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Date: 12 June 2018

Dr Sofiko Belkania
Head, Executive Department
National Counterpart
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
0119 Tbilisi
Georgia

Dear Dr Belkania,

Global status report on the prevention of violence against children

I am writing to ask for your assistance in preparing for the first World Health Organization (WHO) *Global status report on the prevention of violence against children*. Ending violence against children is now squarely on the global development and health agendas. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development gives unprecedented visibility to violence against children, with no fewer than four SDG targets aimed at its reduction and/or elimination (Target 4.a, Target 5.2, Target 16.1, Target 16.2). The Agenda calls for governments to set targets for ending such violence and to develop and implement plans for doing so. The prevention of violence against children is also a major focus of the WHO global plan of action on addressing interpersonal violence, as endorsed by World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution 69.5 of 2016 and the WHO Regional Committee for Europe Resolution EUR/RC64/R6 on Investing in children: the European child maltreatment prevention action plan. Additionally, the WHO 13th General Programme of Work endorsed by the WHA in 2018, includes a target for preventing violence against children. The Regional Office has been tasked to execute this global survey in accordance with current WHO global policy on the use of surveys for data collection.

Achieving these targets will only be possible if there is intensive urgent work by countries. Furthermore, because violence against children shares common risk factors and prevention and response strategies with other types of interpersonal violence, data collection will cover levels of all main types of interpersonal violence and data collection capacity; violence prevention infrastructure, partnerships, multisectoral collaboration; the status of legal, policy, and programmatic measures taken to prevent the main types of interpersonal violence; the status of services for victims of violence in each country, and progress made in defining violence-related targets identified in the SDG 2030 Agenda.

The report will provide countries with the information they need to direct their efforts in achieving these targets. By assessing country-level capacity to collect data, exchange information, enforce laws, and develop and implement national action plans to prevent and respond to violence, the Report will provide a benchmark for countries to assess their position on violence prevention, catalyse further action and identify gaps in national responses to violence that need to be addressed.

As with the *Global status report on violence prevention*, data will be collected in each country by a National Data Coordinator (NDC). We would like to request your assistance in the nomination of a National Data Coordinator within your country. This person will be tasked with coordinating a consensus meeting of multisectoral stakeholders, or "respondents". These respondents should ideally represent the health, welfare, education, gender, justice, police, and interior government sectors at the national level; the national government institutions responsible for children, women and social development; academics, and, if possible, any nongovernmental organizations involved in violence prevention in the country.

For the previous survey undertaken, this task was fulfilled by the former NDC:

Dr Tamar Chachava. We would be very happy to work with Dr Tamar Chachava again in view of her excellent contribution.

Of course, we recognize that you may wish to appoint someone else to take on the role of NDC. Should this be the case, you may wish to consider the national focal person for violence prevention, or nominate someone who is familiar with the violence prevention situation in the country and the different stakeholders who should be involved in this process. Thus, the NDC can be from the national health, welfare, education, justice, interior sectors or whichever sector may be taking the lead in national efforts to address interpersonal violence. In cases where the NDC is from a sector other than health, it remains essential that someone from the national health sector is one of the respondents who participate in data collection. An honorarium to offset the costs of this exercise will be paid to the NDC, if required.

To ensure that the data collection process carried out in each country is based upon the same methodology, we will conduct an internet-based training of all NDCs in the region, the date of which will be set once all NDCs have been nominated.

We invite you to kindly notify us of the nomination of your NDC by **22 June 2018**.

Should you need any more information on this project please do not hesitate to contact Dr Dinesh Sethi, Programme Manager for Violence and Injury Prevention, who is responsible for this activity. It would be appreciated if you would address your reply to him e-mail: sethid@who.int keeping Nina Blinkenberg in copy (e-mail: blinkenbergn@who.int Phone: +45 45 33 6625).

We are looking forward to receiving the nomination.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Bente Mikkelsen

Director, a.i.

Division of Noncommunicable Diseases and Promoting Health through the Life-course

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Copy for information to:

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