November 28, 2017

Dear Summit Participant:

Welcome to the International Summit on the Legal Rights of Street-Connected Children & Youth. This Summit is a centerpiece of the American Bar Association’s new initiative focused on increasing legal services for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in the United States and across the globe.

The need is pressing. There are upwards of 100 million homeless youth globally—statistics that are staggering.

This Summit is a unique opportunity to review the legal guarantees in the United Nations’ Committee on the Rights of the Child’s General Comment on Children in Street Situations, point-by-point, through panels and live, interactive discussion with leaders from around the world with unique expertise. Through a vibrant exchange of information and ideas across borders, we will explore how nations can implement the rights embedded in the UN’s new international instrument. Additionally, the Summit will produce a first-ever publication of principles from the world’s experts on street-connected children and youth that will foster the implementation of each of the legal issues in the Comment.

Special thanks to Trench Rossi Watanabe/Baker McKenzie for so graciously hosting us, and to both HP Inc. and LexisNexis for their generous support. Additionally, thank you to Pinheiro Neto and Hon. Marguerite Downing for their kind support. Thanks also to our many volunteer experts and presenters and the American Bar Association staff for all their tireless work in organizing this event.

Most importantly, thanks to each of you for taking the time to participate in this important effort. Your contributions are appreciated, and we look forward to collaborating with you to improve outcomes for street-connected children and youth.

Sincerely,

Hilarie Bass
President, American Bar Association