

When you think of UNICEF, what comes to mind? Many of us still associate UNICEF with vaccinations, child-health initiatives, and nutrition. However, in recent years, UNICEF has shifted its focus. Instead of concentrating on ending hunger and malnutrition, it has emphasized the “rights of the child.” A good thing – *in theory*. But as Richard Horton, the Editor of the prominent British medical journal *The Lancet* wrote in a 2004 article: **“A preoccupation with rights ignores the fact that children will have no opportunity for development at all unless they survive... Child survival must sit at the core of UNICEF's advocacy and country work. Currently, and shamefully, it does not.”**

This is the problem with UNICEF’s work in Guatemala today and the reason why we are not supporting UNICEF this Halloween. As you read this, UNICEF is actively working to end international adoptions from Guatemala, leaving thousands of innocent children a year with no chance for a decent life. According to UNICEF, a child’s “right” to be raised in his or her culture of origin trumps his or her right to eat. UNICEF endorses legislation that severely restricts a woman’s right to choose an adoption plan for her child as well as her right to privacy. Unfortunately, UNICEF offers little advice – or financial support – to help women in Guatemala provide for their children rather than relinquishing them for adoption.

For more information, please visit www.guatadopt.com/visitor or <http://www.familieswithoutborders.com/>

To the children... YOU have done nothing wrong by trying to raise money for UNICEF – you were just trying to help kids! To make sure that happens, we will donate the money we would have given to UNICEF this Halloween to a charity helping kids in Guatemala.

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