

Module 4



How to Adapt Justice for Children to a United Nations Peace Operation

Learning Activity 4.3

Apply child-friendly policing practices with children associated with armed forces or armed groups

Case Studies

Case study 1 (Prevention, Central African Republic)

You have recently arrived in Bangui as a UNPOL officer deployed in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). Your line manager asks you to propose an action plan for the prevention of recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups.

Questions:

1. What are the latest developments regarding the recruitment and use of children in Central African Republic? Cite four specific sources that you judge to be credible and recent to properly assess the situation.
2. In light of these developments, how do you propose to identify key components of a strategy for United Nations Police (UNPOL) aimed at preventing the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups in Central African Republic?

Case study 2 (Apprehension, Mali)

You have recently arrived in Bamako as a UNPOL officer deployed in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Your line manager asks you to propose an action plan to ensure that the way in which the host-State police apprehend and arrest children associated with an armed group is in line with applicable international norms and standards.

Questions:

1. What are the latest developments regarding the recruitment and use of children in Mali? Cite four specific sources that you judge to be credible and recent to properly assess the situation.
2. In light of these developments, how do you propose to identify key components of a strategy for United Nations Police (UNPOL) on child-sensitive apprehension and arrest of children associated with an armed group in Mali?

Case study 3 (Reintegration, Colombia)

You have recently arrived in Bogotá as a UNPOL officer deployed in the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia. Your line manager asks you to propose an action plan to ensure that the way in which the host-State police deals with the reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups in Colombia is in line with applicable international norms and standards.

Questions:

1. What are the latest developments regarding the recruitment and use of children in Colombia? Cite four specific sources that you judge to be credible and recent to properly assess the situation.
2. In light of these developments, how do you propose to identify key components of a strategy for United Nations Police (UNPOL) on the reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups in Colombia?

Case study 4 (Interview, Afghanistan)

You have recently arrived in Kabul as a UNPOL officer in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). Your line manager asks you to propose an action plan to ensure that the way in which the host-State police services deal with custody of and interviewing children suspected of criminal activities in Afghanistan is in line with applicable international norms and standards.

Questions:

1. What are the latest developments regarding the recruitment and use of children in Afghanistan? Cite four specific sources that you judge to be credible and recent to properly assess the situation.
2. In light of these developments, how do you propose to identify key components of a strategy for United Nations Police (UNPOL) on how to advise the host-State police services on custody of and interviewing children suspected of criminal activities in Afghanistan?

Tables to be filled in by each group during the exercise:

Question 1

#	Source	Latest developments regarding the recruitment and use of children
1		
2		
3		
4		

Question 2

#	Main aspect of your strategy	Actions featured under each aspect	Who does what?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
Etc.			

Additional Case Studies

Case study 5 (Initial contact, Iraq)

You recently arrived in Bagdad as a UNPOL officer deployed in the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). Your line manager asks you to propose an action plan on the apprehension and interview of children associated with terrorist activities.

Question:

Identify at least 5 key messages that should be conveyed when advising the host-State police about how to approach children suspected of terrorist activities.

Case study 6 (Reintegration, Mali)

You recently arrived in Bamako as a UNPOL officer in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Your line manager asks you to propose an action plan to ensure that the way in which the host-State police proceed with the reintegration of children formerly associated with terrorist activities is in line with applicable international norms and standards.

Question:

Identify at least five (5) key messages that should be conveyed when advising the host-State police about how to approach the reintegration of children formerly associated with terrorist activities.

Learning activity 4.4

Apply child-friendly policing practices with children in conflict with the law

Case Studies

Case study 1 (South Sudan)

As part of your mandate as a UNPOL officer in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), you are assisting your colleagues in the host-State police to investigate a criminal group that allegedly engages in human trafficking for sexual purposes. During a raid at one of the group's premises, the host-State police found 15 women and girls locked in a number of rooms. Among the 15 rescued individuals, four are girls under the age of 18.

In their statements, two of the girls reveal that they joined the group voluntarily, because they were told that they would be selling goods and making money. They were then forced into prostitution against their will for several months and were mostly abused by men in uniform, until they were rescued by the police.

Questions:

1. Would you treat the two girls differently because they joined the group voluntarily? Why?
2. List five key pieces of advice (either dos or don'ts) that you would give the host-State police to guide their actions when dealing with the girls.

Case study 2 (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

The Director of a health-care facility in your area of deployment in the town of Beni, Democratic Republic of the Congo, comes to visit the host-State police to report an incident. You happen to be at the station and witness the testimony given by the Director. This is the third time this year that medicine and money have been stolen from her safe at the clinic. A few weeks prior to the incident, she had installed a small camera in the room where medicine and cash are kept. On her mobile phone, the Director shows the footage of the incident. The host-State police officer says that the alleged offender is most likely the 17-year-old girl who lives on the street. She is a repeat offender who they have arrested many times. Both of her parents were killed in an attack three years ago.

Questions:

1. Given that this is likely a case of recidivism, should the girl still be considered a child by the police and the justice system?
2. List five key pieces of advice (either dos or don'ts) that you would give the host-State police to guide their actions when dealing with the girl.

Case study 3 (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

A 16-year-old girl has just been arrested by the host-State police in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In a robust interview, the host-State police have collected evidence that the girl has been live-streaming sexual content involving her 12-year-old brother. It appears that she has received several payments online, as well as wire transfers originating from United Nations personnel.

Questions:

1. Should the case be dismissed on the basis that the girl is a victim in this affair?
2. List five key pieces of advice (either dos or don'ts) that you would give the host-State police to guide their actions in this case.

Case study 4 (Mali)

A 13-year-old girl has been arrested for suspected association with an armed group in a village in Mali. She was brought to the police station by a host-State police officer and locked in a cell along with other inmates. The police officer said that he would leave her there for a couple of hours to teach her a lesson and to gather as much information as possible about the modus operandi of the armed group that was controlling the area. The girl says that she has never been associated with any armed group and that she was only selling bread on the street when two men in uniform stopped at her stand and stole bread from her. Shortly afterwards, you hear the host-State police officer talking to the girl and offering to release her in exchange for sexual favours.

Questions:

1. This is a matter of codes of conduct concerning the host-State police, should UNPOL turn away and not interfere?
2. List five key pieces of advice (either dos or don'ts) that you would give the host-State police to guide their actions in this case.