

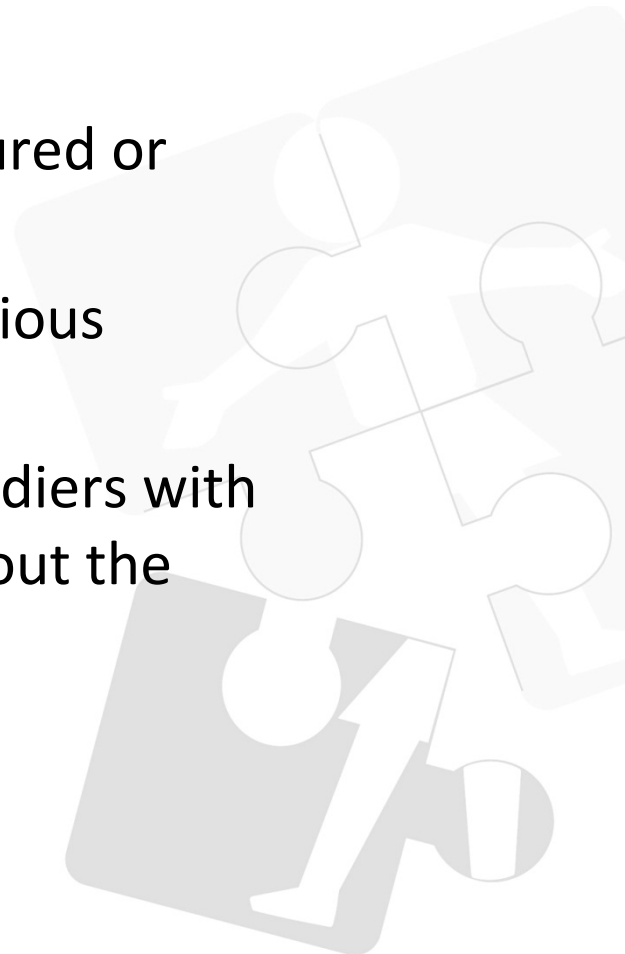
THE IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICT ON CHILDREN



GLOBAL IMPACTS

Over a recent 10 year period:

- Two million children have been killed in conflict,
- Over one million have been orphaned,
- Over six million have been seriously injured or permanently disabled,
- Over ten million have been left with serious psychological trauma,
- Estimates are 200,000-300,000 child soldiers with armed forces or armed groups throughout the world.



SPECIFIC IMPACTS

- ❑ Recruited and used as child soldiers,
- ❑ Killed,
- ❑ Maimed,
- ❑ Orphaned,
- ❑ Abducted,
- ❑ Abused,
- ❑ Arrested,
- ❑ Harassed,
- ❑ Deprived of health care,
- ❑ Deprived of education,
- ❑ Uprooted from their homes,
- ❑ Left with deep emotional scars and trauma,
- ❑ Sexually exploited.

