Children and Armed Conflict

Security Council 1

Issue Description:

For centuries, all across the globe violence has been raging across multiple countries. No matter where this violence strikes, children are always the first to be disproportionately affected by it. Humanitarian crises like these pose a major challenge to uphold children's rights. The exposure to violence, killings, abuse, family separation, and much more is ruining this future generation. All member states are bound to protect children at all times, including during armed conflict. The UN has already passed multiple resolutions, like Resolution 44/25: *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (United Nations, 1989), Resolution 1261 (United Nations, 1999), and Resolution 55/29 (2024) (United Nations, 2024), to raise concern and combat this problem (United Nations, sd).

Furthermore, armed conflict raises serious concern for child health and development. Children exposed directly or indirectly to armed conflict surfer harm that is able to impact the rest of the Children's lives. Conflict leads to injury, illness, psychological trauma, and death. The complex combination of political, social, economic, and environmental factors resulting from conflicts have indirect and lasting effects on children. This raises urgent concern to halt violence on children. (Ayesha Kadir, 2019)

Weapons of war cause death and injury to soldiers and civilians alike. Worldwide, around 10000 people die per year, most of them being civilians and children. War drives families from their homes, and children succumb to harsh living conditions. This is the harsh reality of Children and Armed Conflict. Children die to violence, displacement, malnutrition, diseases and much more due to them being victim to war. (Djeddah, 1996)

Why has this issue not been resolved?

In 2005, the Security Council established a Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) to systematically monitor, document and report on violations committed against children in situations of concern around the world, all with the goal of ending these violations. This problem, however, is so complex and diverse around the world, that the UN will regrettably almost certainly never completely eradicate the entire problem. The only thing we can do is keep monitoring, providing solutions and recommendations, to hopefully someday reduce this issue to nothing.

Important stances on the issue

Democratic Republic of the Congo demands strong international accountability for all actors recruiting or abusing children (United Nations, 2026).

China supports strong international protection for children but believes that sustainable protection requires ending armed conflicts through diplomacy, dialogue and political settlements (United Nations, 2026).

France underscores the “absolute need” to combat the scourge of violence committed against children in armed conflict. (United Nations, 2024)

The United Kingdom believes that “As a Council we must uphold the specific rights and vulnerabilities of children and amplify their voices,” he said, adding that “children are not numbers”. (United Nations, 2024)

The United States supports strong international efforts to prevent and punish grave violations against children in armed conflict. (US department of state, 2021-2025)

What organizations are currently involved (or have been involved) and what have they achieved?

The UN has passed many resolutions and has established multiple organizations like MRM, SRSG-CAAC, OSRSG-CAAC and many more to combat the problem, though much more could be done to combat the issue(United Nations, sd)

Good luck with your research reports delegates!

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