



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

### **The National Action Plans on UNSCR1325 and the impact of armed conflicts on children**

Organized by the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict and the Institute of Political Studies "S. Pio V"

A project supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

*5 September 2023- 9.00 am – 5.30 pm at the University of Prishtina*

The conference is organized within the framework of the project "**The National Action Plans on UNSCR1325 and the impact of armed conflicts on children: a study and analysis of the International Universities Network**", carried out by the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict in collaboration with the Institute of Political Studies "S. Pio V" and supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The project aims to carry out **qualitative and quantitative research and produce an insightful report**, by geographical area, of the serious violations against children by armed conflict situations. The research activity, in addition to being the basis of a **Final Report**, will be disseminated through the creation of a specific **Virtual Map** and a short **video** capable of communicating the results in a visually appealing way, with the aim of reaching a wider audience. A **photographic exhibition** will also be organized on the condition of children living in armed conflict and will be presented during the regional conferences.

Alongside the research activity we want to organize a series of conferences/webinars on the condition of children in armed conflicts with a focus on the comparison between the Italian Action Plan and the National Action Plan of the country where the conference will be held.

The project also intends to create an **Autumn School** on "Judicial and social aspects of violence against children, particularly girls, in armed conflict", consisting of a three-week training course aimed at students in which the specific aspects of the research and focus will be dedicated to the importance of international criminal justice against serious crimes perpetrated against children in armed conflict.

### **The Conference**

Armed conflict subjects children to widespread systematic violations of their human rights with physical, mental, emotional and material repercussions.

Armed conflict causes severe direct and indirect consequences for children and most often the indirect consequences are not addressed due to the grave nature of the direct consequences, which are broadly defined as death, injury, recruited as child soldiers and violence against children. The dire



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consequences of the indirect harm caused to children during armed conflict have lasting impact on these children due to the double-barreled trauma such as gross violations of being abducted, forced removal from their families, illegal detention and recruitment as child soldiers. In addition, these children are also deprived of their fundamental rights to education, shelter, and the right to build a fruitful and holistic life.

This conference provides the opportunity to build a comparative analysis of NAP's of selected Eastern European countries vis a vis the IV Italian Action Plan in accordance with Resolution 1325.

The objective of this conference is to create a narrative and collate ideas on how Resolution 1325 can impact and support the global movement to reduce the direct and indirect impacts of armed conflict on children. To achieve this, we must expand the understanding and impact of Resolution 1325 from its gender perspective to reach children affected by armed conflict as well and create a wider umbrella of sustainable peacebuilding via the 4 pillars of Resolution 1325 – Participation, Protection, Prevention, Relief and Recovery, and Accountability. The impact of armed conflict on children needs to deep dive into the following:

- Participation – how can we create a dialog from a gender perspective to mutually include the protection of children under Resolution 1325 and how should the National Action Plans reflect this?
- Protection – how does jurisdiction of the national and international communities work together to create a system of sustainable protection of children from armed conflict under the umbrella of Resolution 1325? (Considering that internal civil wars create a jurisdictional question for international community intervention)
- Prevention – what specific areas of direct and indirect impacts of armed conflict on children can Resolution 1325 address?
- Relief and Recovery – can Resolution 1325 play a larger role in the relief and recovery of children affected by armed conflict (as this is a critical impact point that tends to see a lot of children fall through the cracks)?
- Accountability – how do we improve accountability measures to support children and women affected by armed conflict?

During the conference, the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict will show a photo exhibition of two Italian photo reporters, Marzia Ferrone and Vittorio Alonzo, on children in armed conflict and post-conflict.

### **9.00-10.30 am Welcome addresses**

Moderator: **Mrs. Simona Lanzellotto**, Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict

**-Mr. Qerim Qerim**, Rector of the University of Prishtina (tbc)

**-Mr. Blerim Saqipi**, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Prishtina



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**-Mrs. Laura Guercio**, Secretary General of the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict

Keynote speech

**-H.E. Antonello De Riu**, Italian Ambassador to Kosovo

**-Mrs. Selvete Gerxhaliu Krasniqi**, Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo

**10.30-11.15 am *Presentation of the research activity supported by the Italian Mofa. Analysis of the IV Italian National Plan on UNSCR1325***

**-Mrs. Laura Guercio**, S.G. UNETCHAC – presentation of the IV Italian NAP

**-Mrs. Bahtije Gerbeshi**, RTL UNETCHAC – presentation of the Kosovan NAP

**-Ms. Olena Krytska**, Researcher UNETCHAC – presentation of the Ukrainian NAP

**11.15 am-11.30 am *coffee break***

**11.30 am-1.00 pm First Conference Session**

***Protection of children during Armed Conflicts: a gender perspective. The UN SC Resolution 1325 and related ones***

Moderator: **Ms. Olena Krytska**, Researcher UNETCHAC

**-Mrs Vasilka Sancin**, Professor at the University of Lubjiana (member of the SC of the project)

**-Mr. Cristiano Camponi**, Director of the Italian Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty

**-Mr Dragos Chilea**, University of Costanza and President of the International Criminal Bar Association

**-Mrs. Olga Yerokhina**, press-secretary of “Save Ukraine”

**-Mr Giulio Bartolini**, University Roma Tre, Member of the Committee of Experts of the Commission of International Humanitarian Law of the ICRC

**1.00-2.30 pm Lunch**



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### **2.30-3.30 pm Special Session**

***The importance to integrate a gender perspective in the military missions of peace. The experience of the KFOR***

A dialogue with **Mrs. Adelheid Obwaller**, Chief Gender Advisor-KFOR and **Ms. Elisabeth Schleicher**, Deputy Gender Advisor-KFOR

Moderator: **Mrs. Laura Guercio**

### **3.30-5.00 pm Second Conference Section**

***The role of the NAPS in promoting the protection of children in armed conflict: a countries analysis***

Moderator: **Mrs. Simona Lanzellotto**, UNETCHAC

- Mr. Giuseppe Cataldi**, Professor at the University l'Orientale of Naples (member of the SC of the project)
- Mrs. Jan Marie Fritz**, University of Cincinnati and University of Johannesburg, expert on gender issues and NAPS on UNSCR1325
- Mr. Baki Svirca**, Head of Transitional Justice Division at the Justice Ministry - Kosovo
- Ms. Khrystyna Bidonko**, Psy. M. at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin
- Mr. Afrim Hoti**, University of Prishtina
- Mrs Madalina Botina**, University of Costanza
- Mr. Gerardo Pelosi**, journalist at "Il Sole 24 Ore" - Italy

### **5.00-5.30 pm Conclusions**

- Mrs. Laura Guercio**, S.G. UNETCHAC
- Mrs. Bahtie Gerbeshi**, Professor of the University of Pristina and RTL UNETCHAC
- Mr. Paolo De Nardis**, President Institute of Political Studies "S. Pio V", Vice President UNETCHAC

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