

Children's Defense Fund

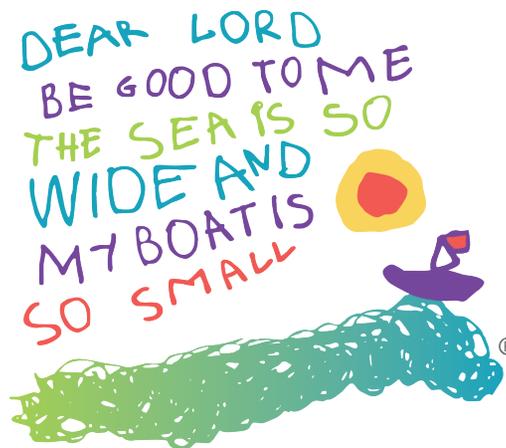
840 First Street NE ; Suite 300 ;

Washington, DC 20002

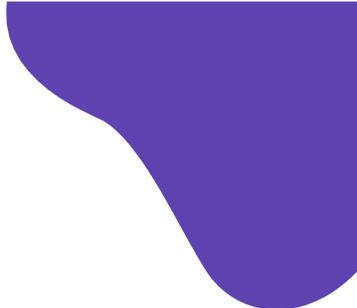
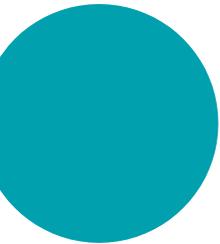
www.childrensdefense.org

2022 Bulletin Inserts for Children's Sabbath

This section offers bulletin/newsletter inserts that may be photocopied and distributed in advance of your Children's Sabbath, on your Children's Sabbath, and to follow up on your Children's Sabbath or at other times of the year.



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Announcement Insert

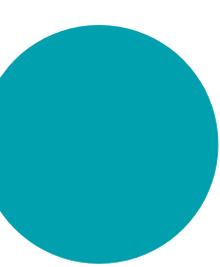
Add details for your place of worship after the line “We will be participating!” Include the date, time, a brief description of what is planned (worship, education, action on the weekend), an invitation to join in the planning if volunteers and other participation are desired, and who to contact to learn more and get involved.

Once you have personalized the announcement insert, photocopy the two pages back-to-back and cut down the middle to create two inserts per copy. Insert into your bulletin two, three, or four weeks in advance of your participation in the Children’s Sabbath.

Note: The announcement insert text (provided and what you insert) could also be included in a newsletter or on the website of your place of worship.

Day of Insert

State of America’s Children: two pages to be photocopied back-to-back, and then folded in the middle to create one four-page bulletin insert.



The 31st Annual National Observance of Children's Sabbath Raising Democracy by Resurrecting Hope

We are a part of the movement! We will be participating in an annual, nationwide multifaith National Observance of Children's Sabbaths.

Every year places of worship across the nation and from every religious tradition, join together in common concern for the struggles children, youths, and families face. The Sabbath is our expression of *shared commitment* to listening deeply to the voices of children and youths. This will mark a spiritual to our *united voice* responding with care, action, and advocacy for our children. This intergenerational partnership will launch this weekend and continue in the year that follows.

Details below:

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The State of America's Children[®] 2021

The following is excerpted from a report that can be viewed in full here: <https://www.childrensdefense.org/state-of-americas-children/>

America's children are more diverse than ever. There were

73 million children in the U.S. in 2019—22 percent of our nation's population. Children of color were almost 50 percent of all children and the majority of children under 5.

Children remain the poorest age group in America, with children of color and young children suffering the highest poverty rates. Nearly 1 in 7 children—10.5 million—were poor in 2019. Nearly 71 percent of poor children were children of color.

Income and wealth inequality are growing and harming children in low-income, Black and Brown families. Today, a member of the top 10 percent of income earners makes about 39 times as much as the average earner in the bottom 90 percent. In 2019, the median family income of white households with children (\$95,700) was more than double that of Black (\$43,900), and nearly double that of Hispanic households with children (\$52,300).

The 31st Annual National Observance of Children's Sabbath Raising Democracy by Resurrecting Hope

Across the nation this October, places of worship from every religious tradition are joining in the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths. Together we proclaim that we are "Raising Democracy; Overcoming Tyranny." This work requires listening as the first step, followed by a deep commitment to walk alongside all of America's children, and join in action and advocacy so that all children and their families may thrive.

In the following pages *The State of America's* makes clear the depth and range of problems challenging our democracy and endangering our children. (The complete overview and report from the Children's Defense Fund may be downloaded from www.childrensdefense.org)

As you read what follows, you are invited to reflect:

How does what we hear in the voices and experience of our children relate to this broader picture?

How can we respond not only in our immediate community but to larger state and national problems?

How am I called to respond in light of my faith, moral understanding, or the teaching and traditions of my religious community?

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The lack of affordable housing and federal rental assistance leaves millions of children homeless or at risk of homelessness. More than 1 in 3 children live in households burdened by housing costs, meaning more than 30 percent of their family income goes toward housing. More than 1.5 million children enrolled in public schools experienced homelessness during the 2017-2018 school year.

Millions of children live in food-insecure households, lacking reliable access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food.

More than 1 in 7 children—10.7 million—were food insecure. Black and Hispanic children were twice as likely to live in food-insecure households as white children. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helped feed 17 million children in 2018—nearly a quarter of all children in America. Half of all families that received SNAP in 2019 were not able to get enough healthy food, however, because SNAP benefits were too low. Among households with children, monthly SNAP benefits averaged just \$118 a person—or less than \$4 a day.

The 31st Annual National Observance of Children's Sabbath Raising Democracy by Resurrecting Hope

Our children have lost the health coverage they need to survive and thrive at an alarming rate. An estimated 4.4 million children under age 19 were uninsured. The rates of uninsured children are especially high among Hispanic children, undocumented children, children living in the South, and children in families with lower incomes.

The high cost of child care and lack of early childhood investments leaves many children without quality care during critical years of brain development. Center-based child care for an infant cost more than public college tuition in 28 states and the District of Columbia in 2019. More than 80 percent of two-child families were paying more for child care than for rent.

America's schools continue to slip backwards into patterns of deep racial and socioeconomic segregation, perpetuating achievement gaps.

During the 2017-2018 school year, 19 percent of Black, 21 percent of Hispanic, and more than 26 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native public-school students did not graduate on time compared with only 11 percent of white students. Sixty percent of Black children attended high-poverty schools with a high share of students of color while fewer than 9 percent of white children did.