

# **Kampala Declaration November 2018**

**Compiled by Transform Alliance Africa**

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**Transform  
Alliance  
Africa**

# Transform Alliance Africa Kampala Declaration

## November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

In November 2018 members and partners of the Transform Alliance Africa gathered in Kampala, Uganda for our annual meeting. Members and partners of the TAA representing 7 countries across Africa agreed on the following Declaration.

**We believe that no child in Africa should grow up without a family. As child care practitioners, we know what works and that care reform is possible.**

**This is our call to action.**

### Who is Transform Alliance Africa?

Transform Alliance Africa is a growing collective of specialist national NGOs working across Africa.

The Alliance brings together African voices, knowledge, practice, passion and experiences to strengthen families and communities; to catalyse the end of institutional care of children.

We work with communities and governments to respond to children's needs and circumstances, to replace institutions with child protection systems where all children thrive in families.

### We are part of a global movement for care reform

We note that:

- Children thrive when they grow up in families surrounded by love, support and security  
**"The child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding."**  
- Convention of the Rights of the Child: Preamble
- **(countries should) "strive to provide children and youth with a nurturing environment for the full realisation of their rights and capabilities, helping our countries to reap the demographic dividend including through safe schools and cohesive communities and families."**  
- Sustainable Development Goals: Preamble
- **"All member states to renew their commitment to leave no one behind recognising that many millions of children and young people still live in institutions, denied the love of a family and at increased risk of harm."**  
- The Commonwealth Youth Forum Declaration 2018
- **2019 will also be the 30th anniversary of the CRC and the 10th anniversary of the UN Guidelines on Alternative Care**
- **Countries around the world are making commitments to prioritise systemic care reform and are acknowledging the harm caused by orphanages. Donor countries are making commitments to support families not orphanages, for example: Australia's Modern Slavery**

## **Act; the UK's Global Disability Summit Statement on Orphanages and; the EU and USAID's plans for future aid priorities**

### **Care Reform is an African Priority**

In Africa we have traditionally cared for children in families and communities. Orphanages have destroyed this. We need to reclaim our children, our responsibility to nurture and protect children in families and communities, not orphanages. Africa can lead the world in care reform.

Transform Alliance Members have many years of experience in delivering care reform and supporting vulnerable children. We know what works, here are just a few examples:

#### **Sudan**

- Permanent and Emergency Alternative Families according to Kafala<sup>1</sup> and the related policies are in place and widely disseminated
- Mechanisms are in place to support and listen to the voices of care-leavers
- Mother and baby units are preventing family separation

#### **Uganda**

- Emergency and long term foster care
- Strong gatekeeping mechanism through alternative care panels which review cases of children who need alternative care
- Transformation institution buildings into community hubs
- Pioneering closures of institutions at district level

#### **Rwanda**

- Showcase how care reform works in an African context
- Building government goodwill and support of deinstitutionalisation initiatives
- Piloting deinstitutionalisation of children with disabilities

#### **South Africa**

- Working with the District of Gauteng to enable it to become a model of care reform
- Strong national policies and procedures are in place

#### **Kenya**

- Strong care-leaver association
- Various family strengthening initiatives that are rooted in the community and are successfully preventing the separation of families
- In the past year Kenya has hosted international learning events on child protection and alternative care

#### **Tanzania**

- NPA VAWC has a strong focus on family strengthening
- Building a community of practice on alternative care
- Mechanisms to encourage citizens to become child protection defenders

#### **Lesotho**

- Pioneering rehabilitation of street connected children without use of institutions

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<sup>1</sup> In Sudan and some other Islamic countries, the term 'Kafala' a part of Islamic law and is similar to adoption, but does not necessarily sever the child's family ties, the transference of inheritance rights, or the change of the child's family name

## Act now for an Africa where children grow up in families not orphanages

We call on governments to:

- Allocate funding to end the institutionalisation of children and transform their care systems to support children in families
- Raise awareness of the alternatives to institutions and promote responsible practice in care reform
- Champion care reform in global discussions including United Nations Resolution on the Rights of the Child, Global Partnership to End Violence and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda in 2020
- Improve data collection about children without parental care
- Listen and respond to the voices of care leavers



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### Signatories:

