

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS for Children during Armed Conflict

The UN Action Plan relies on UN security Council Resolutions, the Law of armed conflict and Children Human Rights law that are international laws that provide a special protection to children in times of armed conflict:

- Children should be provided with the aid and care they require, such as basic needs (food and water, sanitation, etc.), healthcare, protection from violence, family reunification if separated, education and leisure
- The recruitment and use of children in hostilities by parties to conflict is prohibited. The consent of the child is not relevant



Fight for Humanity

Fight for Humanity is a Swiss NGO supporting the implementation of the Action Plan signed between the SDF and United Nation. It provides training and dissemination sessions to the commanders, special units, Internal Security Forces and

Self-Administration on the content of United Nations action plan and work with the SDF on the delisting of the YPG/YPJ from the list of Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict for the recruitment and use of children.

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Protecting children from the scourge of war

Action Plan between the United Nations and the Syrian Democratic Forces



Action Plan between the United Nations and the Syrian Democratic Forces

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) is the first armed actor in Syria to have signed an Action Plan with the United Nations in June 2019 to protect children from the effects of war.



The impact of armed conflict on children

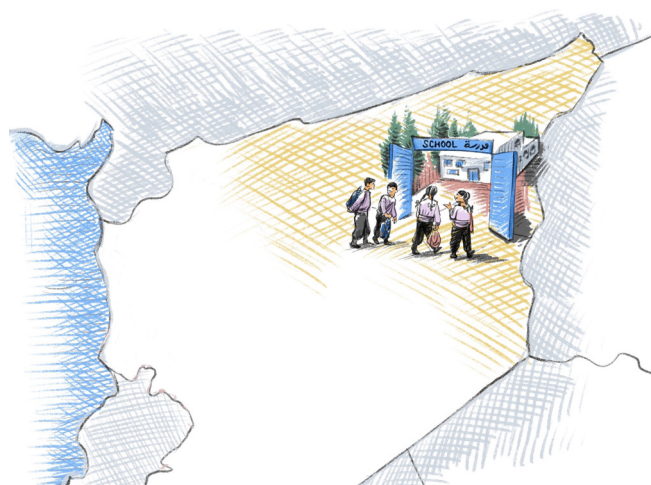
Children under 18 are particularly vulnerable to armed conflict. They are the future of a population and armed conflict can adversely affect their life trajectory as they are separated from their families, lose the opportunity for education, and see their mental and physical development negatively affected. War is no place for a child.

Signatory of the Action Plan:

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on behalf of its main components.

Additional actor endorsing the Action Plan:

The Self-Administration in northern and eastern Syria.



Following the signature of this Action Plan, the General Commander of the SDF issued a military order in August 2019 to communicate the following instructions to all military factions and formations of the SDF:

1. The prohibition to recruit and use girls and boys under the age of 18 within the SDF ranks. This is applicable to combat roles or any other support role such as porter, cook or manning a check point.

2. The identification of any children under 18 in the ranks of all components of the SDF and Internal Security Forces based on the check of their birth date.

3. The facilitation of a swift and orderly handover and return to civilian life of children in case of their presence through a referral to the concerned authorities such as the Education body in the self-administration of North and East Syria.

4. The prevention of the re-recruitment of boys and girls by military forces covered under the Action Plan.

5. The establishment of enquiry offices at the leadership of each military area to receive complaints and reports from families, parents, caregivers with children under the age of 18 years in the ranks of SDF. The role of these offices is to respond to them after verifying the reports or complaints submitted.

6. The release of the content of the action Plan to all the relevant military offices and academies within the SDF.

7. The establishment of punitive measures against those who do not comply with the order. The Military Police Department prosecutes officers and military commanders who do not comply with the provisions of this order.

Within the framework of the Action Plan, the SDF also commits to:

- Raise awareness among the general public and communities in North East Syria on the content of the Action Plan
- Ensure that no adverse action is taken against victims, witnesses, monitors or implementing partners

- Facilitate the monitoring of the United Nations. The United Nations is committed to monitor compliance of the SDF's commitment and verify the implementation of activities planned under this Action Plan. The SDF appointed a senior-level military focal point, supported by a civilian focal point for the Self-Administration to liaise with the United Nations