Prime Minister
Alix Didier Fils-Aimé
Prime Minister’s Office
31, Boulevard Harry Truman,
Bicentenaire, Port-au-Prince
**HAITI**

Dear Prime Minister

In view of the severe humanitarian crisis in Haiti, I am deeply disquieted about the safety of children in your country whose human rights are violated indiscriminately. Gangs control large parts of the capital Port-au-Prince and its surroundings. The gang violence has a devastating effect on children. They are victims of murder, recruitment, sexual violence and other human rights violations. There are no protection measures for children. However, they are not seen primarily as victims, but are treated as criminals and sometimes detained without due process in the Centre for the Re-education of Minors in Conflict with the Law (CERMICOL). Girls in particular are exposed to sexual violence by the gangs and have only limited access to justice and health services.

It is unheard of in this day and age that Haitian children are not safeguarded against any type of violence and abuse. It is shocking that Haiti doesn’t recognise the fundamental human dignity of children and the urgency of ensuring their well-being, development and basic quality of living. I therefore urge you to develop and implement a comprehensive child protection plan that will enable the country to meet its international obligations to protect children and ensure that they receive security, education and psychological support. Haitian civil society must be involved from the outset in the development of immediate and sustainable solutions. Failing to take children into account has a negative impact on the future of all members of society.

Yours sincerely