

## **Appeal from the Children of Iraq**

**Baghdad, 3 December 2008**

We are the children of Iraq and we have a question for you:

Do you want to be a child in today's Iraq?

We request all of you, the grown ups, to listen to us. And, please do not ignore us!

We want to live, to grow up and to be able to make Iraq prosperous and happy.

We would like to serve our nation, and make Iraq beautiful and peaceful.

1. All of us love going to nice schools, where we can learn good things. Our teachers should be happy and able to teach us in ways that we understand.
2. Our schools are our second homes and our teachers need to look after us as our parents wish to do.
3. We want to be healthy and not fall sick. We need good food, clean water and clean neighbourhoods and schools, too. And if we fall sick, we need free medical care. Some of our parents and families are poor and can not afford to pay for medicines. They need your help.
4. All children must have access to green open spaces, playgrounds, clubs and recreational and learning centres where we can meet our friends and learn new activities; away from smoke, noise and pollution. While we want to enjoy learning but we also want to play without fear.
5. We must be able to continuously gain knowledge with ease by having access to information sources like computers, public libraries and learning centres.
6. We do not like war and death. Please give us safety and protect us.

When you are making decisions about our lives and our future, please remember our voices too.

All this is possible if you listen to our appeal and invest in our future.

We are the future of Iraq and today our future is in your hands.