

**2015 Lausanne Declaration on Children-at-Risk:
A Necessary Corrective to Ageism and Restriction in the Global Church and God's Mission**

The Lausanne Movement of evangelical Christianity has historically viewed children as mission targets or evangelists to peers. For the first time, the 2010 Cape Town Commitment explicitly mentions children-at-risk and dedicates a section to children (CTC II:D:5). In November 2014, 60+ theologians, practitioners, and church leaders from 5 continents gathered in Quito, Ecuador to explore what it means for children-at-risk to be viewed as strategic and indispensable to the *missio Dei*. Recommendations include: 1) embracing children as vulnerable agents of God who are ministered **to**, advocated **for**, and who partner **with** adults on God's mission; 2) understanding and practicing doctrines and governance that lead to a child friendly churches where children can flourish; 3) viewing children as complex, whole-persons who live in contexts of families, communities, cultures, and societies impacted by sinful brokenness; and 4) addressing diverse, difficult childhoods from conception to adolescence as 'salt and light' witnesses, pursuing partnerships with the global Church, NGOs, governments, and civil society. Particular emphasis is necessitated on the neglected area of children's co-participation **with** mission. Communicating and gaining endorsement of the Lausanne Declaration on Children-at-Risk is an advocacy effort to educate, unify and mobilize the global Church to take action on children-at-risk and mission. It is hoped that broad support of the declaration will provide a rallying tool to mobilize the evangelical church to take children seriously in mission through theologically informed practices that address the gross injustices and abuses that children face while respecting their importance for Kingdom work and vitality.