

# Module 2: Mandated Tasks of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

## Lesson 2.7



---

## Child Protection



# Relevance

Peacekeeping personnel:

- Protect children's human rights
- Protect children from violence



# Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

- Define a “child”
- Explain why children need special protection, especially in armed conflict
- Describe duties of peacekeeping personnel as reflected in UN policies
- List actions to take to protect children



# Lesson Overview

1. Definitions
2. Importance of Attention to Children & Armed Conflict (CAAC)
3. UN Partners Leading in Addressing CAAC
4. Legal Framework
5. DPKO-DFS Policies on Child Protection
6. Child Protection in UN Peacekeeping
7. Roles & Responsibilities
8. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do



## Learning Activity

2.7.1

Film: *A Child's Fate – Child Protection and Peacekeeping*

### Instructions:

- How does armed conflict impact children?
- Why is it important to protect children?

**Time:** 15 minutes

- Film: 12:22 minutes
- Wrap-up: 2 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNFnRIGPzSM>



# 1. Definitions

- A **child** is every boy or girl under the age of 18
- The aim of **Child Protection** is to protect children from violence, abuse and neglect, and promote their rights





## Age and Vulnerability

### Instructions:

- Think about your childhood or your children's
- Identify needs and milestones in development at 0-3 years, 4-6 years, 7-12 years, 13-18 years
- Reflect on the vulnerability of children in armed conflict at these different ages

### Time: 5 minutes

- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes



## 2. Importance of Attention to Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC)

### Special Protection for Children

- Easily influenced
- Depend on structures for protection care
- Process of growing up







## Six Grave Violations against Children's Rights in Situations of Armed Conflict

1. Killing and maiming
2. Recruitment and use of children
3. Abduction
4. Sexual violence
5. Attacks against schools and hospitals
6. Denial of humanitarian access





### Risks to Children during Armed Conflict

---

#### **Instructions:**

- Consider the testimonies of children
- Why are they at risk?
- How does being a child increase their vulnerability?
- Does gender play a part?

#### **Time:** 10 minutes

- Brainstorming: 5-7 minutes
- Discussion: 3 minutes



### 3. UN Partners Leading in CAAC

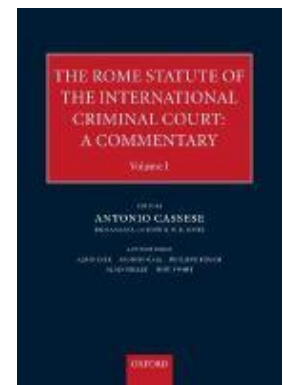
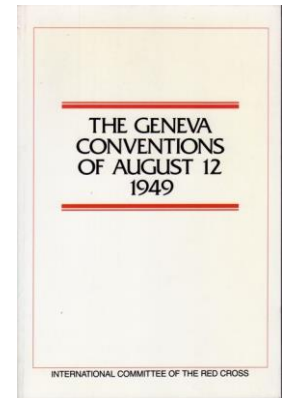
- Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG-CAAC)
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)





## 4. Legal Framework

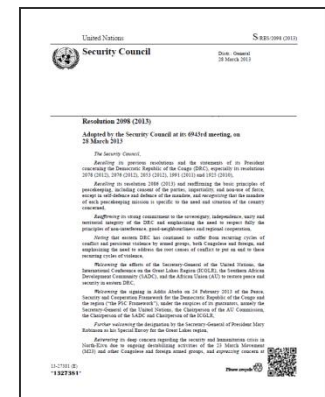
- International Law
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC, 2000)
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182 (1999)
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC, 1998)
- Mine Ban Treaty of 1997 and Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008)





# 4. Legal Framework

- Security Council resolutions on **Children and Armed Conflict** – 1612 (2005) on **Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM)**





## 5. DPKO-DFS Policies on Child Protection

### **DPKO-DFS Policy on Mainstreaming Child Protection (2009)**

“DPKO shall ensure that the concerns of protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict are specifically integrated into all aspects of UN peacekeeping”.

### **DPKO Policy on the Prohibition of Child Labour in UN Peacekeeping Missions (2011)**

“The use of children under the age of 18 for the purpose of labour or rendering of services by UN peacekeeping operations is strictly prohibited”.



### Obligations when Interacting with Children

---

#### **Instructions:**

- Consider the scenarios
- What should you do?

#### **Time:** 5 minutes

- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes



## 6. Child Protection in UN Peacekeeping

- Alert for six grave violations
- Alert to other violations:
  - Illegal arrest, detention
  - Forced displacement
  - Trafficking for sexual exploitation, domestic labour
- Record and refer to child protection, human rights experts







# Coordination with Child Protection Partners

- UNICEF
- Other UN agencies – UNHCR, ILO, UNESCO, UNFPA
- International and national NGOs
- National ministries – social, health, education, youth and inter-agency groups





# 7. Roles & Responsibilities

## Child Protection Adviser (CPA)

- Placing the concerns of children onto peace and political agenda
- Mainstreaming, advising, training, advocating child protection
- Monitoring and reporting grave violations against children
- Liaising with UNICEF and other child protection partners for follow-up and response

Goal

Child  
Protection



## Other Units

DDR

---

Human Rights

---

Political Affairs

---

Gender Adviser

---

Women Protection Adviser

Civil Affairs

---

Rule of Law

---

Judicial Affairs

---

Corrections

---

SSR

---

Electoral

---

Mission Support

---

SRSO's Office



# Special Roles of Police

- Mentoring and advising
- Vetting, training and advising
- Investigating
- Reporting

Goal

Child  
Protection



# Special Roles of Military

- Protection
- Contributing to alerts and information related to child rights violations
- Identify and release children from armed groups

Goal

Child  
Protection



## 8. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

- Identify and be alert – Six Grave Violations
- Record essential information
- Do not interview
- Report to CPA or other experts





## 8. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

### Do...

Report misconduct

Keep information confidential

Refer child survivors of violations

Ask CPA or CDU for guidance, if needed

### Do not...

Use children for any services

Interview children

Take pictures of child survivors of violations

Give money, food or other products to children



# Summary of Key Messages

- A “child” is an individual under 18 years
- Children need special protection, especially in conflict
- Duties of peacekeeping personnel – protect children, do not use children for labour or services
- Take action – be alert to violations, record essential information, coordinate, intervene





# Questions



# **Learning Activity**

# **Learning Evaluation**