



EVENT

Building Peace: Protecting Children in Conflict

5 November 2018, 10:00 - 12:00
Palais des Nations (Geneva) – Room XVII

Geneva Peace Week 2018 event organized by the
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
co-sponsored by the Missions of Belgium and Uruguay to the UN

Introduction

Children are the majority of the population in most countries affected by conflict, yet, we still struggle to ensure their voice is heard and their needs are met. The mandate of the SRSG for Children and armed conflict was created to bring the voices of children affected by armed conflict to the highest fora, and to mobilize global action to address their plight and assert their rights. The mandate, through its monitoring and reporting, advocates for the protection of children against recruitment and use, killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the denial of humanitarian access.

Security Council Resolution 2427, adopted in July 2018, provides the mandate with stronger tools to prevent violations against children affected by conflict. The resolution calls upon States and the United Nations to mainstream child protection into all relevant activities in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations with the aim of sustaining peace and preventing conflict. It also reaffirms the important role the Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict can play in contributing to conflict prevention.

Building on this resolution, the Special Representative has initiated a process to cooperate with Member States and regional organisations to develop national and regional prevention plans to ensure that children are protected in situations of conflict and thus contribute to sustaining peace. The Special Representative also initiated the drafting of guidance for the better inclusion of child protection issues in mediation and peace processes.

Event

This event will showcase that ending and preventing violations against children in armed conflict is not only a moral imperative but can also build sustainable peace. The event will build support for the Special Representative's strategic focus on prevention and will hear ways in which Member

States, civil society and others contribute to building peace through the implementation of the children in armed conflict mandate and related prevention initiatives.

The event will be a panel format with interaction with youth through a discussion portion with youth that have been affected by armed conflict.

Agenda

OPENING PANEL

- Director-General UNOG, Mr. Michael Moeller – *Opening remarks*
- Permanent Representative of Belgium, H.E. Mr. Geert Muylle – *Opening remarks*
- Special Representative for CAAC, Ms. Virginia Gamba – *Remarks on children and conflict*

VIDEO

Presentation of short video on children and armed conflict

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

‘How can the mandate be used to build peace and to prevent grave violations?’

Moderator: Gunilla von Hall (TBC)

- Messeh Leone, from Sierra Leone, child protection advocate
- Nathalie Ben Zakou Man, Child Protection Advisor in Central African Republic
- UNICEF representative (TBC)
- Representative from Geneva Call, Mr. Hichem Khadhraoui and from World Vision, Ms. Erica Hall

Q&A with the audience

Closing Remarks

- Permanent Representative of Uruguay, H.E. Mr. Ricardo González Arenas – *Closing remarks*