



GLOBAL FORUM
for a **WORLD WITHOUT ORPHANS**

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PRESS RELEASE

HISTORIC STEP TOWARDS A WORLD WITHOUT ORPHANS

For the first time in history, a Global Forum for a World Without Orphans will be held on 11-14 February 2016 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Five hundred leaders from sixty countries will gather to activate, connect, and equip the Body of Christ worldwide to address the orphan crisis and lead the global response.

More than 1 billion children are exposed to violence every year and 152 million are considered orphans. At least 7 million of them literally have no one in their lives and need a new permanent family. Research demonstrates that institutional care is not the best solution for the development of children. A cultural and infrastructural shift to family-based care (strengthening biological families, kinship and foster care, and adoption) must take place.

Following the strong themes of adoption and caring for the fatherless woven through God's Word, the Forum delegates will work together to develop and share solutions that provide every child with a safe, permanent, and nurturing family.

"Thankfully, in many countries, churches are joining efforts with governments, NGOs, and businesses to bring sustainable transformation to the way children are being cared for in their societies," shared Ruslan Maliuta, leader of the Forum's planning team. "The Body of Christ has the capacity to provide every child with permanent family connections and end the orphan crisis. As we read in Psalms, 'God is a Father to the fatherless and he sets the lonely in families (Ps. 68:5-6)."

The Global Forum is being organized by partners in the World Without Orphans movement with the support of key leaders from Transform World, 4/14 Window, World Evangelical Alliance, Lausanne Movement, Pentecostal World Fellowship, Global Children's Forum, Viva Network and other groups.

Speakers include the General Secretary of the World Evangelical Alliance, Bishop Efraim Tendero, former CEO of Compassion International, Wess Stafford, Chairman of the Pentecostal World Fellowship, Dr. Prince Guneratnam, and many other influencers who will be sharing from their experiences in the field as well as their perspective on seeing the Christian Church globally move in this spirit of adoption.

To learn more about the Global Forum and how to apply, please visit: www.wwoforum.org

World Without Orphans is a global movement with a goal that every child will grow up in a safe, stable, and nurturing permanent family and know their Heavenly Father.