

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

A message for the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children Global Report 2007

We have all been born into this world as part of one great human family. Rich or poor, educated or uneducated, belonging to one nation or another, to one religion or another, adhering to this ideology or that, ultimately each of us is just a human being like everyone else. We all desire happiness and do not want suffering.

Even in relation to the question of human rights violations and concern for human rights, the key point is the practice of compassion, love and forgiveness. It is very important to recognise that compassion and love are fundamental to relations between sentient beings in general and human beings in particular. At the beginning of our lives and again when we become old we appreciate others' help and affection. Unfortunately, between these two periods of our lives, when we are strong and able and can look after ourselves, we neglect the value of affection and compassion. As our very lives begin and end with a need for affection, would it not be better to practice compassion and love towards others and especially children when we are strong and capable?

I believe that to meet the challenges of our times, human beings will have to develop a greater sense of universal responsibility. I therefore appreciate the good work being done by the Global Initiative in working for the rights of children across the world, thus promoting respect for human rights in general. Each of us must learn to work not just for oneself, one's own family or one's own nation, but also for the benefit of all humankind, including children. Universal responsibility is the key to human survival. It is the best guarantee for human rights and for world peace.