

UNITED NATIONS
Job Description

Post Information	
Post Title	: Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
Post Level	: Assistant Secretary-General
Duty Station	: New York, USA
United Nations Core Values	: Integrity, Professionalism, Respect for Diversity
Background	
<p>The UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children (A/61/299, hereafter the Study) addressed all violence against children with distinct attention to five settings: the family, schools, alternative care institutions and detention facilities, places where children work, and communities. The Study called for urgent action to prevent and respond to all forms of violence and presented a set of strategic recommendations. To promote dissemination of the Study and ensure effective follow up to its recommendations, the Study called for the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Violence against Children. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint, at the highest possible level, an SRSG on Violence against Children (resolution 62/141) and the mandate was established in 2009 for a period of three years. The mandate has subsequently been renewed three times, most recently in 2018 (A/RES/73/155) for a further three years.</p> <p>The SRSG is a global independent advocate for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children and ensuring follow-up to the recommendations of the Study. The SRSG acts as a bridge builder and a catalyst of actions in all regions, and across sectors and settings where violence against children may occur. The SRSG mobilizes action and political support to maintain momentum around this agenda, promote implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and generate concern at the harmful effects of violence on children; to promote behavioural and social change and to achieve effective progress on preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against children.</p>	
Functions/Key Results Expected	
<p>The SRSG on Violence against Children is accountable to the Secretary-General and is responsible for the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of violence against children, its causes and consequences; alert the international community about the need to address specific issues or trends and advocate for 	

the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, including in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its violence-related targets. Participate in international and national fora addressing all forms of violence against children and in partner initiatives, including for resource mobilization; preparation of thematic reports on priority areas of concern; issue media releases; undertake country visits; identification of good practices; and responding to requests for technical support;

- Promote and assess measures by governments, civil society, international and regional organizations, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the Study to prevent and eliminate violence against children and promote implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through preparation of analytical reports; promoting the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, research and evidence on the scale and nature of violence against children; and contributing to partner initiatives and publications, including technical manuals/tools on violence prevention and response;
- Promote cooperation and collaboration among relevant stakeholders at all levels, including children. This includes, inter alia, regular consultations and exchanges with the senior leadership of governments, partners and experts at national, regional and international levels, UN agencies, Human Rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions and other UN affiliates, funds, programmes, departments, regional organizations, the private sector, children, and NGOs;
- Promote the participation of children in activities aiming at the prevention and response to violence;
- Present annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council with an assessment of progress in the prevention and elimination of violence against children, and implementation of the recommendations of the Study. Consult with and share information with UN bodies including executive committees and boards and human rights treaty bodies and mechanisms, as requested; and
- Maintain the highest standards of personal conduct and integrity.

Cooperation and Coordination with Relevant Partners

Chair the Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence against Children, sharing information on activities and initiatives.

Consult closely with the four core UN entities supporting the follow-up to the Study – the International Labour Organization, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children’s Fund and the World Health Organization – to complement and reinforce the mandates, programmes and activities of these organizations related to violence against children while avoiding duplication; and to harmonize and strengthen efforts related to the protection of children from all forms of violence.

The SRSRG will maintain close relations with the SRSRG for Children and Armed Conflict reflecting the clear distinction between and ensuring complementarity of the respective mandates and activities.

The SRSB will maintain close relations with human rights mechanisms including the Human Rights Council and its special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies. The OHCHR will assist in facilitating cooperation and coordination with the human rights mechanisms and the Human Rights Council.

Competencies

Professionalism: Global leader in the field of the protection of children from all forms of violence with extensive expert knowledge in issues related to the rights, protection and wellbeing of children; proven ability to lead and oversee work on technical issues related to children's rights; ability to guide the work of others. Well demonstrated advocacy, negotiating, diplomatic, and partnering skills.

Planning and organizing: Proven ability to plan and organize work, requiring an in-depth understanding of its strategic direction and ability to integrate the work of the Office of the SRSB into the Organization's work programme.

Accountability: Takes ownership of all responsibilities and honours agency and system-wide commitments; delivers outputs for which one has responsibility within prescribed time, cost and quality standards; operates in compliance with organizational regulations and rules; supports subordinates, provides oversight and takes responsibility for delegated assignments; takes personal responsibility for her/his own shortcomings and those of the work unit, where applicable.

Communication: Excellent advocacy and communication skills, both oral and written; ability to defend and explain difficult and sensitive issues related to the protection of children from all forms of violence to officials at highest level of government, senior officials and members of intergovernmental bodies; proven ability to communicate complex concepts orally; ability to prepare written statements and reports that are clear, concise and meaningful. Ability to maintain effective relationships with outside collaborators and other contacts, including representatives at the highest level of Member States, intergovernmental mechanisms, and the public.

Teamwork: Excellent interpersonal skills; demonstrated ability to work in a multicultural, multi-ethnic environment and to maintain effective working relations with people of different national and cultural backgrounds, including diverse gender identity and sexual orientation. Proven ability to lead and gain assistance of others in a team endeavour.

Managerial Competencies

Judgment/Decision-making: Mature judgment and initiative, imagination and resourcefulness, energy and tact; proven ability to provide strategic direction, to plan and establish priorities, and to ensure an effective work structure to maximize productivity and achieve goals.

Leadership: Proven track record of effective and collaborative leadership, excellent management and technical skills, and ability to delegate appropriate responsibility, accountability and decision-making authority. Proven record of building, managing and working in teams and creating an enabling work environment, including the ability to effectively lead, supervise, mentor, develop and evaluate staff and

design training/skills enhancement initiatives to ensure effective transfer of knowledge/skills. Demonstrated flexibility in leadership by performing and/or overseeing change initiatives including the analysis of complex human resources, budgetary, financial or administrative management policy and programmatic issues.

Building trust: Reputation for dealing honestly and openly with issues and staff; recognized and highly respected by peers, clients and staff.

Vision: Ability to identify key strategic issues, opportunities and risks; clearly communicate links between the Organization's strategy and the work unit's goals. Establish/identify and communicate broad and compelling organizational direction.

Managing Performance: Ability to lead and supervise staff. Ability to coach, mentor and develop staff. Capacity to motivate staff and encourage good performance, to co-ordinate and monitor the work of others.

Recruitment Qualifications

Education	Advanced University degree (Masters or equivalent) in human rights, social sciences, law, development-related disciplines, or relevant related area.
Experience	At least 20 years of experience in senior leadership positions, preferably in human rights, law, social affairs, or a related field with a particular focus on the protection of children from violence in large, multicultural institutions, such as international organizations, governments or non-governmental organizations.
Language Requirements	Fluency in oral and written English is required. Knowledge of French is desirable. Knowledge of another UN official language is an advantage.
Other Desirable Knowledge and Skills	Knowledge of regional intergovernmental processes and human rights standards. Good understanding of the children's rights and the international development agenda. Knowledge of UN policies, procedures and operations.