

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**Easy to read**

# **Big problems for children in Haiti because of violence by gangs**



**This is an easy to read version of 'I'm a child. Why did this happen to me?' Gangs' assault on childhood in Haiti.**

## About us

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



We are called Amnesty International.



We work around the world to make sure that everyone gets their human rights.



Human rights are rights that we all have

For example, everyone has the right to be safe, healthy and treated fairly.

## About this report



This report is about big problems for children in Haiti.

Haiti is a country in the Caribbean Sea. It is near South and Central America.



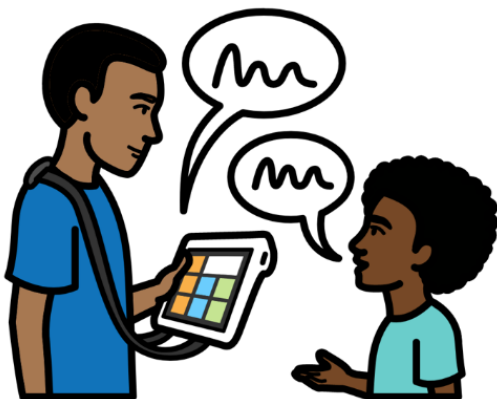
There are big problems for children in Haiti because of gangs.

Gangs are groups of people who are fighting and use violence.

These gangs have guns or other weapons.



The gangs are causing big problems for children in Haiti.



In 2024 we looked at what gangs are doing to children in some parts of Haiti.

We talked to girls and boys, parents and other people to find out more.



We also looked at videos, photos and other information.

## What we found out



There are many gangs fighting in parts of Haiti.

They are taking over some local areas.



Some gangs want to decide how Haiti is run.

For example, they wanted one leader of Haiti to stop being the leader.



The problems have got worse since the leader of the country was killed in 2021.

This made it easier for the gangs to take over more parts of Haiti.



There has been more violence because of that.

For example, the gangs have hurt and killed many people.

They have also burned people's homes.

Many people had to leave their homes because of the violence.



There are not enough police to deal with the violence.

And the government of Haiti and other countries have not done much to stop the gangs.

That means the gangs are getting away with doing bad things to people.

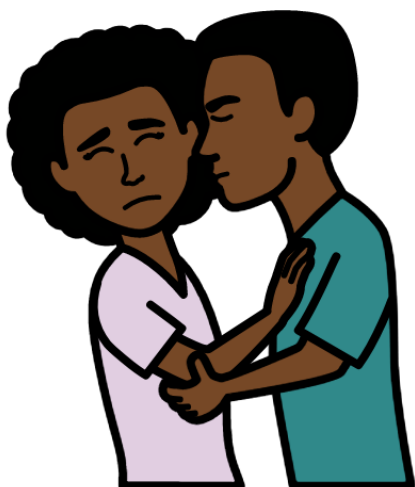


## **Children are being hurt or killed**

Many children have been hurt or killed because of the gangs.

Some children have lost arms or legs because they were hurt by the gangs.

## **Gangs are forcing some children to have sex or to do sexual things**



Gangs are forcing some girls to have sex when they do not want to.

Many girls are unsafe every day because of that.

Sometimes a group of people from the gangs force girls to have sex.

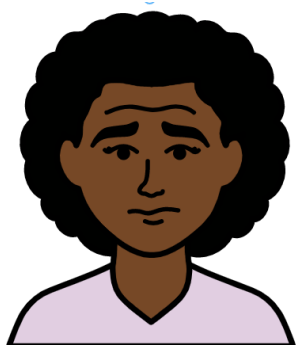
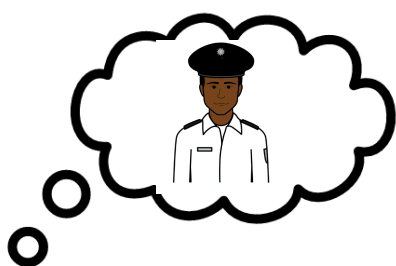
Some gangs have forced girls to have sex for money.

Many children who have been forced to have sex do not get the right support.

Children may be scared to tell the police what happened.

Some children may worry what will happen to them.

And there are not enough police to help them.

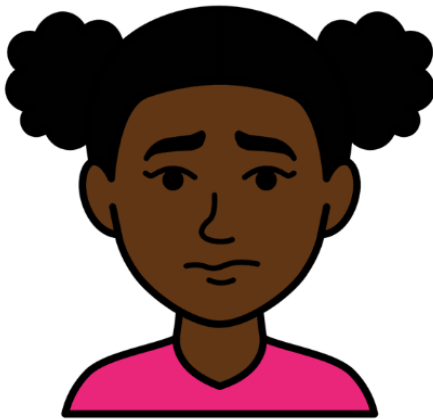




Some girls have got pregnant because they were forced to have sex.

These girls need special healthcare from doctors or nurses.

But some hospitals have closed because of violence by gangs.



That means many girls are not getting the healthcare they need.

