



**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR  
CHILDREN AND ARMED  
CONFLICT**

## **Programme objectives**

In its advocacy work as well as through initiatives proposed on behalf of children affected by armed conflict, the Office of the Special Representative has continued to draw attention to the need to address the plight of children affected by armed conflict from a gender perspective. In particular, the Special Representative has called for increased attention to the special needs of girls, as boys, in situations of armed conflict and in peace, and post-conflict processes. The outcome document from the 56th session of the General Assembly, "A World fit for Children", underscored the need to "develop specific strategies to protect and provide for the special needs and particular vulnerabilities of girls affected by armed conflict". Four Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict - 1261, 1314, 1379 and 1460 have also supported this position. And in reports to the General Assembly and additional reports to the Commission on Human Rights, the Special Representative has highlighted this issue.

## **Operational activities**

In 2001, the Office of the Special Representative, UNICEF and Radda Barnen, in collaboration with DPKO, formed an informal working group on child protection training for peacekeeping personnel, to ensure the implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendation that all personnel in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building operations be trained on the rights and protection of children, including guidance as dilemmas arise in the discharge of their functions. This Working Group has produced a complete draft set of training resource materials that can be easily adapted to the mandate of a particular mission and employed to train staff from the various contingents of a multi-component peace operation, including military, police and civilian. Amongst the issues covered in this training package is the need for a gender perspective in dealing with war-affected children.

Amongst young people, the future leaders and policymakers, a clear message on gender equality must be sent. As part of its youth outreach programme, the Office of the Special Representative has pursued this among other goals. The schools outreach initiative, which includes promoting lesson plans about children and armed conflict in school curricula, seeks to highlight gender issues. Similarly, the emerging youth network on children and armed conflict, by which young people will advocate on behalf of their peers in situations of armed conflict, also conveys this same message.

## **Other recent activities**

During the Special Session on Children, the OSRSG, in collaboration with UNICEF, DAW, OHCHR, the Government of Canada and several NGOs, including WITNESS, For our Children's Sake, and Unlimited Productions - Youth Radio Broadcasters, launched a photo exhibit on the "Impact of armed conflict on Girls", to draw attention to the experiences of girls during conflict and in reintegration processes, relative to boys. ■

Office of the Special Representative of the  
Secretary-General for Children and Armed  
Conflict  
United Nations  
Room S-3161  
New York, NY 10017  
e-mail: [osrgcaac@un.org](mailto:osrgcaac@un.org)  
[www.un.org/children/conflict](http://www.un.org/children/conflict)