar, have learned about their rights and democracy through the WCP program. When Burma was previously an oppressive military dictatorship, Karen children still held their own democratic Global Vote every year. Burma is now once again a military dictatorship. Some of the Karen children's schools have been bombed and destroyed or burned down by soldiers, and it is uncertain whether these children will be able to take part in the Global Vote this year.

## My first Global Vote

"I live with my grandfather, as my dad died when he stepped on an army land mine. It takes me an hour to walk to school. I had just taken part in the WCP program and the Global Vote for the first time. By reading The Globe I learned about children's rights, about the fact that all children have the right



to go to school and to get to play and not be forced to be in the army.

"One day my grandfather saw that the bombers were near. Several minutes later loud explosions could be heard, so we all ran out to the forest and looked for the cave. We didn't have time to bring blankets or clothing with us.

"I don't understand why the Burmese army is attacking us. We are just villagers who live in our own place and are no threat to them."

Saw Ywa, 12



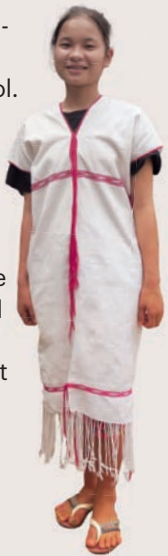
## My school was bombed

"I walk 45 minutes to get to school. I joined the WCP program when I was 10 years old. By reading The Globe I learned about children's rights and that girls have the same rights as boys. Before this I had no idea about my rights, but now I know how to make sure they are respected.

"When the Burmese army attacked our villages, I ran out into the forest. We only had a little rice and vegetable

soup to eat. The military bombed and destroyed my school. We had school outdoors in the jungle. I stayed in the forest for two months. I still can't study in peace and quiet. We have to be prepared for the bombers attacking us again at any time."

Naw Sha, 15



## Afraid of snakes and bombs

"My village is high up on a mountain, not far from one of the military camps. I was participating in the WCP program and used to walk to Wai Nor Dern School, where several schools had got together to hold their Global Vote. I learned a lot about children's rights, especially girls' rights. I know that children have the right to go to school and not be forced to be soldiers.

"The planes first came over early in the evening, then three more times during the night. They passed close to our homes and dropped bombs every time. Everyone in the village ran to the large cave. The children were screaming and crying. I was afraid of the planes, but also of the snakes and insects in the cave, where I slept on the ground with no blanket."

Naw Lah, 12



Children from several Karen schools usually gather here for their Global Vote, but this year the soldiers and bombers may prevent the children from being part of the 20th Global Vote.







At the jungle school, their 'blackboard' is green and is made from large leaves. Here the children are learning the days of the week in English, but that means they also need to learn a different alphabet.



View the film of the Global Vote in Burma at: [worldschildrensprize.org/video-collection](http://worldschildrensprize.org/video-collection)

Protective trenches have been dug in the forest for the children to jump down into if the bombers come. But they have to be careful, as there may be snakes.



# My Voice for Change

With their signs *against* child marriage and violence against children, and *for* the right of girls to go to school, equal rights for all children and the fight to combat climate change, children in many schools and countries make their voices heard after their Global Vote. They want to see change, so that children's rights are better respected. The children give speeches to one another, to parents and politicians, and are sometimes interviewed by journalists. They will shortly leave the school yard, with their signs in hand, to conclude their Changemaker Day with *Round the Globe for Rights and Change ...*





# Round the Globe for Rights



Students from Hubert Maga School in Parakou, Benin walked and danced their three kilometres accompanied by trumpets, drums and singing, with their signs demanding respect for various children's rights, including equal rights for girls.



'All girls in school.'

Students in Parakou in Benin alternate between walking and dancing as they take part in the *Round the Globe for Rights and Change* event. Trumpets, drums and singing make it a fun three-kilometre walk for them.

"Children's rights are not respected in Benin. I had a friend in the sixth class. She was barely thirteen years old when her parents said that she should get married because they could not afford to keep her. Our signs show that equality between girls and boys is not respected," says François-Xavier, 16.

To date, 1.6 million children at 5,455 schools in 20 countries have covered almost 5 million kilometres as part of the Round the Globe event, or more than 121 laps around the globe.

The Round the Globe event is the conclusion to Changemaker Day and demonstrates that children are serious about wanting to see increased respect for children's rights. And together they are spreading the message in their village or town and around the globe.





# and Change



Students from Massi-Zogbodomé School in Benin walk their three kilometres with posters and signs demanding increased respect for children's rights.



When the students from Hurungwe School in Zimbabwe complete their Round the Globe walk they go on main roads. So they asked the local police for assistance, and he stops all vehicles and makes them drive past slowly.



PHOTO: DARINPIX & MAGNUS BERGMAR



# Changemaker Mission

Everyone involved in the WCP program can be a changemaker and spread the message about children's rights and equal rights for girls! Sometimes it can feel better if you can join with a group of friends and help one another.

Over 20 years of the WCP program 46 million children have learned about their rights. More than half a million teachers have learned how to teach about children's rights. Almost all these children and teachers have told their families, friends, neighbours and others in their villages and neighbourhoods

that children's rights exist and that they must be respected. Collectively they've been a huge force for change, reaching over half a billion people. And it just keeps spreading and reaching more and more people!

**Mission:  
rights**





## Start with your friend



Anyone can tell their friends about children's rights, like this girl in Nepal. You can also accompany your friends to their homes and help them tell their families about children's rights and that the equal rights of girls must always be respected.



## Become a Child Rights Ambassador

From 1 July, there will be a course for anyone who wants to become a Child Rights Ambassador at [worldschildrensprize.org/cra](http://worldschildrensprize.org/cra)



## Family and neighbours

This girl in Mozambique is reading aloud from *The Globe* to her grandmother, siblings and neighbouring children. Many girls have reported how their fathers changed their attitude after having read *The Globe* and allowed them to continue in school.

## Start a Child Rights Club

If you are a group of friends who believe that children's rights are important, you can set up a Child Rights Club. You can then learn more together and plan how you can help other friends who have issues at home and girls who have been forced to leave school. Children have the right to make their voices heard about important issues, and together we can have the courage to do this!



## Tell local leaders

Hassan and Kim in Zimbabwe invited leaders from several villages in order to tell them about children's rights and the fact that girls and boys have equal rights. Leaders who support children's rights and equal rights for girls are important changemakers.







## Visit authorities

Together we can have the courage to do more. Girls from a number of schools in Mozambique got together and requested a meeting with the school authorities. They reported that it was common for teachers to demand sex in return for giving girls pass marks so they could go up to the next class, and they demanded that this must be stopped. Their schools are now abuse-free!



## ↑ Discuss things with the police

The police are always required to accept reports of serious violations of children's rights. Not all police know that children's rights exist and that their country has promised to respect them. You can teach them, like this girl in Mozambique is doing here.



## Child Rights Ambassadors in Vietnam

In Hanoi in Vietnam, nine teenagers have set up a Child Rights Club and trained as Child Rights Ambassadors with the help of The Globe and the WCP website. They then spread knowledge about children's rights to their families, their local neighbourhood and in school, as well as on social media.



## Contact journalists

You can ask journalists to report about children's rights and about common violations of these where you live. Suggest that they interview you and your friends. Child Rights Ambassadors Tatiana and Marie-Jurince were interviewed on Royal TV in Benin:



**Marie-Jurince:** "I learned that we cannot violate children's rights, particularly girls' rights. We have to make sure that children develop and get a good school education. And in order to reach those who violate children's rights, I ask that all of us raise awareness among the older people and mobilise our friends for a better world."

**Tatiana:** "When you are a Child Rights Ambassador, you have to fight and teach others what you have learnt about children's rights, and talk to the elders in your area about allowing girls to go to school."





# GANG

What a gang  
for girls' rights and  
against corporal  
punishment



These girls meet regularly at school and after church on Sunday to talk about child rights and what to do. They are **GANG**, Girls of an Active New Generation. They are WCP Child Rights Ambassadors in a very violent suburb in South Africa called Bonteheuwel. There are many gangs involved in drugs and shootings. Thousands of people have been killed, many of them innocent children, who were struck by stray bullets.



Ashlyn, Taylor, Zoe, Tasneem and Bianca are half of the ten-strong GANG of girls.

