



## NEWS LETTER: CHILDREN'S VOICES

Dear Friends in India and around the World,

Warm greetings from SERFAC.

This issue of "Children's Voices" the first in this series brings with it the conviction that '*children matter*'. They are and will remain pivotal to the human experience of marriage and family life. Whether children are seen as part of the solution or the problem in marital conflicts, they are indispensable to and for the future of humanity.

This issue attempts to convey this diversely expressed but universally held conviction which affirms that parents are endowed with the first and most immediate capacity to shape the potentialities of the child by means of their access to that most beautiful expression of humanity: the open, fresh curiosity that is in the mind of the child. The few photographs on this page are of children in India.

We also bring to you 'A memorandum from your Child' along with an invitation to join 'membership in SERFAC' to strengthen and support our endeavours for building a better world for ourselves and a better future for the next generation. The opportunity and challenge beckon us, the doors are wide open and the time is ripe for action.

With my regards,

Sincerely,

Catherine Bernard.



# A Memorandum from your Child

## A TEENAGER'S POINT OF VIEW

1. **Love me** without spoiling me. I know quite well that I ought not to have all I ask for. I'm only testing you.
2. Be firm with me. It lets me know where I **stand**.
3. Be **gentle**. Force teaches me that power is all that counts. I will respond more readily to being led.
4. Be consistent. Inconsistency **confuses** me and makes me try harder to get away with everything I can.
5. Only make promises when you can keep them. **Broken promises** will discourage my trust in you.
6. If you **fall** for my provocations when I say and do things just to upset you, I'll try for more such "victories". Be aware!
7. When I say "I hate you", don't be **upset** because I don't mean it. I just want to you feel sorry for what you have done to me.
8. Make me feel **important**. If I am made to feel unimportant I will make up for it by behaving like a 'big shot'.
9. When you do things for me that I can do for **myself**, it makes me feel like a baby. The danger is I may continue to put you in my service.
10. Pay more attention to my '**good habits**' rather than my "bad habits". My good habits will be encouraged to continue.
11. **Correct** me in private. I'll take more notice if you talk quietly away from others.
12. When you are feeling **calm** you can discuss my behaviour. I will listen to you more and be more inclined to co-operate. It is all right to take the action required, but let's not talk about it until later.
13. I know what's right and wrong so you don't need to **preach** to me

14. Allow me to make **mistakes** without making me feel I am no good. I will learn from them.
15. I would prefer it if you didn't nag. When you do, I have to **protect** myself by appearing deaf.
16. My wrong behaviour cannot be **explained**. If you seek an explanation I really will not be able to tell you why I did it.
17. Be aware I am easily frightened into telling lies. My **honesty** can be compromised if pushed too far.
18. I need to **experiment** and take some risks in my life. I learn from it, so accept this as part of my growth.
19. You can't always **protect** me from consequences. I need to learn from experience.
20. Only take notice of me when I am **genuinely sick**. I may learn to enjoy poor health if my small ailments get me much attention.
21. When I ask HONEST questions, **listen** to me, otherwise I will stop asking and seek information elsewhere.
22. Recognise when I **ask** you "silly" or meaningless questions. I just want you to keep busy with me
23. It is not beneath your dignity to **apologise** to me. An honest apology makes me feel surprisingly warm toward you.
24. I will have too much to live up to if you suggest that you are **perfect** or infallible.
25. Even though our **time together** is brief, it is how we spend it that counts.
26. When I become anxious, be calm and show **courage**. I will become less afraid.
27. I **thrive** on lots of understanding and encouragement. I know that you know that!

Treat me the way you treat your **friends**, then I will be your friend too.

Remember, I **learn** more from a model than a Critic.



**SERVICE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON FAMILY AND CHILDREN (SERFAC)**

NO: 1/157, Manimangalam Road, Varadharajapuram, Chennai – 600 048

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**INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP IN SERFAC**

(Please fill in and return to SERFAC)

We at SERFAC seek your help in taking the message of family unity, family happiness, family togetherness and peace to more couples /families and larger social and institutional settings. To do this we invite you to become a member of SERFAC. There is a small fee to help us move forward in fulfilling this mission.

As a mark of our gratitude we wish to keep in touch by remembering you on your special days.

Your Name (s):

Names of your child /children

Address for communication:

Tel.Nos:

Email id.

Your Date(s) of Birth :

Date of your Marriage :

For priests & nuns : Date of your ordination /  
religious profession or feast day:

- Tell us something about yourself / yourselves:
- Are there any names you wish to suggest to help connect for inviting them to become members of SERFAC.
- Is there any other way you wish us at SERFAC to keep in touch with you:

Your signature (s)

Date:

Form / fee details are overleaf:



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### STATEMENT OF INTENT

I /We hereby recognize that marriage and family are the basis for a healthy society.  
I /We believe that gender equality is the essence of stability, justice, peace and happiness in family, society and nation.

I/We subscribe to and support the values, mission and work of SERFAC by becoming a member(s):

Date:

Signature:

S.No	Membership status:	Entrance Fee (in Rs.)	Annual Fee (in Rs.)	Lifetime Membership (in Rs.)
1.	Couple / Individual	250.00	500.00	5000.00
2.	Organisation / Institutional Members	1000.00	2000.00	15000.00
3.	NGO Members	500.00	800.00	5000.00
4.	Students	200.00	500.00	-

This duly filled form is to be returned and addressed to: **Director SERFAC, 1/157, Manimangalam Road, Varadarajapuram, Chennai – 600 048.** The Membership fee may be sent by cash or demand draft drawn in favour of SERFAC General Account: on any bank in Chennai.

### **By Bank Transfer: (India Only)**

A/C Name : SERFAC General Account

A/C No. 0370104000057789

IFSC Code : IBKL 0000370

MICR : 600259017

Bank Name : IDBI

**For Foreign membership please email  
to us for a separate form & Bank**

**Bank Address:** IDBI, Tambaram, No.4, Near Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital,  
Duraismy Reddy Street, Tambaram West, Chennai – 600 045  
Tamil Nadu, India.

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