

Charter of Terre des hommes

«The world-wide appeal of millions of children who suffer or die in silence inspires what follows:

As long as one child remains hungry, sick, abandoned, in misery or in pain, whoever and wherever s/he may be, the movement Terre des hommes, created for this reason, will pledge itself to the child's immediate and complete rescue.

Having determinedly sought out the child, Terre des hommes will come to her/his aid in the way which responds most closely to her/his distress. In the child's country, if circumstances permit, or elsewhere, if not, the child will therefore be fed, cared for, provided with a family and restored to a life worthy of her/his rights as a child, always assured to tender and competent support.

Free of any political, religious or ethnic bias, simply human being working for human being, as an act of justice not condescension, in a spirit of self-effacement as close to personal anonymity as possible, Terre des hommes is composed of voluntary and salaried workers committed to one common goal: the rescue of the child for whom the movement is both the ambassador and the instrument of life, survival and solace. So that none may be in doubt: neither those who suffer nor those who can relieve the suffering, Terre des hommes will strive to alert and to rally humanity around the infinite distress of countless children. »

Edmond Kaiser, founder of Terre des hommes, 1960