

Committee: Security Council (University)

Country: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Delegate: Christopher John Mercieca

Topic: Marking the 25th Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security and Addressing the Disproportionate Effects of Armed Conflicts on Children

The United Kingdom reaffirms its long-standing commitment to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and to the protection of children in armed conflict. As a founding member of the United Nations and a permanent member of the Security Council, the UK underscores the importance of multilateral action, international humanitarian law, and the safeguarding of human dignity. The UK believes that women's full participation in peace processes and the robust protection of children in conflict zones are fundamental pillars of global stability and sustainable peace.

As a key global leader in international politics, the United Kingdom was an original sponsor of UNSCR 1325 and has since remained one of the strongest global advocates for the WPS agenda. The UK's 2023–2027 National Action Plan on WPS advances three pillars—prevention, participation, and protection—as guiding principles shaping UK diplomacy, defence policy, and development efforts. Through this plan, the UK commits to continue to expand women's participation in peace negotiations, security forces, and political institutions. It also aims to increase representation of women in the British Armed Forces and overseas missions. Lastly, it wants to maintain peacekeeping and mediation teams, deploy gender advisers and integrate gender analysis.

The UK continues its leadership through the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI), launched in 2012. This initiative has provided over £60 million in funding for survivor support and justice mechanisms. It has also created the Murad Code, an international standard for safe documentation of conflict-related sexual violence. There are trained peacekeepers, judicial officers, and police forces worldwide to prevent sexual and gender-based violence. Protecting Women Peacebuilders. Recognising the threats faced by women activists, the UK supports protective mechanisms such as emergency relocation, secure communication, and legal assistance. Funding for grassroots women's organisations, including a £33 million partnership with the Equality Fund and £800,000 to ICAN (International Civil Society Action Network) is highly necessary to comply with Resolution 1325.

At the Security Council, the UK continues to push for a full implementation of UNSCR 1325 and successor resolutions. Accountability for sexual violence in conflicts such as Ukraine, Sudan, and the DRC. Global action to ensure women's meaningful participation in peace processes.

The UK is fully committed to the enforcement of:

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC)

Fourth Geneva Convention and Additional Protocols I & II

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

These instruments collectively prohibit child recruitment, protect civilian objects such as schools and hospitals, and criminalise the deportation or ill-treatment of children. Since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, Ukrainian children have experienced severe displacement, trauma, and violence. The UK strongly condemns the killing and maiming of thousands of children, attacks on schools, hospitals, and critical infrastructure and most importantly the forcible deportation of Ukrainian children to the Russian Federation — an act the ICC considers a war crime. The UK fully supports an ICC arrest warrants against President Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, mechanisms for family reunification and psychological support and also major humanitarian funding through UNICEF and NGOs.

The UK expresses grave concern over the scale of child suffering in Gaza, where thousands of children have been killed or injured and millions displaced. The UK vehemently condemns Hamas for its attacks on Israeli civilians, hostage-taking, and recruitment of children. It calls on Israel to comply with international humanitarian law, protect civilians, and allow full humanitarian access as well as respect the armistice currently in place to ensure some level of stability. The UK supports UN-led efforts to provide food, medicine, sanitation, and psychological support to children. Lastly, it calls for immediate humanitarian pauses to alleviate suffering.

In 2024, the UK was one of the top five donors to UNICEF globally, providing over US\$400 million to protect children's health, education, and well-being. The UK continues to prioritise the protection of schools under UNSCR 2601, mental health support programmes for conflict-affected youth and also strengthening the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations.

The United Kingdom urges all Member States to uphold international law and accelerate implementation of both the WPS and CAAC (Children and Armed Conflict) agendas.

The UK stands ready to work with partners to:

Ensure women's leadership in peace processes.

End impunity for sexual violence.

Protect children from the atrocities of war.

Uphold humanitarian access and accountability.

Sustainable peace cannot be achieved without the empowerment of women and the protection of children. The United Kingdom remains firmly committed to advancing these principles within the Security Council and across the United Nations system. As Bruno Ateh said "Let us ensure that access, protection, and accountability for children in armed conflict remain front and centre — not as optional considerations, but as foundational commitments."

Sources:

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

<https://www.unicef.org/partnerships/united-kingdom>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-united-kingdom-voted-in-favour-of-this-resolution-as-a-critical-step-towards-the-implementation-of-the-peace-plan-for-palestinians-israelis-and>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Kingdom\\_and\\_the\\_United\\_Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_and_the_United_Nations)

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

McQueen, A. (2019). *Falling Through the Gap: The Culpability of Child Soldiers Under International Criminal Law*. Notre Dame Law Review Online, Vol. 94, pp. 100–127.

Sourander, A. *et al.* (2024). *Suicidality and self-harm behavior of adolescents during the early phase of the war in Ukraine*. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 63(12), 1204–1214.

Pérez-García, D. (2022). *Child soldiers in Palestinian groups: forced recruitment and use of minors as a violation of International Humanitarian Law*. *Revista Internacional de Estudios sobre Terrorismo*, No. 5 (2022).

Amnesty International (2004). *Children and armed conflict: a briefing for the Security Council*. Amnesty International

United Nations Secretary-General. (2025). *Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General (A/79/878-S/2025/247)*. United Nations, 17 June 2025.