



End the year standing up for children

**November
2025**

Issue No. 9

November was Children's Month, which was a time to spotlight children's rights, safety and wellbeing. From National Children's Day to World Children's Day, young voices rang out across the country, and under South Africa's G20 Presidency, Children20 engagement group participation at the G20 Social Summit gave real meaning to the idea of children having a seat and a voice at the table.

We also launched the Just One Thing campaign, calling on South Africans to choose a single action that can make a world of difference for children.

And now, as we move into the 16 Days of Activism, we're reminded

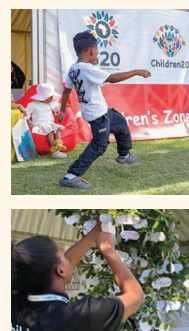
why this work matters: every child and teen deserves to grow up safe, loved and free from harm. Scroll down for highlights, updates and ideas to carry into the new year.

Thanks for holding hands with us through 2025. Wishing you and yours a safe, restful and joyful holiday season.

Children first. Always.

Warmly,
The Hold My Hand Team

Children20 under the G20 Presidency



The work kicked off with a Pre-Summit where more than sixty children worked together on drafting the Children's Declaration. At the Summit, the youngest delegates joined discussions and side events that highlighted what matters to them, from digital inclusion and climate justice to early childhood development and mental health.

At the closing ceremony, Children20 delegates, supported by the adults from each of the other engagement groups whose hands they held, handed the Social Summit Declaration to President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Their message was clear: We don't want symbolic participation. We want real power. Listen to us. Work with us. Build the future with us.

Hold My Hand and Keready ran the Children's Zone at the Summit, proudly spotlighting children's rights, agency and participation at the highest policy levels.

Using the momentum and the new relationships built this week, the team will keep pushing to ensure that children and teens remain included, supported and heard.

The media spoke to children and sector leaders throughout the Summit and a comprehensive declaration and policy pack was prepared by Children20 handed to all the G20 Social Summit.

Watch G20 Handover

Just one Thing

What's the one thing
you're looking forward to
this festive season?

Dancing in the lounge. Building sandcastles.
Baking bread. Watching cartoons. Or just talking.

Share Your Holiday Moment
(or a special festive memory)



How to enter

Post on your socials
and tag us
#HoldMyHandSA
#JustOneThing
or send via WhatsApp:
0600 411 111

Format:

- voice note
- video clip
- drawing
- photo with caption
- short poem or story

Submission Date: 21-30 November

What's your one thing?

- Dancing in the lounge
- Building sandcastles
- Baking bread
- Watching cartoons
- Or just talking

Prizes

- Free Airtime giveaways
- Plus 5 lucky winners will each get R5000 in cash!

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Hold My Hand Webinar



13 November
3pm - 4pm

UTC+02:00



Live on

Supporting Teen Identity
How schools, communities and
society can show up better

How do we help teens feel seen, safe and strong in who they are?

In this webinar, Hold My Hand, Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, #Keready and J-Pal had a conversation about how schools, communities and society can step up to support teenagers as they explore their identity and place in the world. It's time to stop telling teens who to be and start listening, walking with them, and holding their hand.

Watch Webinar

News From Our Community



World leaders put children first at the G20

At the G20 summit, world leaders made a historic commitment to boost investment in early childhood education and childcare. It's a big win for young children everywhere.

By putting the early years at the centre of the G20 agenda, leaders recognised what we already know – that childcare and preschool education are essential for every child to thrive, and that investing in them is one of the smartest moves any country can make.

[Learn More](#)

Launch of 2025S A Child Gauge

The 2025 Child Gauge, the flagship publication of the Children's Institute, brings together more than 70 researchers, policymakers and practitioners.

This 18th edition focuses on how violence against women and children is deeply connected. The Gauge unpacks why the National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children is so important to galvanise action for the safety and well-being of children.

[Read More](#)

R496m fund to roll out early learning for 115,000

A new R496 million Early Childhood Care and Education Outcomes Fund will support learning programmes for 115,000 children across three provinces over the next three years.

Aligned with the government's "Thrive by Five" goal, the initiative is led by the Department of Basic Education with the Education Outcomes Fund and a coalition of local and international partners. Full details will be unveiled at the launch in Midrand on 1 December.

[Learn More](#)

The hidden dimensions of poverty

We often overlook how poverty affects young people's ability to even see or hold on to opportunities. It's not just about lacking money or resources, but also about how that lack chips away at confidence, motivation and mental wellbeing.

In this episode, Simone Peinke from FETCH and Anwar Parker, a psychologist working on the Year Beyond programme, unpack what it means to live in the "inner world" of poverty. How it shapes the everyday lives of young people who are out of school and out of work.

[Read More](#)

Our Community

Meet some of our new community members!

We're growing, and it's beautiful to see more hearts and hands joining the journey.



The Empathologist Foundation

The Empathologist Foundation is a South African non-profit organisation dedicated to empowering women and families navigating difficult parenthood circumstances, with a particular focus on mothers who have placed their children for adoption.



Hope Foundation SA

Hope Foundation SA is a South African non-profit organisation dedicated to improving Early Childhood Development (ECD) in under-resourced communities.

Denis Goldberg



Denis Goldberg House of Hope

Denis Goldberg House of Hope mission is to engage creativity and arts and culture education in the pursuit of our vision that every young person has the right to emotional, physical, intellectual and emotional wellness, particularly within vulnerable communities in Hout Bay.

Join Our Community



Stay connected

Get the latest updates, inspiring stories, and ways to make a difference by following us on social media.

Together, we're creating a brighter future for South Africa's children and teens. Thank you for holding hands with us on this incredible journey.

Want to share your latest news?
Drop an email at news@holdmyhand.org.za



Together, we will **change** our future.

Thank you for being a vital part of our mission to put children at the center of our future. Your involvement makes all the difference!



Happy Holidays South Africa!

This season, may every child feel
safe, loved and supported.
While we rest and reconnect, let's
not forget the little hands that
need ours the most.