## Girls can support girls

“I am a Child Rights Ambassador and I have the responsibility to use my voice to tell my friends what they can do if an adult hurts them in any way. We are ten girls at our school who are ambassadors. We call ourselves the **GANG**, meaning the ‘Girls of an Active New Generation’.

“Girls can report to us if they think their rights have been violated and we will act by going with them to the Human Rights Commission in our area. Sometimes it does

not help to tell the police, even though the law says they must investigate any case of child abuse that is reported to them. If they do not want to do this, they are breaking the law. We are lucky to have a principal who is kind to us and encourages our work as ambassadors in our school.”

### Support people in trouble

“In Bonteheuwel, we have a lot of unemployed people who resort to drugs and alcohol to ease their pain. That is why we have so many violent

gangs. I can relate to this because I grew up with my older sister who took to alcohol since she was in high school and I was a little girl. We live with my mother and things are often very hard, with not enough to eat or to buy medicine.

“But I am my sister’s keeper. We have shared a room for as long as I can remember, and I love her. I don’t want to lose her. We talk about her problems and then she promises to stop. She tries and tries, but she can’t.

“I love my sister for who she is, despite the bad things other people say about her. I think it is because of my sister that I see it as my duty to support people who are in trouble.”

### I support girls

“I believe that Girls can support Girls. As a WCP Child Rights Ambassador, I want to be there for those girls who have no one to talk to about how their rights are abused here in Bonteheuwel.”

Zoe, 17



GANG meeting.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN THE UN CONVENTION

**ARTICLE 19.** You have the right to protection from all forms of violence, neglect, abuse and mistreatment. You should not be exploited by your parents or other guardians.

**ARTICLE 28.** You have the right to learn and develop in school, and should not be violently punished by a teacher or other adult.

**ARTICLE 37.** No one should punish you in a cruel and harmful way.





# Preparing for Changemaker Day

Global Vote • My Voice for Change • Round the Globe for Rights and Change

It's now time to make sure all the necessary preparations have been made for Changemaker Day. For the *Global Vote*, you will need to make a voting register, ballot boxes and a voting booth, among other things, and for *My Voice* and *Round the Globe for Rights and Change*, speeches must be written and signs made. However, start by inviting your families, local media and politicians well in advance to your Changemaker Day...



## For the Global Vote, you need:

- 1 A voting register**  
Everyone with the right to vote must be on the register and be ticked off once they receive their ballot paper.
- 2 Ballot boxes**  
All ideas are allowed. Ballot boxes can be anything from empty jars, cardboard boxes and pots with WCP decoration to creative ballot boxes like houses and boats.
- 3 Voting booth**  
WCP voting booths tend to be creative, made from corn stalks, bamboo canes or fabric, for example. Some groups borrow voting booths from adult elections. The important thing is to ensure secrecy so no one can see how you vote.
- 4 Ballot papers**  
The ballot papers need to be cut to size. It is important that all three Child Rights Heroes are on the same ballot paper!
- 5 No cheating!**  
Mark those who have voted using felt pen, ink or something else that will not wash off easily. So no one can vote twice.





## Girls in The Globe make us stronger

“As a Child Rights Ambassador, I care about the rights of the child, especially girls. In my community it is not easy to be a teenage girl, because you are not safe even to walk to the corner shop, church or even school because you are afraid of being robbed or molested. It saddens me to notice how girls do not know the rights they have.

“There is a young girl who lives in my street by the name of Keila. She is twelve years old and her mother’s oldest child. Keila has a special place in my heart because I see the emotional abuse she must go through because of alcohol. Her mom spends most of her pay cheque on buying alcohol. Keila must buy food and bread on credit at the corner shop, because she does not have money

to buy what she needs. My mother has now taken Keila in as her ‘soup kitchen child’, meaning that every day Keila comes to our house to fetch her breakfast and lunch.

“These are the things I see and experience in my ghetto community. Being a Child Rights Ambassador and a member of the GANG has made me stronger because I can talk to my peers about their rights and help them in the small ways that I can. When we read The Globe, we also see that other girls are suffering even worse than we are. We read what girls do about it and that makes us stronger.”

Ashlyn, 17



Many teachers hit students with a steel ruler or other objects.

