

IMS Office of the Gender Advisor: Children and Armed Conflict and the Gender Perspective

What is it?

Boy and girls are vulnerable in situations of conflict and continue to face grave violation in these circumstances. Protecting children from armed conflict is a key humanitarian issue and an important aspect of any comprehensive strategy to resolve a conflict. To better protect children, actors in the international community need to integrate the gender perspective, as violations of children's rights in armed conflict are inherently gendered. Societal norms and gender roles continue to be determining factor in a boy's or a girl's specific vulnerabilities.

CAAC and Gender

The 6 grave violations against children affect boys and girls differently. For example, the recruitment and use of children in armed groups is highly gender-specific, and gender also has an impact on acts of sexual violence committed against boys and girls. Integrating the gender perspective helps identify roots causes of violations and allow actors in the international community to better support the needs of children. The use of sex and age disaggregated data is essential to designing gender-specific prevention and response strategies for more effective intervention.



NATO Mandate on CAAC

NATO recognises the importance of addressing violations against children in armed conflict for the success of missions and operations. To address to issue, NATO has established comprehensive and robust mandates and directives on the protection of boys and girls.

"PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM THE RAVAGES OF WAR IS A MORAL IMPERATIVE, A LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND A QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY"

Aysegul Binali, NATO Humanitarian Affairs Officer

UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism

NATO coordinates with other actors in the international community to fulfil its commitment on child protection. Therefore, the Alliance supports the UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) which provides guidance on the systematic gathering of information on six grave violations against girls and boys in situations of armed conflict, which is critical to fostering accountability for state and non-state armed groups.



UNSCR 1612 violations against children:

- **Recruitment and use of children**
- **Killing and maiming of children**
- **Sexual violence against children**
- **Abduction of children**
- **Attacks against schools and hospitals**
- **Denial of humanitarian access**

NATO and its forces support UN efforts to monitor instances of grave violations committed against children in armed conflict, and NATO personnel are trained to recognize and respond these violations against children