



CHILD USA & BRAVE MOVEMENT LAUNCH HISTORIC GLOBAL TASK FORCE TO COMBAT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE WORLDWIDE

On the UN's Inaugural "World Day for the Prevention of and Healing From Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence," Advocates Announce New Global SOL Reform Task Force and Release Resources on Restrictive Statutes of Limitations across Latin America

Following Passage of Groundbreaking New Law Eliminating Federal SOLs for Child Sex Abuse Victims in the United States, CHILD USA Expands Efforts to Create Access to Justice for Survivors On Every Continent

(Philadelphia, PA) -- As United Nations General Assembly commemorates the first inaugural "World Day for the Prevention of and Healing From Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence," CHILD USA, America's leading non-profit working to end child abuse and neglect, today joined with the Brave Movement, a global survivor-centered movement to end sexual violence against minors, to launch the first ever Global Statute of Limitations Reform Task Force ("Global SOL Task Force") to combat the epidemic of child sexual abuse worldwide.

Following a historic vote at the United Nations earlier this month recognizing November 18th as an annual "World Day" in honor of the prevention and healing of child sexual abuse, and after successfully passing the groundbreaking *Eliminating Limits to Justice for Child Sex Abuse Victims Act of 2022*, CHILD USA is expanding its efforts to support survivors internationally that are barred from seeking justice.

This new Global SOL Task Force -- bringing together leading legal, policy, and advocacy experts from across the world -- will raise awareness about the prevalence of child sexual abuse in every country worldwide and steer advocacy efforts to open more pathways to justice for survivors. The launch of the Task Force comes with the release of a first-of-its-kind [online dashboard](#) examining restrictive criminal statutes of limitations for child sexual abuse across the world - starting with 19 countries in Central and South America. This dashboard is the beginning of a five-year endeavor by the Global SOL Task Force to map child sexual abuse SOLs in every part of the world - and will be followed by analysis of laws in Europe, Africa, and Asia in the years to come.

"Child sexual abuse is a global epidemic that knows no borders," said **Marci Hamilton, Founder and CEO of CHILD USA and Chair of the Global SOL Task Force**. "With the United Nations recognizing the need to end child sexual abuse across the globe, we're taking our advocacy and public education efforts worldwide to empower survivors and hold sexual



predators accountable on every continent. Beginning with Latin America, the Global SOL Task Force is shining a light on archaic statutes of limitations and disturbing legal agreements with the Catholic Church that are blocking justice for millions of survivors. It's critical to educate people and policymakers across Latin America and the world about outdated protections for sexual predators that are threatening their communities every day."

"There isn't a global standard regarding effective access to justice for survivors of sexual abuse. Criminal and civil statute of limitations are archaic, predator friendly arbitrary deadlines that block victims' access to justice no matter how compelling and overwhelming the evidence against their abuser is," said **Miguel Hurtado Calvo, co-chair of the Global SOL Task Force**. "It's a gigantic loophole that allows abusers and enablers to operate with impunity unnecessarily endangering children. If serial predators are not prosecuted they are free to work and volunteer in positions that place them in permanent and direct contact with children. This global task force will help to catalyze a growing global grassroots movement that is pushing governments across the world to reform these unfair and dangerous laws . Effective access to justice is a critical human right which should not depend on the victim's zip code."

Vinka Jackson, one of the founding members of the Global SOL Task Force and her grassroots organization, "Derecho al Tiempo," in partnership with CHILD USA played an integral part in helping eliminate Chile's statute of limitations for child sex abuse crimes in 2019. In the United States, CHILD USA has been responsible for reforming SOLs in 92% of states.

The Global SOL Task Force has found that Brazil and the Dominican Republic are among the countries in Latin America with the worst laws and the most restrictive criminal statutes of limitations for child sexual abuse. Both Brazil and the Dominican Republic not only have restrictive SOLs for all child sex abuse crimes, they also have Concordat laws in place - which are legal agreements negotiated by the Vatican with various countries that may limit the ability of civil authorities to question, compel the production of documents, or prosecute people associated with the Catholic Church.

Meanwhile, Chile and El Salvador are among the best for survivors of child sexual abuse seeking justice, with complete elimination of SOLs for child sexual abuse crimes that ensures survivors have an open opportunity to seek legal justice and take their perpetrators to court. CHILD USA played an integral part in helping eliminate Chile's statute of limitations for child sex abuse crimes in 2019. In the United States, CHILD USA has been responsible for reforming SOLs in 92% of states.

The Global SOL Task Force has ranked all 19 Latin American countries based on their criminal SOLs for child sexual abuse and ability for survivors to seek justice:

A-Rating



- Chile
- El Salvador

B-Rating

- Argentina
- Honduras
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Uruguay

C-Rating

- Ecuador
- Colombia

D-Rating

- Andorra
- Bolivia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Guatemala
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Venezuela

F-Rating

- Brazil
- Dominican Republic

###

About CHILD USA

CHILD USA is the leading national nonprofit think tank working to end child abuse and neglect in the United States. CHILD USA engages in high-level legal, social science, and medical research and analysis to derive the best public policies to end child abuse and neglect in America. CHILD USA produces evidence-based solutions and information needed by policymakers, organizations, media, and society as a whole to increase child protection and the common good. Visit www.childusa.org for more information.

About the Brave Movement



The Brave Movement is leading the grassroots advocacy efforts of the Global SOL Task Force. It brings together diverse survivor-leaders, survivor networks, and allies from around the world who have proven track records and peer standing for their advocacy. Focused on transformational change, its members are bound by a common purpose: to create a world where children and adolescents can grow up safely and in safety. They will form the vital core of a powerful and transformational voice for systemic, socio-political and socio-cultural change.