



September 9, 2015

Dr. Brian M. DeBroff, President, DCI
Dr. Ehsan Hoque, Executive Director, DCI
Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI)
195 South Main Street
Cheshire, CT 06410

Dear Dr. DeBroff and Dr. Hoque,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the 5th International Conference on Child Rights and Sight. It is an honor to work in a space full of such talented and dedicated individuals and organizations. As you are aware, today's children face daunting challenges that, if not addressed, will inhibit their ability to reach their full potential. It is our collective duty as champions of children's rights to drive the conversation and meet the needs of children around the world so that all children survive, learn, and are protected from violence.

Blindness diminishes a child's prospects for a successful future. Over 1 million children around the world are blind, and many of those cases are preventable or treatable. By providing children with healthcare that includes services for cataracts, retinopathy of prematurity, and vitamin A deficiency, we can drastically improve the lives of at risk children.

At Save the Children, we join DCI in its mission of fighting poverty, hunger, child labor, and preventable blindness. In 2014, we helped 4 million family members increase their income, build a more sustainable livelihood, and lift their families out of poverty. We also responded to 103 international humanitarian crises and our work led to more than 7.5 million lifesaving health interventions for children in 34 countries.

However, despite all of the progress that has been made for children, much remains to be done, especially for the most deprived and marginalized children of the world. Globally, 62 million girls are not receiving an education and one third of all women suffer from gender-based violence. In conflict-affected and fragile states, far too many children are cut off from aid, education, and basic healthcare. In impoverished communities in Africa and South East Asia, children are much more likely to suffer from preventable health problems and they also face a higher risk of becoming child laborers. By investing in childhood and focusing on the needs of the most deprived and marginalized children, we will ensure that all children have the opportunity to survive and thrive.

Congratulations on this impressive convening; I know that it will lead to better outcomes and brighter futures for children everywhere.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Miles".

Carolyn Miles
President & CEO