

## Pronouncement

Ecuadorian social service organizations, alongside other organizations fighting for youth, human rights, women, churches, children's and adolescents' rights, as well as citizens in general present the following to the international and Ecuadorian community:

**First:** Ecuador was the first country in Latin America and the third country in the world to subscribe to the Convention for Children's Rights. Taking that into consideration, we express our concerns with the increasingly high levels of violence in Ecuador and specifically in Guayaquil. Victims include children and teenagers, making vulnerable their fundamental rights of life, freedom, physical, psychological, and sexual integrity, access to health, education, and overall wellbeing, which are described in the Constitution and Ecuadorian laws.

**Second:** We reject any action or omission that denies the dignity, integrity, and life of our children and teenagers. We are witnesses to this indifference, as well as lack of action and solidarity. It is imperative that peace is promoted in all levels to guarantee respect for life.

**Third:** We know that May 17, in Monte Sinaí, the six-year-old girl Jenny Patricia Yuquilema Atupaña was raped and brutally assassinated, a crime that has stirred Ecuadorian society, including the President of Ecuador, Rafael Correa, who sympathized with the family. In this sense, we express our sympathies to the Yuquilema Atupaña family in this difficult time and we ask to the All-Powerful to comfort them and give them strength.

**Fourth:** We exhort that lawmakers and judicial officers honor the investigative process, fulfilling the duties in a diligent, transparent, and impartial manner, without corruption, making the necessary effort that these crimes do not affect the fundamental rights of our children and teenagers.

**Fifth:** We ask that the authorities guarantee the protection of the children whose childhoods have been effected through the politics of the State. We ask that they make sure the development of these children and teenagers align with the established Convention of Children's Rights, as well as other international and national laws.

**Sixth:** We exhort and encourage citizens to keep a watchful eye and involve themselves in the diverse efforts and initiatives involving the interest of children and teenagers. Being conscious that our children are not the future, but rather, the present of our Nation.

Guayaquil, July 2012