

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**\*under embargo until 12:00 on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2024\***

**War Child UK, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF), and Parallel Histories Partner with The Guardian and Observer for 2024 Charity Appeal**

London, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 – War Child UK, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF), and Parallel Histories have, today, announced their partnership with The Guardian and Observer for the publications’ 2024 Charity Appeal. This year’s campaign highlights how ‘*War changes everything*’ with the horrifying increase in conflicts across the globe turning the world upside down for millions more civilians.

As part of the partnership, War Child UK will be working closely with The Guardian and Observer to tell the stories of children affected by conflict in Gaza, Lebanon and Columbia, and the vital work its teams are delivering globally.

“War Child was founded 30 years ago in response to the conflict in Bosnia. Since then, the number of children affected by conflict has more than doubled.” says Helen Pattinson, CEO of War Child UK. “More than 468 million children globally now live in the midst of violence, displacement, and disruption. The funds raised from this appeal will support children caught in conflict, allowing our teams on the ground to deliver specialist mental health support, education, emergency support, and more. We’re incredibly grateful to the Guardian and Observer, and we hope the stories shared will inspire both the Guardian readers and the general public to support our work.”

MSF’s share of money raised through the Guardian and Observer appeal will help fund its work across the world, including the treatment of traumatic injuries like burns, fractures and conflict wounds. Working in partnership with the Guardian and Observer, MSF will be highlighting its work in Jordan rehabilitating injured children from Gaza, its emergency care in Ukraine and its work with Sudanese refugees. It will also share insights into MSF’s work in areas affected by conflict such as in Yemen, Bangladesh, Sudan and the West Bank.

“Right now, there is more armed conflict across the globe than at any other time since World War II, leaving vast numbers of people unable to access the vital medical care that they need. This is why MSF is needed now more than ever.” Says Dr Natalie Roberts, MSF UK Executive Director.

Parallel Histories’ work in partnership with the Guardian and Observer will raise the profile of its work in schools teaching contested history, and empowering school students to

develop empathy and understanding of both sides of historical conflict and helping them to form their own views. And in the process building greater community cohesion. The partnership will raise funds to grow our impact with more school students, targeting disadvantaged schools.

This year, the funds raised from the Guardian and Observer's Charity Appeal will be donated to support the organisations in their efforts to ease the impacts of wars around the world.

**END**

Images found [HERE](#).

**For media enquiries, please contact:**

Daniel Jones  
PR Manager, War Child  
+44 7 467 473 361  
[DanieU@WarChild.uk](mailto:DanieU@WarChild.uk)

### **About War Child**

War Child is driven by a single goal – ensuring a safe future for every child affected by war. War Child works in some of the hardest-to-reach places to support those who are hardest hit. It aims to reach children as quickly as possible when conflict breaks out and stays long after the cameras have gone to support them through their recovery. War Child works with local communities and governments to help protect and educate children, and support them to heal and learn, for a safer, brighter future. Because one child caught up in conflict is one child too many. War Child understands children's needs, respects and stands up for their rights, and puts them at the centre of everything it does. War Child boldly campaigns on the root causes of conflict and helps to amplify children's voices, so that it can advocate for change on the issues that matter to them. Together with its partners, War Child delivers vital work in 16 countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. Every day, its local teams are in communities and refugee camps creating safe spaces for children to play, learn, and access psychological support. War Child also specialises in responding rapidly to emergency crisis situations as they happen, offering immediate and critical aid to keep children safe and help them through their trauma. War Child will never give up on children affected by conflict.

[www.warchild.org.uk](http://www.warchild.org.uk)

**About Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF)**

MSF is an international humanitarian organisation providing emergency medical care in response to conflicts, natural disasters and epidemics. Its thousands of doctors, nurses, medical support workers and logistics staff set up and run hospitals and clinics in 70 countries across the world.

In 2023, MSF admitted more than 1.3 million people to its hospitals and held more than 16.4 million consultations, including at mobile clinics and in refugee camps.

[msf.org.uk](https://www.msf.org.uk)

## **About Parallel Histories**

Our mission at Parallel Histories is to empower school students so that they can think critically, to analyse and debate contested histories. By developing their critical thinking, oracy skills and self-confidence students are equipped with the skills to navigate conflicting narratives. Our resources cut through the rising tide of populism, helping young people to participate in healthy, civic and democratic society.

Parallel Histories is an educational charity that helps teachers, and their students engage in evidence-led investigation and debate of controversial histories in schools. We provide the educational means to do this safely.

At Parallel Histories, students navigate sensitive topics by going back to historical sources when investigating the causes of conflict. Our dual narrative approach provides the starting point for investigation into the historical controversy as each side tells it, first from one position and then from the other.

Over time they build a nuanced understanding of how histories have been constructed, perhaps as a means of shaping the identities that lie at the heart of conflict.

Our non-competitive debates provide a safe platform for free speech, both online and face to face. Young people learn how to communicate ideas respectfully and how to disagree agreeably. Through careful listening and exchange of ideas they grow to recognise that despite differences of opinion they can hold much in common.

The proven impact of this process is that young people learn how to think without being told what to think. Their views are informed by precise knowledge and a greater sensitivity and tolerance to views different to their own. Parallel Histories promotes excellent employability skills; critical thinking, oracy and confidence.

More broadly, we bring young people together to collaborate across community divides through research and debate. By giving oxygen to discussion of the controversial topics that divide society, we build social cohesion.