



CHILD CONSULTATIONS ON

how to better protect children in armed conflicts

Hi!

Hello from the United Nations Human Rights Office!

We are working on a special **report** about how children's rights are affected in places where there's fighting or war. The report will give advice to governments on how they can do a better job of protecting children and making sure their needs are put first. It's important that children, like you, can contribute to the report with your thoughts and ideas. We want to **make sure that your voices are heard** because they are very important to help us protect children better and make sure **your rights are respected!**



How can you participate and share your views?

Consultations with children about this report is organised in many different places around the world and probably you are reading this information sheet because you are interested to take part in one. The consultation will be more like a discussion led by an adult who is helping you to go through the main questions of the report. After the consultation, they will prepare a report - you can also help with that - which will be sent to the UN Human Rights Office.

What will be the questions at the consultation?



What will happen after?

The official report and a summary in child-friendly format will be sent to the partners who organised child consultations but you can also regularly check the [website](#) of the UN Human Rights Office for news.

THANK
YOU

SMALL READING BEFORE THE CHILD CONSULTATIONS

What are children's rights?

Children's rights are promises that governments have made to children and young people under 18 years old to help them enjoy a good life in all places where they live and stay safe from danger. The **Convention on the Rights of the Child** explains who children are, all their rights, and the responsibilities of governments. All the rights are connected, they are all equally important and they cannot be taken away from children.



How children are protected in wars?



According to the United Nations Children's Fund, over 473 million children – about one out of every six children in the world – live in areas where conflict or war is happening. **These children have the same rights under the Convention** as any other child living in a peaceful country!



They also have **the right to be protected in war** and not made to join the army or take part in the war other ways (article 38). Children **have the right to get help** if they have been hurt, neglected, treated badly or affected by war, so they can get back their health and dignity (article 39).

How children's rights are violated in wars?



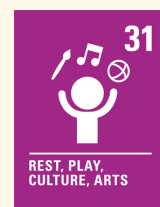
Children are not treated like children anymore and their best interest is not considered.



Children might get separated from their family or family members or lose them at the war.



Children are hurt, abused or treated badly, they get injured or lose their life because of the fighting. They might be taken to fight or support the army.



Children cannot go to school or cannot play outside, because it is not safe anymore or the schools and playgrounds were destroyed.



Children cannot have access to clean water or medicines, they don't have enough food, clothing. It can happen that they lose their home or they have to leave it because it is not safe anymore.

