Protecting children in armed conflict: key rules from Geneva Call’s
Deed of Commitment
Children are persons under 18 years old
Do not use children in combat or combat-related activities – even if they volunteer
Do not force children to associate with armed forces in any manner
Do not recruit children into armed forces or allow them to be members – even if they volunteer
Children should only be detained as a last resort
Never execute children
When children associated with your armed forces leave, it must be done in safety.
Do everything possible to protect children from the effects of armed operations
Do your best to ensure that children have the aid and care they need.
Put these rules into practice
Violations must be sanctioned in accordance with international standards
Cooperate with Geneva Call to monitor respect of these rules
Geneva Call

Geneva Call is a neutral and impartial non-governmental organization that engages in dialogue with armed non-State actors to promote their adherence to, and respect, for international humanitarian norms.

Geneva Call focuses its action on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and in particular:

• The protection of children in armed conflict

• The prohibition of sexual violence and the elimination of gender discrimination

• The ban of anti-personnel mines

The Deed of Commitment

The Deeds of Commitment are formal documents signed by armed non-State actors which undertake to respect specific international humanitarian norms. To date, Geneva Call has developed three such documents:

• The Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action

• The Deed of Commitment for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict

• The Deed of Commitment for the Prohibition of Sexual Violence in Situations of Armed Conflict and towards the Elimination of Gender Discrimination

Geneva Call supports and monitors the implementation of the Deeds of Commitment by signatory armed non-State actors.