

Handout: Do's and don'ts for supporting the release and reintegration of associated children

DO'S	DON'TS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Advocate for a reference to commitments on children and armed conflict (e.g., action plan) in peace/ceasefire agreements.➤ Adapt advocacy messages to each armed force and group.➤ Use monitoring activities as an opportunity to engage in dialogue with armed forces and groups on child rights and protection issues.➤ Familiarize oneself with the DDR process for both adults and children.➤ Obtain relevant pre-identification and identification forms of associated children in advance and be able to explain them to others.➤ Designate and train child protection focal points within the armed forces to support the identification/verification of children and sensitize their assigned units.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Directly tie the release and reintegration of children to peace/cease negotiations or the establishment/implementation of a national DDR process.➤ Assume armed forces/groups understand the definition of “child” or “child soldier” and the relevant international legal framework.➤ Raise expectations among armed forces/groups regarding benefits in exchange for the release of children.➤ Presume that the same strategies will result in the release of all children, including girls, from armed forces and groups.➤ Share personal information of the associated or formerly associated children.➤ Forget that the primary responsibility for the release and reintegration of children rests with the host government.