

# JOINT STATEMENT

## DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN DELHI CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

New Delhi -- We, the undersigned diplomatic missions in India's capital, reaffirm our countries' strong commitment to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and the advancement of their human rights. On October 11, we will come together to mark the International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) through a range of actions encouraging greater opportunities for girls.

Activities include interactions with students at academic institutions, distribution of IDGC activity guides to schools, illumination of office buildings as well as the organisation of "Girls' Takeovers". With the support of Plan India, a child rights organization which strives to advance children's rights and equality for girls, the 'takeover' will provide an opportunity for young women of different backgrounds to interact directly with Ambassadors and High Commissioners and take on their role for a short time, followed by a large gathering to exchange experiences and discuss girls' empowerment. These actions reflect our year-round support for promoting gender equality.

The International Day of the Girl Child, celebrated every year on October 11, is a UN-declared international observance day to support greater opportunities for girls and awareness of the gender discrimination they endure worldwide. It also recognizes girls as powerful agents of change and as leaders of tomorrow.

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Also, as children are among the most vulnerable, they need special attention and we have to protect their rights. When a girl is safe, healthy, educated, and effectively supported by her family and community, she is free to pursue her goals, and the advantages of her success ripple outward to touch all of society. Girls, boys, men and women all have an important role to play in building a society that empowers every member to reach their full potential.

We, as diplomatic missions in India, are committed to working together, and with the Government of India and civil society partners, to continue to raise awareness around the issue and to advocate for greater gender parity and equal access to opportunities. Investing in girls is investing in peace and prosperity.



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