This can be very dangerous.

## **The gangs are using children to work for them**

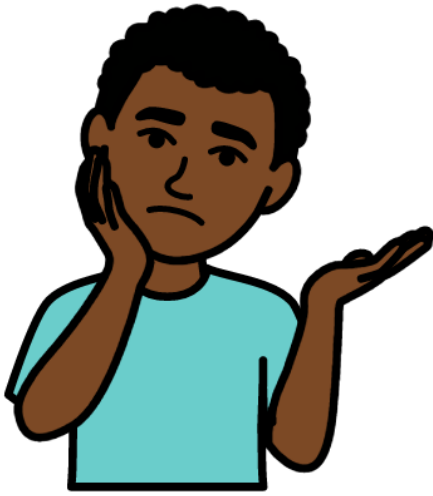
The gangs are often using children to work for them.

For example, some children have to clean houses or fix cars for the gangs.

Or the gangs may make them do crimes.

Some children may get a bit of money for the work they do. But not much.





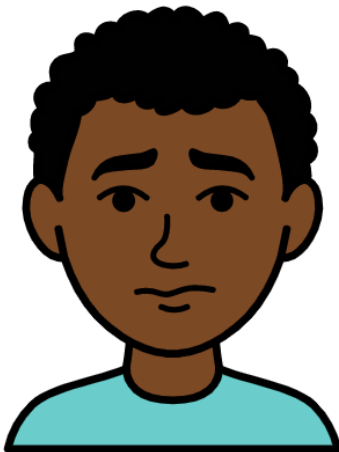
## Many children do not have a choice

Many children said they have to do what the gangs want.



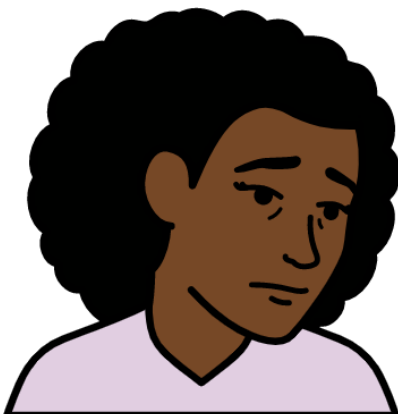
Many children in Haiti are poor and hungry.

Some children feel they need to earn money to buy things they need.



Children may also be scared of the gangs.

The gangs may hurt children if they do not do what the gangs say.



Many children are not getting support to leave the gangs.

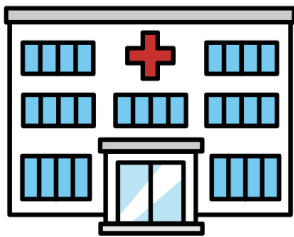
They are not getting support to be part of the community again.





## The gangs are making life worse for children with disabilities

Many children with disabilities have even less support now.



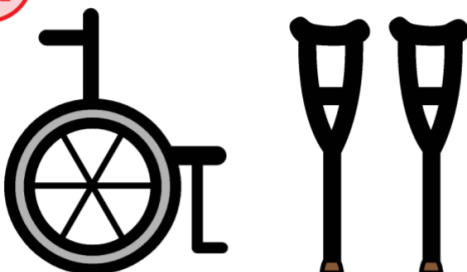
For example, gangs have attacked some places that support children with disabilities.

Like schools and health centres.



It can be hard for children with disabilities to leave home quickly if they are in danger.

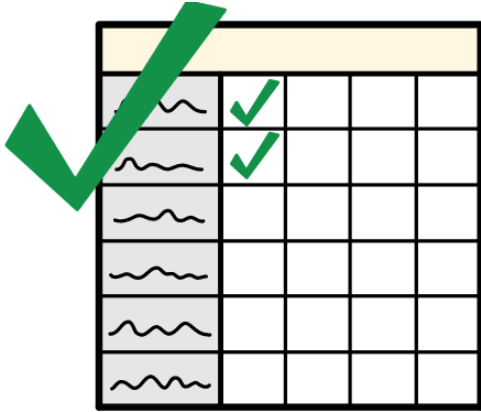
Their families may have to help them move or carry them.



Many children with disabilities have to leave things behind if they are in danger.

Like wheelchairs or other things to help with their disability.

# What we want to happen next

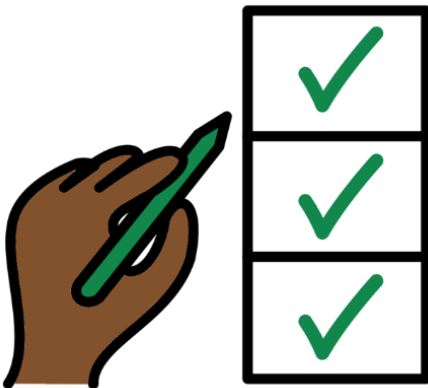


The government of Haiti should work on the things below right away.

Other countries and organizations should also help with this work.

This is to keep all children in Haiti safe.

That means children with disabilities too.



