

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**46th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Representative
of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children**

*Geneva, 8 March 2021*

Madame President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to thank the Special Representative for her report and presentation today. In addition, we would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

Madame Special Representative,

Slovenian institutions have dedicated their efforts to raise the awareness and inform children through different activities and projects on prevention of violence. During the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns we noticed an increased need to provide psychosocial assistance. Therefore, our Family Centre’s programmes strengthened the psychosocial support for children, adolescents and their families to help them find ways out of distress. Numerous telephone helplines remain available and have increased their outreach. In addition, programme networks are established for the prevention of violence, assistance for victims of violence and engagement with perpetrators of violence.

We strongly believe that empowerment of children should be achieved also through active and systematic implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. In this regard, we launched international project for children called "Our Rights" in 2005 and have since supported the empowerment of more than 250.000 children in 26 countries and on almost all continents.

Madame Special Representative,

how do you see the role of human rights education for children in preventing violence against them, including in the COVID-19 pandemic, and what examples of best practices have you seen in this regard?

Thank you.