

High-level Conference

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT: A MULTINATIONAL STRATEGY TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM ARMED CONFLICT

Organized by the *European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights* with the *Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict (UNETCHAC)*

23 January 2024

1:30pm – 3pm CET

Room JAN 6Q1, European Parliament, Brussels

(60 rue Wiertz - B-1047)

Co-hosted by MEPs Caterina Chinnici and Milan Brglez, Co-Chairs of the Intergroup on Children's Rights

The protection of children in armed conflict zones must be a priority of states, international and regional organizations and of non-state actors, non-governmental organizations and civil society. For such, the conference aims to

- Highlight the importance of a **joint multi-level commitment in finding solutions to strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflicts** around the world.
- Assemble institutional representatives, international and regional organizations, civil society and the academic community to **identify common lines of action to protect and prevent the violation of children's rights**.
- **Raise awareness of the necessity of promoting the active participation of young people**, future decision-makers, in training courses, field experiences and debates about fundamental rights of people suffering the effects of armed conflicts.

During this event, the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict (UNETCHAC) will present its project activities together with the report "*The European Guidelines and the International Humanitarian Law. Implementing the EU Guidelines on Promoting Compliance with International Humanitarian Law in relation to children in armed conflict*". This report is the result of a study conducted by a group of experts of the Network, proposing recommendations on how the existing Guidelines could be completed in order to enhance the European Union's action with respect to children in armed conflict.

The participation in the event of students and young researchers, some of whom come from areas affected by armed conflicts, will bear witness to the importance of integrating these groups in policymaking and in the public debate.

Agenda

- **Introduction/welcome address:**

MEP Caterina Chinnici, *Co-Chair of the Intergroup on Children's Rights*

MEP Milan Brglez, *Co-Chair of the Intergroup on Children's Rights*

- **Keynote addresses:**

HE Janez Lenarčič, *EU Commissioner for Crisis Management*

Ms Ghada Waly, *Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)*

- **Panel discussion:**

HE Andrea Orizio, *Permanent Representative of Italy to the EU PSC*

Mr Fausto Pocar, *President of the UNETCHAC*

Ms Laura Guercio, *Secretary General of the UNETCHAC*

Ms Paolina Massidda, *Principal Counsel at the independent Office of Public Counsel for Victims, International Criminal Court (ICC)*

Ms Alexandra Souza Martins, *Coordinator, UNODC Global Programme to End Violence against Children*

Moderator: Mr Emilio Puccio, *Secretary General of the Intergroup on Children's Rights, European Parliament*

- **Promoting the active participation of young people in identifying measures to protect children in armed conflict:**

Ms Giovanna Gnerre Landini, *Responsible for the Relations with the Academic Institutions, Students and Associations, UNETCHAC*

Testimonies from outh: **Sophia de Berardinis, Liliann Saudi, Sanar Taha Darwish, Juho Toppari**

- **Conclusive remarks:**

MEP Marc Angel, *Vice-President of the European Parliament*