

CAT Statement Human Rights Council 61st session

Annual Day on the Rights of the Child- Children in armed conflict

My name is Sarah, I am from Northern-Ireland and I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Children's Advisory Team of Child Rights Connect. My colleagues, who live in a conflict zone or escaped a war, cannot be here today. I am making sure that their voices are heard at this important debate.

Children deserve to live in a world free from war and the international community must focus on peace. When a war ends, the children who lived through it, face many difficulties in trying to heal and rebuild their lives. Governments, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations and local communities must work together to provide comprehensive support to these children. There should be safe, inclusive, and child-friendly spaces that allow children to express their views and contribute to policies, peace processes, and humanitarian responses. No child standing up for human rights should be harassed, prosecuted or harmed in any ways.

The world must come together to protect and support children, ensuring they grow up in a world full of hope, opportunity, and security, rather than one filled with pain and suffering.

"NEVER THINK WAR IS NOT A CRIME. IT IS THE BIGGEST CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN."