



Press Release
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**Celebrating International Children's Day:
JSMP congratulates children and demands for the State to provide adequate
conditions for children**

On 1 June the international community celebrates International Children's Day to congratulate all children around the world with a special day for children to remind children about their rights such as the right to education, the right to receive health services, justice, social and other rights enshrined in the Timor-Leste Constitution, and laws which include human rights conventions ratified by Timor-Leste in 2003. This year the State of Timor-Leste commemorates International Children's Day with the theme of "The Family is the Main Nucleus for the Development of Children" and the sub-theme of "Promoting nutritious local foods so that children can have a healthy diet".

The State of Timor-Leste has a commitment to ensure, promote and protect children's rights, and in February 2023 the National Parliament approved Law No. 6/2023 on protection for children and young persons who are at risk which was presented by the Government to regulate the definition of children and how children can obtain special protection and also social protection. JSMP hopes that the law on protection for children and young people who are at risk will help the Government to provide adequate conditions for children to exercise all of these rights.

Also, JSMP continues to urge the Government and National Parliament to accelerate the juvenile justice law which is crucial to helping and ensuring formal justice processes involving children who are in conflict with the law and also to amend the Penal Code which has a number of provisions that JSMP believes fail to adequately protect children and are inconsistent with Timor-Leste's obligations in the constitution and international law.

"On the Commemoration of International Children's Day, JSMP urges the government and Committee A of the National Parliament, which deals with constitutional issues and justice, to promptly accelerate the draft law on juvenile justice and also to amend the Penal Code based on an opinion that was prepared by the Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion together with national NGOs such as JSMP, Fokupers, and ALFeLa with the support of the Asian Foundation through the Nabilan Program, which was prepared and presented to Committee A of the National Parliament at the start of this year," said Ms. Ana Paula Marçal, Executive Director of JSMP.

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JSMP's demands are firmly based on the Timor-Leste Constitution on the rights of all citizens to obtain social assistance and security in accordance with the law as well as international conventions on the rights of children which state that children do not yet have physical and mental maturity so they need protection and special care, including appropriate legal protection, before and after they are born.

JSMP wishes to congratulate all children around the world, especially children in Timor-Leste who are celebrating this special day for children and hopes that on International Children's Day everyone will fight together against all types of violence and discrimination against children in Timor-Leste.

For more information, please contact:

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