



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Human Rights Sub-Committee**

MEDIA RELEASE
Issued: 30 September 2014

Chair: *The Hon Philip Ruddock MP*
Deputy: *Senator Anne McEwen*

Violence against children on agenda for human rights inquiry

UNICEF representatives will discuss human rights issues affecting children around the world at an upcoming public hearing for a parliamentary inquiry.

The Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade is inquiring into human rights issues confronting women and girls in the Indian Ocean – Asia-Pacific region.

Representatives from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) will appear at a public hearing of the Sub-Committee on 30 September 2014.

UNICEF works in over 150 countries and territories to provide emergency relief and longer term development projects for children.

Earlier this month UNICEF released *Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical analysis of violence against children*, which it describes as the world's largest-ever study on violence against children.

The report collates and reviews data from 190 countries to shed light on issues including child homicide, violence against children within families and by peers, and attitudes towards sexual violence.

It also provides evidence that violence against children is prevalent around the world and more common than previously recognised. The report makes recommendations on strategies aimed at protecting children from violence.

Public Hearing

Date/Time Tuesday 30 September 2014, 12:45pm

Location Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

Further information on the inquiry including the terms of reference and submissions is available on the Committee’s website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt.

The proceedings will be audio webcast live on:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament>

For media comment: contact the Sub-Committee Chair, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP via Mr Jeremy Greenwood on 0413 270 799. For all other inquiries, contact the Inquiry Secretary, on 02 6277 4318 or visit the committee website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt.