**Press Release**



 **“Armed Conflicts: "Protecting the Invisibles for a Sustainable Future"**

**The Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict - UNETCHAC will launch the exhibition by Mohamed Keita on girls and children who are victims of armed conflict.**

**On 7 March, the conference at the City Hall of Rome, the Campidoglio, in the presence of the Municipality of Rome City Councilor for Social Policies and Health Barbara Funari.**

**Rome, 2 March 2022 -** A photographic exhibition tells the drama of girls and minors who are victims of armed conflicts and becomes an appeal for peace in Ukraine, where war and violence persist in the world: **the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict (UNETCHAC)** organizes the Conference **"Networking for a brighter future! Women and girls in Sub-Saharan Africa: Transforming Education for a Sustainable Future"** at the City Hall of Rome the Campidoglio.

The event, organized in collaboration with the Institute of Political Studies S. Pio V and the Academy of Legality, will take place on Monday, 7 March at 4 PM in the Hall Sala Del Carroccio. During the conference will be previewed the exhibition by the photographer Mohamed Keita which will be promoted by the Network in collaboration with the Permanent Representation of Italy to the United Nations in New York and will be hosted at the United Nations building during the 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

“One shot made me a refugee photographer. Now, thanks to photography and together with the Universities Network, I can help raise people's attention to the condition of children who not only in Africa know the experience of war" Keita said. "What is happening in the world - he continues - teaches us that we must always work together to protect children!"

 The photographs in the exhibition portray the young women and children of Sub-Saharan Africa and tell of the indifference that, too often, makes these lives invisible.

A violence that today is also repeated in the technological and interconnected West as we live, making children the most vulnerable victims above all.

With the participation of the Councilor for Social Policies and Health of the Municipality of Rome **Barbara Funari** and **Andrea De Priamo**, Vice President of the Culture Commission of the Municipality of Rome, the conference foresees the intervention of representatives of institutions, academics, essayists and publishers who will compare different experiences for developing concrete initiatives to ensure the protection of minors and, in particular, defend their right to education by building a sustainable future together.

“They are particularly touching photos, also considering this particular historical juncture. We hope to be able to admire the exhibition live in Rome, with the awareness that the work of photographers who have the ability and the courage to tell the story of armed conflicts is vital for our historical memory, " **Councilor Funari** said.

“War is a serious, unjustifiable, unacceptable act, and it is always inexorably a defeat for all parties involved. At times it may seem distant to us, like the conflicts in Africa, at times it is close to us: but it is always dramatically real with its devastating effects on civilians, particularly on innocent children. This is why war kills every day: it kills hopes, people and a possible future, "said **Professor Laura Guercio**, Member of the Coordination Committee of the Universities Network.

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