

Senior UN children's advocate says they "should never be targeted by violence"

The last two weeks have seen a suicide attack on an education centre in Afghanistan which killed and injured young students in class, 21 children killed in Yemen when their school bus was hit by an airstrike, and ongoing child casualties in Syria – particularly in the conflict zones of Idlib and Western Aleppo in the North of the country.

Children should never be targeted by violence. – Virginia Gamba, UN Envoy

"Children have been directly targeted by belligerents. They were also collateral victims of despicable acts of war," said Ms. Gamba. "We cannot remain silent in the face of such atrocities", she said, adding that she wanted those fighting to understand the "simple message: enough is enough."

She went on to urge all sides in conflicts to protect children from the scourge of war and to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law.

SRSG Virginia Gamba.

UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

"Children should never be targeted by violence. It is our collective responsibility to use these tools to their full extent and to obtain results for those boys and girls who desperately need protection."

Following the deadly air strike in Yemen last week, UN [Secretary-General António Guterres](#) urged an "independent and prompt investigation", adding that warring parties must take "constant care to spare civilians".

In recent days several UN Agencies have strongly condemned the attacks. The [UN Children's Fund UNICEF](#) described them as a "[war on children](#)", whilst the UN Human Rights Office [OHCHR](#), pointed out that the Yemen strike was just the latest example of the children being killed in the country's violent years-long conflict.