



LAUREATES & LEADERS  
- FOR CHILDREN -  
SUMMIT 2018



**"The idea of a united, safe and inclusive future has never been more urgently needed than today. Today, our children are not safe, therefore for me, humanity is not safe. The very idea behind Laureates and Leaders for Children and the summits is to build a sense of urgency, collective responsibility and a strong moral voice to galvanise political will."**

Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate 2014  
Founder Laureates and Leaders for Children

***We, as Laureates and Leaders, call for a revolution in society's soul in the way we treat children and young people, united and urgent in action to create a child-friendly world because every single child matters.***

On 26 March 2018, His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of Jordan personally welcomed 20 Nobel Laureates and World Leaders participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit, an initiative of the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, at the Dead Sea in Jordan. Building on the 2016 inaugural Summit in New Delhi, these powerful change agents, as well as leading thinkers and doers came together to find solutions and inspire the world to act to address the urgent needs and protect the rights of the world's most vulnerable children – the 152 million child labourers, the 263 million children who are not in school, millions of trafficked and enslaved children – with a special focus on the rapidly growing number of at-risk refugee children.

In a world where crimes against children are on the rise globally, robbing millions of their fundamental right to be a child, Nobel Laureates and World Leaders are uniquely positioned to shine a global spotlight on the urgent need to protect the most vulnerable children.

This second Summit brought Laureates and Leaders together with nearly 200 youth hailing from the Middle East, the Indian sub-continent, Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe, including representatives from the 100 Million Campaign, as well as more than 200 distinguished guests from Jordan and around the world.

Eminent guests represented business, entertainment, civil society and all thoughtfully deliberated issues, proposing targeted solutions during round table discussions. Youth leaders united across countries and backgrounds – including youth from Zaatari who had left the refugee camp for the first time since their arrival (for some, this was after 6 years) to participate in the Summit alongside Jordanian students – calling for no more war, no more camps and for education.



Youth leaders elicited several commitments during a dynamic session which include:

- Interpol offered to help reunite a Syrian refugee father from Zaatari with his daughter who believed him to have been killed;
- a university offered to institute scholarships for Syrian refugees;
- a Jordanian youth vowed to help improve the situation of Zaatari refugees and to work for peace; and
- a film producer committed to document and share successes and lessons learned.

This Summit distinguished itself through real, poignant moments of inspiration and a sense of community. Nobel Laureate 2011 Leymah Gbowee spoke directly to participants from Zaatari sharing her own experience living in a refugee camp, offering a ray of hope that the present circumstances are "...only a bump in the road of life. Never lose hope," and that they too shall overcome. Words of solidarity were offered in support of young students in the US rising to make their country safe again.

Not a pin drop could be heard during the screening of Kailash, the Sundance Film Festival award-winning documentary on the Nobel Peace Laureate's 40 year struggle to liberate children from slavery and exploitation. HRH Prince Ali bin Al Hussein and HRH Princess Rym Al Ali, members of the royal family and hundreds of others wiped away their tears inviting a standing ovation in honour of the struggle to liberate children from exploitation.

At the culmination of the Summit, the Laureates and Leaders issued a bold Declaration that included calls for:

- At least a 10% reduction in global arms spending and investment in achieving all child related UN SDGs, particularly ensuring freedom, safety and education of every child, ending child labour, trafficking and modern day slavery; ensuring the mental and physical health and nutrition of every child,
- Including child rights education in national curricula; and
- An innovative binding global convention against online child sexual abuse backed by a Global Task Force against online child pornography, child sexual abuse and child trafficking providing holistic support to victims.

Youth at the Summit committed to implement civic education, protect minority groups and help end child labour.

Laureates and Leaders committed to continue to listen to and amplify the voices and dreams of children and young people and share their successes. HRH Prince Ali bin Al Hussein stated, "To the youth, you're here at the Dead Sea, the lowest point on the earth and the only way to go is up. Throughout this Summit, you have uplifted us so much. Keep doing it because there is nothing you can't achieve."

Youth led the charge at the Summit's conclusion rousing the crowd to chant in unison **"Every Child Matters!"**

Laureates and Leaders for Children is led by a Steering Committee including HRH Prince Ali bin Al Hussein of Jordan, HE First Lady of Panama Lorena Castillo de Varela, HE President of Timor Leste (2007-2012) and Nobel Laureate Jose Ramos Horta, Nobel Peace Laureate and Child Rights Activist Kailash Satyarthi, President of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights Kerry Kennedy and Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the Sustainable Development Goals Jeffrey Sachs.

We give special thanks to all volunteers and partners who made this Summit possible: Zain, Emirates Foundation, BMW Group, Royal Jordanian Airlines, Reckitt Benckiser, the government of Panama, The Nippon Foundation, DOT, Global March Against Child Labour, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, KidsRights, OECD and CNN.

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**#EveryChildMatters @WithEveryChild**

[www.laureatesandleaders.org](http://www.laureatesandleaders.org)



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