

# EDUCATION FOR A BETTER WORLD

The World's Children's Prize Program is one of the world's largest annual education initiatives, which empowers children to become changemakers who stand up for human fellowship, the equal worth of every individual, the rights of the child, democracy and sustainable development. Since the year 2000, almost 50 million children have participated in the annual program.

As part of the World's Children's Prize Program, several activities take place aimed at children aged 10–18 in Sweden and around the world. For example, students and teachers organize their own Changemaker Days at their schools, during which they highlight local child rights issues and stand up for their rights. They make demands of decision-makers and other adults, and take part in a democratic Global Vote. This enables children to make their voices heard where they live, and along with millions of other participating children they can help build a more compassionate world.

The WCP Program is open to all children and schools across the globe, but the majority of those reached are children who are vulnerable and living in poverty. The children who participate include former child soldiers, and children who have been exploited through trafficking and slavery. The WCP Program also reaches children living under dictatorships and children who have been affected by natural disasters and climate change. Through the program, many find out for the first time that they have rights and can make their voices heard. With the help of a global teaching aid and digital platforms, children learn about and become engaged in:

- The equal worth of every individual.
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Equal rights for girls.
- Human rights.
- How democracy functions and must constantly be defended.
- The global goals for sustainable development, Agenda 2030.



## GLOBAL VOTE TO CHOOSE CHILD RIGHTS HEROES

Every year, several children's rights campaigners are nominated for the World's Children's Prize. Three final candidates are selected by the WCP Child Jury, made up of children from some 15 countries who are experts in children's rights through their own experiences as child soldiers and debt slaves, and children who have been exposed to commercial sexual exploitation. The work of the Child Rights Heroes and accounts about the children they defend reach millions of children via a global teaching aid and digital platforms, before the children participate in the Global Vote. As part of the event, children organize their own election days at school, featuring election officers and voting booths. Every ten years, children also get to choose a Decade Child Rights Hero. The highest number of children who have voted in a single year is 7.1 million. Some 50 award recipients have been chosen since the year 2000, and the prize money has been spent, via their organizations, on improving the lives of tens of thousands of the world's most vulnerable children.

## WE SUPPORT THE WORLD'S CHILDREN'S PRIZE

Almost 75,000 Global Friend schools in 120 different countries support the World's Children's Prize, as do education ministries and school authorities in many countries. The Swedish World's Children's Prize Foundation's (WCPF) patrons include H.M. Queen Silvia, the late Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu, Graça Machel, several Nobel laureates and former Swedish children's ministers and prime ministers. WCPF is supported by the Swedish Postcode Lottery, Sida and ForumCiv, Queen Silvia's foundation Care About the Children, Survé Philanthropies, Sparbanksstiftelsen Rekarne and several family funds.



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# TOWARDS CHANGEMAKER DAY



Children learn about their rights and democracy ...



... and experience the lives and dreams of other children through their accounts.



Children share knowledge with other children and adults where they live, and inspire change in their families and local communities.



Some will become Child Rights Ambassadors who educate children and adults where they live, as well as local decision-makers.



Students organize their own democratic election days at school to vote for their rights.



Election observers, officers and vote counters make sure everything is done properly on election day.



With their new-found knowledge and strengthened commitment, children demonstrate what changes they want to see today and in the future ...



... and demand that adults listen to their ideas on how to make the world a better place for children.