The homes are very crowded together in Bonteheuwel, and many residents are poor.



Ashlyn

Taylor

### Hitting my friend

“Some men steal girls, take them away and beat them up. I do not go walking alone in the street. As a WCP Child Rights Ambassador, I want to use my voice to explain children’s rights to adults. When I grow up, I dream of being a teacher so I can teach kids how to stand up for themselves.

“I have a friend whose father died. Her mom remarried and she was not happy with the new stepfather. When her mom got married to that man, some time passed, and then that man started hitting her mom.”

#### Saved by her mom

“When the man was drunk, he hit her and her mom. This one day the man wanted to rape my friend, but her mom pushed the man away from her so that she could have time to run away.

“After a day, she came back to the house, but that man had hit her mother and stabbed her to death. My friend knew that her mother had protected her so that she could live. The man is now in jail and my friend lives with her auntie. She has come to join us at GANG so that she can also be a part of us girls who support girls.”

Tasneem, 15







Zoe

Tasneem

Bianca



## Listen and talk to us

“As a Child Rights Ambassador, you get to witness lots of kids and adults who do not really know what children’s rights are. Therefore, I share my knowledge of children’s rights with people around me.

“For example, I know now that teachers are not allowed to hit us, because it is against the law that protects children. So, when our Sir hit my classmate for coming late, I stood up and told him it was illegal. Then Sir tried to hit me, but I ran out of the door. My friend followed me, and we went to a teacher for help. She came back to our classroom and explained to our Sir that it was illegal to hit a child. Sir was blood red in his face.

“Children have rights and that means that if you are late, your Sir must take a moment to ask you why and listen to your answer. Adults must allow children to speak and listen to them. That is what adults have to learn, to listen and talk to us, instead of hitting and shouting.”

Bianca, 17

## Change and dream big

“When someone hears the word GANG in our community, they think of people that are dealing in drugs and doing violence. When someone sees a gang, they must be aware and avoid them so that they won’t get hurt, and always be on the alert.

“Now, when people hear the word GANG, they should think of the Girls of an Active New Generation. Our GANG

won’t hurt or harm you in any way, but will protect you and make you feel safe. You can speak about the struggles you have to us, or a struggle that someone else you know is facing and is too scared to talk about or has no one to trust. Our GANG helps to make you aware of your rights and what you can do to protect yourself.

“Our teacher allows us to put up posters about GANG

in the library, so all the students can read about us.

We say:

- Dream big. Don’t let alcohol and violence stop your dreams.
- Aim high. Don’t believe others who tell you that you are not worthy.
- Make a difference. Join GANG and help other girls.
- Change. We are change-makers and you can be one too.”

Taylor, 16



## CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Corporal punishment is an act of violence against a child, that causes pain or discomfort. It includes slapping with an open hand, hitting with a fist or spanking, caning with a rod, stick, ruler or other object, pinching, ear-twisting or pulling the child. It also includes forcing children to eat things like chillies or washing the

inside of their mouths with soap.

Corporal punishment has been banned in South African schools since 2007, but is still widely practised by many teachers. An inquiry revealed that at least one million children experienced corporal punishment at schools during 2019.

When a teacher hurts a child, it should be reported to the

principal, but if he does not cooperate, it should be reported at a police station and the Department of Education’s nearest district office. They are required by law to launch a full investigation into the case.

Some parents believe that they are disciplining their children by hitting them. Perhaps their own parents beat them

when they were children, because they never learnt how to teach discipline to their children without violence. Corporal punishment teaches children to solve problems with violence and can lead to becoming bullies themselves.



# Apologised for doing right

“ I have lived with my aunty since I was twelve, because it was at that age that things got rough for me. My mother and father were both jobless and had no income. Some nights we had to go to sleep hungry and wait until after school the next day for something to eat, whether it was porridge, bread or whatever was available, and it had to be enough for me and my siblings.

“One evening gunshots went off in the street. We crawled under the bed, because my aunty said that the shots could fly through the window and hit us. The next day I got into an argument with my teacher at school because I was disturbed and could not concentrate. I kept on crying, even though I did my best to keep back my tears. He said that the classroom was no



place to discuss gangsters and that we should work. I told him that he did not respect me and then he threw the chalkboard duster at me. It hit my head.”

