

Committee: UNICEF

Country: New Zealand

Agenda Item: Protecting Children from Bullying and Violence

Honourable Chair and distinguished delegates,

New Zealand is a country in the south-west Pacific Ocean with a population of approximately five million. While it maintains a high standard of living, child poverty and social inequality remain ongoing challenges. Despite this, New Zealand is committed to children's rights, social inclusion, and sustainable development at both the national and international levels.

Child poverty has serious effects on children's health, well-being, and education. New Zealand supports UNICEF's mission to ensure that every child has access to safe, inclusive, and high-quality education, and works in partnership with UNICEF to strengthen child protection systems and support vulnerable children.

New Zealand supports UNICEF's efforts to improve educational infrastructure, promote girls' education, and integrate health and psychological services into schools. It also endorses UNICEF's Strategic Plan, particularly its focus on human rights, non-discrimination, and evidence-based solutions.

A major concern for New Zealand is the high rate of bullying in schools. According to UNICEF's *Innocenti Report Card 19*, New Zealand ranks second among 36 OECD/EU countries. School surveys show that 36% of Year 5 and 38% of Year 9 students have experienced bullying.

To address this issue, New Zealand encourages UNICEF and Member States to support evidence-based anti-bullying programs, promote kindness and conflict-resolution education, and strengthen teacher training and school monitoring systems.

New Zealand remains committed to working with UNICEF to protect children and create safer, more inclusive learning environments for all.

REFERENCES

<https://www.unicef.org.nz/stories/report-card-19-what-it-means-for-aotearoa>

<https://www.manamokopuna.org.nz/publications/media-releases/chief-childrens-commissioner-were-all-responsible-for-ending-bullying-in-schools/>

<https://centrist.nz/nz-has-highest-child-suicide-rate-among-wealthy-nations/>