#### **Editorial**

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# Editorial Note of Exceptional childhood on COVID-19

## **Abstract**

In the days and weeks following the March 2020 World Health Organization declaration of the global COVID-19 pandemic, a number of national leaders in the Global North, all of them working under unprecedented and extraordinarily challenging circumstances diet.

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# Editorial note

The particulars of their own messages, each such occasion on which a figure of political authority made a point of speaking to or engaging with children on the pandemic and on their roles in collective efforts to address it is noteworthy in itself inasmuch as direct outreach to children on matters of pressing public concern is not a usual part of state practice. Throughout the Global North, and frequently in the Majority World also, the more familiar approach to children in connection with the exercise of sovereign power and its projects is their framing as cherished objects of protection. Sentimentalized and deployed as metonyms or allusions to imagined futures, they regularly figure in political rhetorics of all sorts, but

seldom are children themselves addressed as bona fide subjects in and of a present moment in the sociopolitical lives of nations. While analogous efforts to mobilize citizens in aid of sovereign power may be relatively rare, it is rarer still for them to be addressed to children: calls to vigilance against the threat of terrorist attacks (such as the 'See Something, Say Something' campaigns in Canada and the U.S.), for example, have not specifically targeted outreach to children in the same way (though, interestingly, similar and simultaneous campaigns around the more delineated scourge of school shootings have). The peculiar phenomenon of leaders making efforts to engage children directly in the context of COVID- 19.

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