

UN Human Rights Council 46: UK statement on Children and Armed Conflict

The United Kingdom reaffirms strong support for the work of the Special Representative.

We remain deeply concerned by the alarming number of grave human rights violations and abuses committed against children globally, in particular the attacks upon, and occupation of, educational infrastructure.

Safe, inclusive, quality education establishes routine and purpose in chaos. It supports post-conflict reconstruction, reintegration and peace. The UK calls on all parties to conflict to respect and protect all human rights, including access to quality education.

The Safe Schools Declaration and Guidelines are critical tools to support such action. They complement existing law and facilitate compliance by providing clear and practical guidance. We strongly urge all States to endorse and fully implement the Declaration and guidelines.

The UN's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism is critical for identifying parties responsible for systematic violations and abuses against children in conflict, and ensuring accountability. The objectivity and credibility of the Mechanism must remain intact.

Madam Special Representative,

Could you provide an update on the UN's internal review of the approach for listing, and de-listing parties to conflict, and if the outcome will be shared?

Will the UN consider undertaking an independent assessment?

Thank you.