

EXCLUDED AND INVISIBLE

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2006

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Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Since its inception, the United Nations has sought to build a better, safer, more peaceful world for the world's children and to press governments to uphold their responsibilities for the freedom and well-being of their young citizens.

As we mark the UN's 60th anniversary by reaffirming our commitment to the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, we also reaffirm the centrality of children in our efforts. It is for future generations, even more than our own, that the United Nations exists.

The publication of this year's *State of the World's Children* coincides with the beginning of UNICEF's 60th year. The report sheds light on lives in a world that is often hidden or neglected – a world of vulnerability and exclusion. And it calls on all of us to speak up for the rights of children and to act on behalf of those who need our protection.

Five years into our work on the Millennium Development Goals, we can see the many ways in which the goals are about children. If we can get it right for children – if we can deliver on our commitments and enable every child to enjoy the right to a childhood, to health, education, equality and protection – we can get it right for people of all ages. I believe we can.

Kofi A. Annan

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