

**Committee: UNSC (uni)– Marking the 25th Anniversary of the Landmark UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security; addressing the disproportionate effects of armed conflicts on children.  
Country: The United States of America.**



The United States reaffirms its enduring commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security as enshrined in Articles 1 and 24 of the UN Charter (United Nations, 1945). As a permanent member of the Security Council, the United States recognises its special responsibility to lead on issues on the militainment of international norms and enforcement, notably in the protection of women and children in armed conflict.

Historically, U.S. policy towards children in armed conflict has evolved significantly. Over time, the U.S. ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC) (United Nations, 2000), enacted domestic legislation such as the Child Soldier Accountability Act, and began to restrict military assistance via the Child Soldiers Prevention Act for states that recruit and use child soldiers. This transformation was both a moral and strategic U.S. commitment to preventing the use of child soldiers, bolstering its credibility in calling for accountability and reinforcing its support for the Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) framework (Becker, 2024).

In both the WPS and CAAC domains, the United States asserts that protecting the rights of women and children is not peripheral humanitarian concern. It is central to the prevention of conflict, the stabilisation of post-conflict societies, and the legitimacy of international order (UN Women, 2024) (UN Secretary-General, 2024).

Twenty-five years from the adoption of Resolution 1325 (2000), the United States emphasises that the meaningful participation and protection of women in conflict and post-conflict settings is indispensable to sustainable peace, democratic resilience, and effective peace operations (UN Security Council, 2000). The United States is concerned by regression in women's rights, the rise of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), and the shrinking space for civil society (GIWPS, 2023) (Shepard, 2016). Such trends threaten not only individual rights but also long-term stability.

This stance is grounded by Articles 1 and 24 of the UN Charter, numerous key WPS Resolutions, the Geneva Conventions and Protocols emphasising protection of women and civilians in conflict (ICRC, 2005), the Rome Statute, which even though the U.S. is not a State Party, it supports its principles especially on sexual violence, and CEDAW General Recommendation No. 30 (CEDAW Committee, 2013).

Despite strong normative frameworks, the United States observes critical implementation challenges. Firstly, National Action Plans tend to lack metrics, funding and accountability (Miller et al., 2014). Secondly, sanction regimes do not include sex-based criteria across the board and early warning, and prevention systems lack systematic sex analysis (Ni Aolain,

2016). And lastly, digital and political backlash against women peacebuilders and human rights defenders is widely present (GIWPS, 2023) (Shepherd, 2016).

The United States will therefore push for various measures namely: strengthened Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) under Resolution 1960 (UNSC, 2010); increased support and protection for local women's civil society (UN Women, 2024); sex-based, responsive early-warning and mediation mechanisms; clear guidelines on what peace agreements and governance should include to mitigate the disproportionate effects on women; sanctions criteria tied to CRSV and sex-based violence (UNSC, 2008); and comprehensive support to women peacebuilders, including protection from digital repression (GIWPS, 2023).

Moreover, the United States views violations against children, including killing, maiming, recruitment, displacement, and sexual violence, as serious threats to international peace and security (UN Secretary-General, 2024) (OSRSG-CAAC, 2025). Especially when systematically used, these grave violations undermine governance, exacerbate conflict and jeopardise long-term peacebuilding (Save the Children, 2024). The U.S. is committed to strengthening the CAAC framework and ensuring that the Council treats children's protection as a core responsibility (UNSC, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005).

The United States reaffirms the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, especially the prohibition of starvation and attacks on schools and hospital (ICRC, 2005), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC) which the U.S. ratified (United Nations, 2000). U.S. national policy and legislation reflect this commitment. Namely in joining the OPAC and with laws such as the Child Soldier Accountability Act, where the U.S. has codified its rejection of child recruitment (Becker, 2024).

The United States is particularly concerned by record-high verified grave violations (OSRSG-CAAC, 2025), massive recruitment of children by armed groups (UN Secretary General, 2024), use of starvation (Save the Children, 2024), large-scale displacement and psychosocial trauma (Betancourt et al., 2020). Thus, priorities will include strengthening the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) under Resolution 1612 (UNSC, 2005), integrating child-protection benchmarks into sanctions regimes (UNSC, 2004), preventing attacks on school and hospitals through explicit normative language aligned with the Safe Schools Declaration (GCPEA, 2024), support family reunification, DDR, psychological care and reintegration programmes (Autesserre, 2010) (Betancourt et al. 2020).

In conclusion, the United States is proud of the tremendous work it has done and continues to do to advance peace and stability across the world. By leading successful peace processes in some of the most challenging conflicts around the world, the U.S. delivered results and stepped up when it mattered most (CFR, 2023). The U.S. will call on all partners to take on their fair share and contribute substantively to protection initiatives and invest in humanitarian and defence work that keeps conflict from exploding; burden-sharing is necessary (GIWPS, 2023). The U.S. will continue to drive solutions, strengthen

accountability and pushing the Security Council to deliver real outcomes for women, children and civilians everywhere.

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