## Forced to apologise

“I was so upset about all this violence in Bonteheuwel. Why did my teacher get so aggressive? That afternoon I told my aunty what had happened. She went to the principal the next day to complain and to tell him that hitting a child was illegal. And that it is forbidden by our country’s children’s rights laws. Then the principal got into an argument with her and asked her if there were any eyewitnesses. My school friends were too scared to speak up against the teacher. I did not blame them because there are many things adults can do to hurt children.



## Blackboard eraser

This was what Jody’s teacher threw at her head.



**My voice for rights**

“I was forced to apologise to the teacher or be expelled from school. I did not want to be expelled from school, so I apologised. In my head I said to myself that I was saying sorry for doing the right thing.”

## My voice for rights

“I know my rights. As a Child Rights Ambassador, I am committed to using my voice

and my story to stop violence against children and adults. One day, if God helps me, I want to study law so that I can take legal action against people who hurt children. I want to be a child rights advocate.”

Jody, 16



Jody and her siblings live with their aunt.





# Make your voices heard!

Kim and Hassan spoke to Zimbabwe TV's ZBC News, describing to viewers the changes they want to see for girls' rights and the climate.

Would you and your friends like to get involved in sharing knowledge about the rights of the child? Make your voice heard through the media. Raising awareness puts pressure on those in power, and makes them think more about children when they're making decisions.

Every year, when millions of children's votes have been counted in the Global Vote, the children organize their own World's Children's Press Conference on the same day, across the globe. They demand respect for children's rights and reveal which of the nominees has received the most votes and is the recipient of *The World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child*, and which two will receive the *World's Children's Honorary Award*. Only children can speak and be interviewed by journalists during the press conferences. Interested in getting involved?

**This is what you do:** Tell the WCP contact in your country that you want to hold a Children's Press Conference. Are there several schools in your area? Hold a joint press conference with one representative from each school on stage.

**Good venue** If possible, choose the most important building in your area for your press conference to show that the rights of the child are important! Holding it at your school is fine too. The 2023 press conferences will be held at the WCP Ceremony Day in October. The exact date will be published on the WCP website.

**Invite the media** Allow plenty of time to contact your local media. You might need to nag them a bit. Phone, email and send text messages to newspaper offices and individual journalists. Unfortunately, not all adults realise how important the rights of the child and the

Child Rights Heroes are. So you'll need to explain it to them.

**Prepare** Write down and practise what you want to say about WCP, and about what life is like for the children in your area and in your country. The day before the press conference you will receive secret information from the WCP focal point in your country about the result of the Global Vote.

- Hold the press conference**
1. If possible, begin with music and dancing, and explain that other children all over the world are holding press conferences at the same time.
  2. State facts about the WCP and show short video clips.
  3. Explain what life is like for children and what you know about violations of children's rights where you live and in your country. Talk about the changes you'd like to see and place demands.
  4. Share information about the fantastic efforts of the Child Rights Heroes and reveal the result of the Global Vote.
  5. Hand out press releases and child rights fact sheets.

**At [worldschildrensprize.org/wcpc](http://worldschildrensprize.org/wcpc) you'll find:**

- The exact date of the press conference.
- Press releases, child rights fact sheets and draft scripts.
- Advice on how to invite journalists and questions for politicians.
- Films about WCP, the Global Vote and the Child Rights Heroes.
- Press images.



Queen Silvia of Sweden



Nelson Mandela



Malala Yousafzai



Desmond Tutu



Graça Machel

## We are patrons of the World's Children's Prize

**Malala Yousafzai and the late Nelson Mandela both chose to be patrons of the World's Children's Prize. They are also the only recipients of both the Nobel Peace Prize and what the media often refer to as the "Children's Nobel Prize", the World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child. Both are also WCP Decade Child Rights Heroes.**

Anyone who has done something good for children's rights or the World's Children's Prize can be an Honorary Adult Friend and patron of WCP. Queen Silvia was WCP's first patron. Malala and the late Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu are joined by Xanana Gusmão, Graça Machel, former Swedish prime ministers and ministers for children, who are also WCP patrons.

