

Addressing the right of victims of terror with specific needs.

It pleases me to join you in this panel on the protection of children in situations of communal, religious and arms conflict.

This aims to address the needs of these youths, victims of the Boko Hara insurgency. Who have faced Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in losing parents, displacement and separation from their families and communities. Those born to acts of sectoral violence to members of terror groups enslaved, sold and made to see the unthinkable; like making a young girl of 12 years to become a wife, a mother and even a widow. Some of them used as human shields and some made to become suicide bombers.

While still haunted by what happened to them and are still accepting their unpleasant pasts and also learning to trust the community in the future prowess.

The community still views them with disdain for no offense of theirs. While they also view the community as the one that failed to protect them at early age.

There are countless such stories, some are like the stories you just heard and so many more. The past years have shown us a series of grave violations away from the headlines. Some more heinous than the 2012 chibok girls' abduction. This decade long conflict has affected children and youths and they seem to be paying the price. This religious and communal conflict to violence, hunger and so many other violations.

These stories may be different from the others. Children who are affected by conflict and terror perceive violence differently.

We all have to face the fears of living in a society that has peer resistance to girl child education, despite witnessing these horrifying experiences in early age, bearing the brunt of the violence.

To address these unique needs, we need to have both short- and long-term special attention.

They are at the risk of being targeted by the community who views them as a taboo. These children they came along, with are also viewed as such. Looking for acceptance for their children also entails problems.

Access to justice

To bring the perpetrators to justice is such a herculean task, it has to be predicated upon, justice by advocacy and education.

This may have a lasting legacy of empowerment through education. They end up not feeling dissociated from their communities and the grievances and frustration that leads to extremism. Thus, preventing the vicious cycle that leads to recruitment into insurgency.

After giving such children trauma counseling sessions, by experts and community leaders.

Education is all they have, it's a conduit that lights the future for them. It starts and ends there. The whole society framework has to be centered on child rights-based approach.

Finally, we need to recognize and prioritize children's needs and to light and make the future strong, It's pertinent considering children during all phases of conflict from prevention effort to recovery through sustainable inclusive development by involving children participation with appropriate support by integrating children into peace processes. We can achieve concrete results.