## Things for the government and others to do

There should be a plan about how to keep all children in Haiti safe.

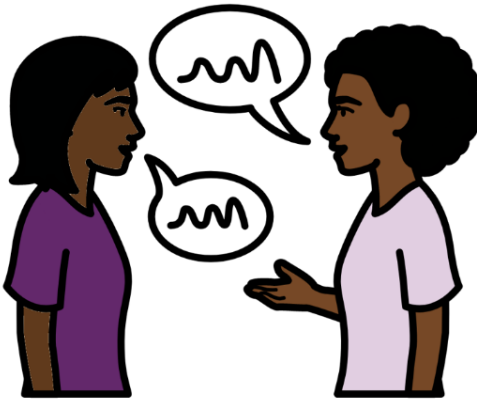


There should be more support to help families to earn enough money.



All children should get a good education.

Many children cannot go to school at the moment because of the violence.



Children who work for gangs do not have a choice.

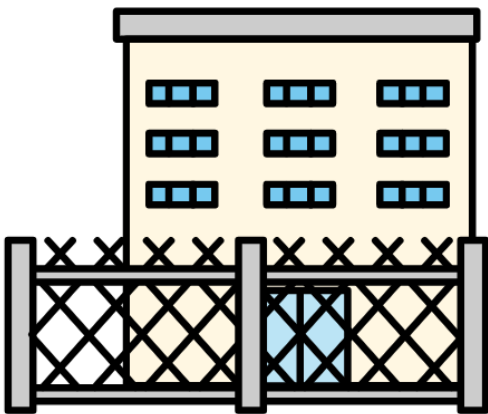
They are forced to work for the gangs.

People in the community should get more help to understand that.



Some children in gangs may have done big crimes.

They may need to go to court. This is to decide if they did the crimes or not.



But many children have been locked up without going to court first.

Sometimes they have been locked up for years.

This should stop.



Courts should do more to deal with crimes.

And children under 14 years old should not have to go to prison.



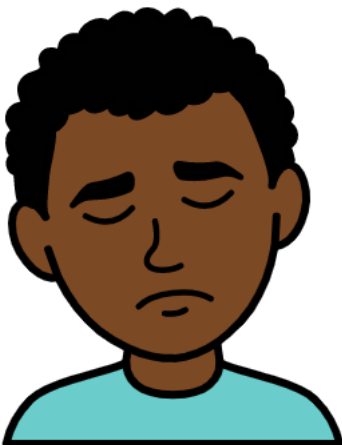
Children in gangs should get support to keep safe instead.

For example, they should get support to leave the gangs and live in the community again.



Children should get the right healthcare and support if gangs have been violent to them.

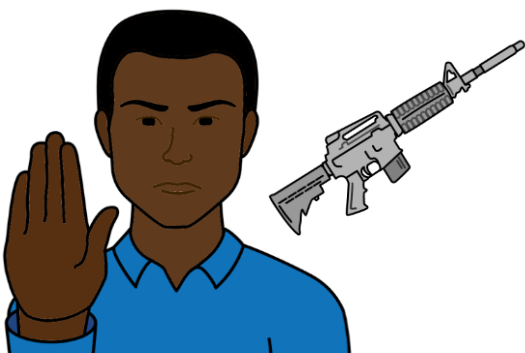
That also means children with disabilities.



For example, many children are upset and scared because of the violence.

They may need someone to talk to about how they feel.

Or they may need support from the police and courts.



More should be done to stop guns coming into Haiti.

The gangs can use the guns to hurt or kill people.



The police in Haiti should get more support to stop violence by gangs.

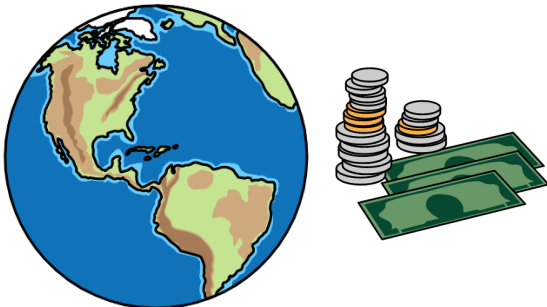
Police from other countries can help with this as well.

They should all work to keep children safe.

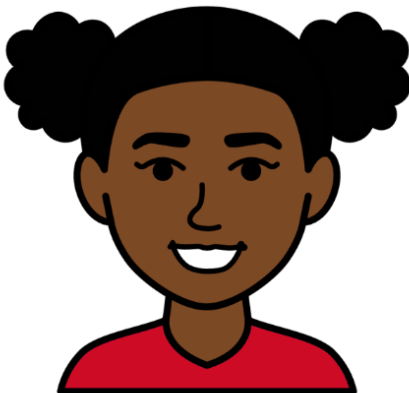


Gangs should not get away with doing bad things to people.

People from gangs should go to court if they have hurt or killed people.



Other countries and organizations in the world should help with this work.



For example, they should give Haiti more money and support to stop the violence.

They should help children in Haiti to have a better life.