

Committee: Security Council



Delegation: The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Topic: Marking the 25th anniversary of the United Nations SC resolution on women, peace and security and Addressing the Disproportionate Effects of Armed Conflicts on Children

Position on marking the 25th anniversary of the United Nations SC resolution on women, peace and security

As the pen of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, the United Kingdom is adamant on both reaffirming the importance of the clauses in resolution 1325¹ and having them be implemented in even more Member States, while also filling in the gaps which have been left out during its creation. We must recognise that even now women have to go through cruelties which we and the WPS agenda² stand completely against, and action must be taken. In multiple countries even currently, from Ukraine to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there is aid which needs to be implemented to help those who are in need.

There are three main areas which the United Kingdom feels need the most action to be put, with the first being doing more to involve women in participating in taking such action. It is of key importance to have more inclusion of women in peace processes and conflict negotiations as of before. The United Kingdom has successfully helped in achieving this by supporting greater involvement of women in peace processes, peacebuilding, defence and reconciliation efforts all across the world.³ The importance of not only having more inclusion of women in these topics but also prohibit the appearance of criticising and threats towards women working within these areas of peace and security is in no way acceptable in any circumstance.

The second area which needs the most focus currently is preventing conflict-related sexual violence. The United Kingdom has been an avid participant and main driver of the flagship Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative⁴ and even currently is working to combat violence against women in countries such as Ukraine, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Just as aforementioned in operative clause 10 of resolution 1325, it is unbelievably important to combat sexual abuse of any form aimed towards women.

Lastly, it should be a main priority to address the way conflicts can change unpredictably, and the way this unpredictability impacts women. Not only on the frontlines of war zones, but also digitally women are targeted and harassed for no more than their gender. The rights which all girls and women should have the right to are being attacked, which directly offends our national and global security.

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It is very important to note that these are not the only problems we must confront. Many troubles are still in need of solving, however undermining key priorities are the base of achieving these solutions. Something universal which all Member States should aim to do, possibly being the groundwork for any success to come is cooperation. The only way to actually gain results is through working with partners across the globe in the aim of doing such. There will be points when giving permission for other countries to influence and impact another, even if it may infringe upon a Member State's sovereignty, will be necessary. What every Member State without question must be able to do is let the importance of human rights outweigh one country's needs, no matter how many uncertainties and problems that may bring.

Finally, an implementation which the United Kingdom plans to do and strongly recommends other Member States to do as well is the implementation of the WPS agenda into security and defense policies beyond just aid-focused frameworks. Currently, over 100 countries already have defense policies which implement the WPS agenda, but this level of implementation can be strengthened, as well as having more Member States follow in the same footsteps.

The United Kingdom aims to add on to the WPS agenda by involving more women in taking action during armed conflicts in forms such as peace processes, preventing sexual violence through different initiatives such as the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative, and lastly find a solution to combatting the unpredictability of the way women can be targeted both in armed zones and on digital spaces.

1 - Resolution 1325, also known as the original WPS agenda:

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/WPS%20SRES1325%20.pdf>

2 - The WPS agenda global handbook, explaining the main points used for members of the Parliament:

https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/Parliament_as_partners_supporting_the_Women_Peace_and_Security_Agenda_-_A_Global_Handbook.pdf

3 - Statement by Archie Young, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom in the GA URL:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-uk-remains-steadfast-in-our-commitment-to-advancing-the-women-peace-and-security-agenda-globally-uk-statement-at-the-un-security-council>

4 - UK initiative on preventing sexual violence URL:

<https://ica.i.independent.gov.uk/review/psvi/>

Position on the Addressing the Disproportionate Effects of Armed Conflicts on Children

The United Kingdom strongly advocates for taking action and contributing to any and all forms which countries can in order to help protect displaced and suffering children in armed conflicts. While there are many forms to this, some of the ways the United Kingdom does and recommends others to do so as well are being a member of the UN Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (UNWGCAC)¹, financially contributing to the UN SRSG's office², and endorsing the Safe Schools Declaration³ along with the Vancouver Principles⁴.

The main aim of the UNWGCAC is to review reports on violations against children in armed conflict, and consists of every Security Council member. Identifying the problem is half the solution. The reason behind this working group being such a necessity is because it is the very reason why it is possible for the UN to combat and find ways to help lessen the suffering and displacement of children due to such armed conflicts. By constantly reviewing and monitoring the progress made and the specific situations which need to be combatted, it would be near impossible to fight against these happenings without it.

Financial contribution is an inevitable factor in supporting children influenced by undergoing armed conflicts. If these monetary forms of aid are given in the right hands with the right goal, they are no less than the backbone of aiding these children in need of help. This is why the United Kingdom contributes so adamantly to the UN SRSG's office, who aims to do nothing less than supply those it can through aid. The current Secretary General is one who can directly make use of these funds, and in exchange we can count on their assistance when it matters.

Strengthening principles are very similar to in a way reiterating the importance and points of the WPS agenda. By once again showcasing and emphasising these points, we can enforce them on the areas which they are needed in. The Vancouver Principles and the Safe School declaration focus on two pivotal side effects and problems which come with armed conflicts universally.

The first one of the two is the recruitment of child soldiers. It has become normal practice for armed groups to use children which have been displaced and separated from their family as no more than cannon fodder, aiming to be more ammunition in fighting for the groups' ideals, and not the child's. Apart from combatting this simply by letting out a hand to the children before the armed groups, so therefore evacuating them from the frontlines first, the other solution would be strengthening institutes such as the members of the Vancouver Principles.

The Vancouver Principles, being endorsed by over 107 countries across the entire world, aim to operationalize child protection within UN peacekeeping and directly endorse governments to train all kinds of personnel within the topic to properly take such actions necessary for such situations. By having these become part of national and regional policy implementations

alongside peace processes, the hindering of such armed groups and rehabilitation of children impacted by such conflicts skyrocket.

The second one of these two is ensuring access to education during and after such conflicts have taken place. When a country suffers due to such disputes, the only way to let the victims aim to fully recover is through still giving them a chance to live proper lives with the knowledge necessary for such. They must both have a true understanding of the conflict they suffered so much from, and look forward to the future to see how to prepare for it and prevent a similar event from happening again.

The United Kingdom aims to achieve such through endorsing and spreading the Safe Schools Declaration. 122 Member States have gone as far as to stand next to this political agreement. The Safe Schools Declaration offers direction on specific, actual measures which are able to have armed forces discourage the usage of schools for military purposes and to reduce the risk of attacking any such establishments.

The ways in which the United Kingdom plans to contribute to countering the displacement, suffering and recruitment of children due to armed conflicts taking place is by being active in the UN Working Group of Children and Armed Conflict, giving aid through financial contribution to the UN SRSG's office alongside others, and supplying the Vancouver Principles and the Safe Schools Declaration with more influence and authority throughout such happenings.

1 - Official UN Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict URL:
<https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/subsidiary/wgcaac>

2 - Official office of the Secretary General representative for Children and Armed Conflict URL: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/>

3 - Safe Schools Declaration website URL:
<https://ssd.protectingeducation.org/>

4 - The Dallaire Institute, Co-developer of the Vancouver Principles:
<https://www.dallaireinstitute.org/vancouver-principles>