

## The voices of the children and adolescents from Chile

*In the world in which I walk every day I see demonstrations, protests, differences with our government; struggles, conflicts.*

*Nobody is in agreement with the others. There is unemployment, stoppage of classes in the public schools, ignorance.*

*In the world in which I live people die every minute and everyday there is poverty, dissatisfaction, there are sicknesses, human trafficking, children trafficking, abuses, abuses in work, abuses speaking, sexual abuses.*

**Francisca Valencia Arias, 16 years, Institute O'Higgins, Rancagua.**



*I think that the most important commitment is number 4 (a juridical frame for the integral protection of the rights of migrants) because this is not fulfilled, because in many places children very frequently suffer discrimination and the State has not reacted regarding this problem, and there are several children who have died a cause of discrimination.*

**Siu Mei Wong Gajardo, 12 years, Institute Chacabuco, Los Andes.**

*I think that childhood is a fundamental stage, an adult is the fruit of childhood, if we want a just and egalitarian world we need persons who are ready to help others, available, persons who are aware, persons who understand what the essence of the human being is, what makes us different from animals. And the only thing that can change the destiny of a person is to be well directed, influenced well from childhood, a healthy childhood, far away from drugs, far from delinquency.*

**Sofía Toro Molina, 14 years, Institute Chacabuco, Los Andes.**





*Well, definitively things would change very much in equality, respect, everyone would have the same value in society and there would be more inclusion regarding the indigenous people, migrants and tribal groups from Chile and many others, the country would be much better.*

**Natalia Gallegos Bustos, 16 years, Institute Chacabuco, Los Andes.**



*The most important thing is that my country should fulfill what it has offered and favors and approves the law of integral protection of boys, girls and adolescents that the rights be truly respected, our rights. To be able to enjoy our childhood becomes a need today.*

*If I had the opportunity to be in charge of the national authority I would state that if the previous would be fulfilled exactly and would not be only an offering, false hopes, it would really bring about a change. It would be good if the adults would watch that it was kept. In this way violence would decrease, rights would be*

*respected, good persons would be formed and we would not continue the cycle of vulnerability which affects, I believe, more seriously, the little ones.*

*Now if they ask me what I can do about this. I would say to privilege the well-being of children, help in any possible way, denounce if there is ill treatment, be a human being who can be trusted and offer my support.*

**Loreto Figueroa Rojas, 15 years, Colegio Champagnat, Villa Alemana.**

*I believe that one of the most important commitments that the State of Chile assumes is to establish an independent defender of childhood who can mediate among the different parts in which children and young persons of the country are the participants.*

*To watch or be attentive not only to give protection in the case of abandonment, of danger situations and of risk in which many children live, but also giving them attention, listening and taking into account their opinion, is fundamental for their growth of the future of the country.*

*The law of integral protection would also be a good measure since it would go hand in hand with the defender of childhood. It is convenient to point out the importance to create a good conscience, not only in adults to listen with respect and attention but also that of children, where they feel protected, where they can freely give their opinion, seeing that they contribute something to the country and that they want to work and improve things around them.*

*A person who is listened to knows that there are places around him to dialogue and would want to participate in that.*

*Even if this phrase is repeated much "children are the future", if we invest in the future, in practices of protection for those who are being formed, it will be possible to grow as thinking persons who have the desire and wish for innovation around them.*

*Chile would undergo gradual or slow changes in time, on the one side to know how to dialogue to resolve problems that arise. Another one, the protection that children can feel in situations of risk and lastly the overcoming and improvement of those to whom no possibilities have been given or external factors have not allowed them to make their own decisions.*

*I believe that the School could be one of the places to develop projects for childhood insertion, educational aides and prevention means.*

*As pupils we can contribute through the center of pupils and activities related with social insertion and as a place of encounter with other realities.*

**Javiera Oyarzo Navarrete, 15 years, Institute Chacabuco, Los Andes.**





*We could improve the laws, which are centered more on the truthfulness of an adult at the moment of being in the tribunal to consider themes of children. Today, the opinion of these children is not taken into account or considered regarding themes related to them. With the approbation of the bill for the integral protection, the child's opinion would be asked and his participation would be assured in decisions of private, public institutions, justice tribunals and the National Congress.*

*We could also change the inequality since a great difference exists in the situation of children, from the time they are born until they reach adolescence; difference in opportunities and lack of protection of the children. For this reason this project would set a true precedent, since with this law innumerable*

*themes could be touched upon from the sexual to the social, such as violations and the lack of presence at the time of giving an opinion.*

*This law is necessary because today the Chilean society is concerned only of the children who are in social risk since our laws are paternalistic. For this reason it is necessary to support this project in order to change the juridical focus.*

*Finally, we can conclude ratifying that higher or greater interest for children and young people is fundamental. In order that they have value they have to be given juridical and administrative tools in order to assert their rights and improve society.*

**Nicolás Vergara Videla, 17 years, Institute Chacabuco, Los Andes.**