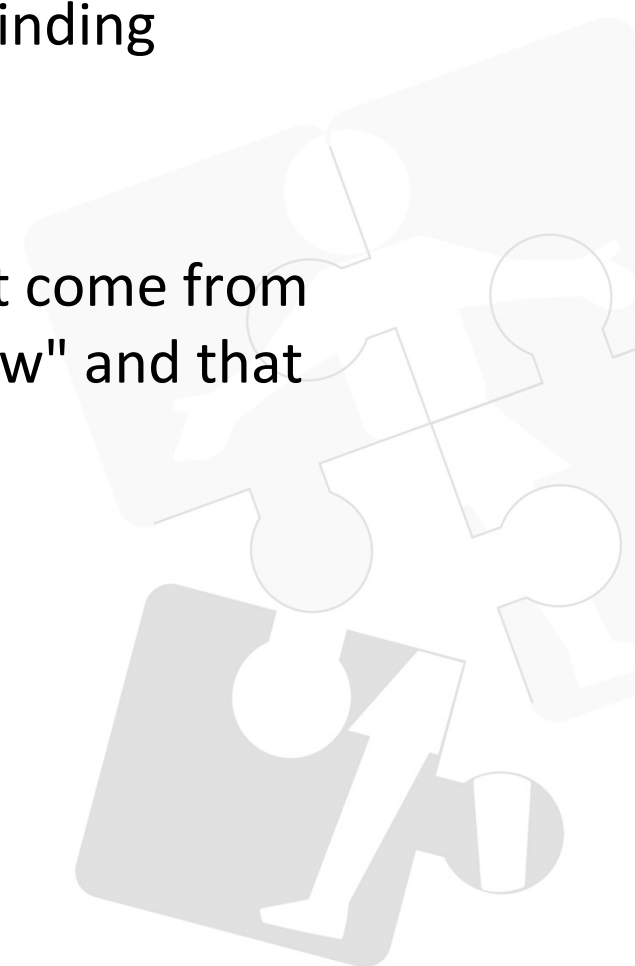


INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN NORMS



SOURCES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

- Treaty Law: International conventions signed between two or more States creating binding obligations. Eg. Geneva Conventions.
- Customary International Law: rules that come from "a general State practice accepted as law" and that exist independent of treaty law.



INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITARIAN NORMS: IHL

International Humanitarian Law – Also known as the *Law of Armed Conflict*, is a set of rules which seek to limit the negative effects of armed conflict.

- ❑ Puts limitations on the means and methods of warfare.
- ❑ Protects persons who do not, or no longer take part in hostilities.
- ❑ Applies not only to Governments and their armed forces, but also (for the most part) to Armed Non-State Actors (ANSAs).
- ❑ Only applies in situations of armed conflict.

SOME KEY CONCEPTS OF IHL

- ❑ Balance between military necessity and humanity
- ❑ No justification for violations of IHL
- ❑ IHL obligations remain regardless of their application by the opposing side
- ❑ Distinction between fighters and civilians
- ❑ Command Responsibility

HISTORY OF IHL

- ❑ The first rules written about armed conflicts date back 4,000 years.
- ❑ In ancient India, the law of Manu incorporated rules that required compassion toward unarmed or injured adversaries.
- ❑ Islam set out the need to respect justice and equality as a fundamental principle of its humanitarian thinking.
- ❑ In 1864, the first Geneva Convention was adopted.
- ❑ In 1949, the four Geneva Conventions as they stand today were adopted.
- ❑ In 1977, the two Additional Protocols were adopted.
- ❑ In 2006, the ICRC produced a study of 161 Rules, most of which apply in all conflicts (including to ANSAs).

INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITARIAN NORMS: IHRL

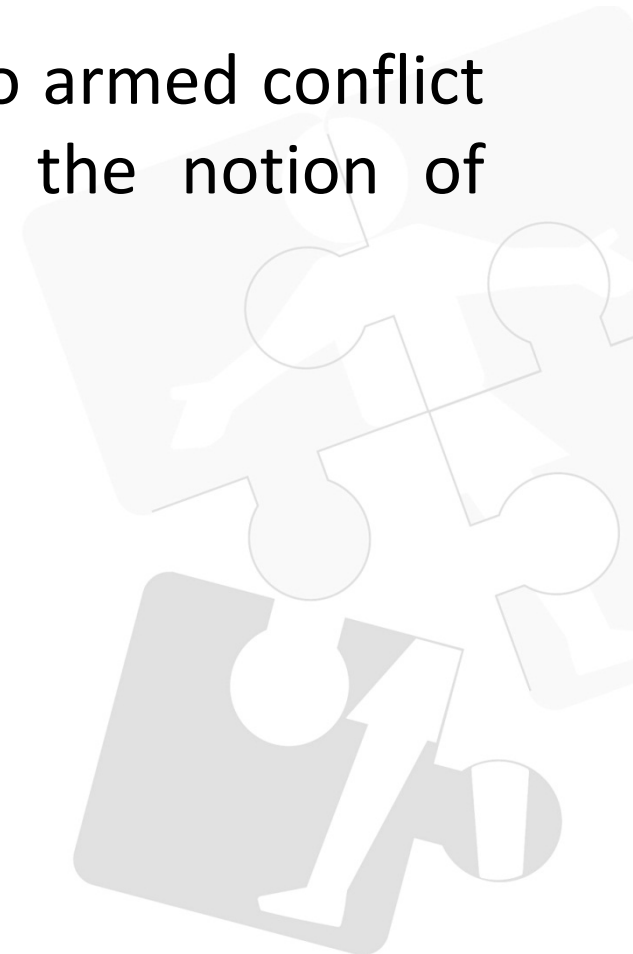
International Human Rights Law refers to inalienable fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being.

IHRL:

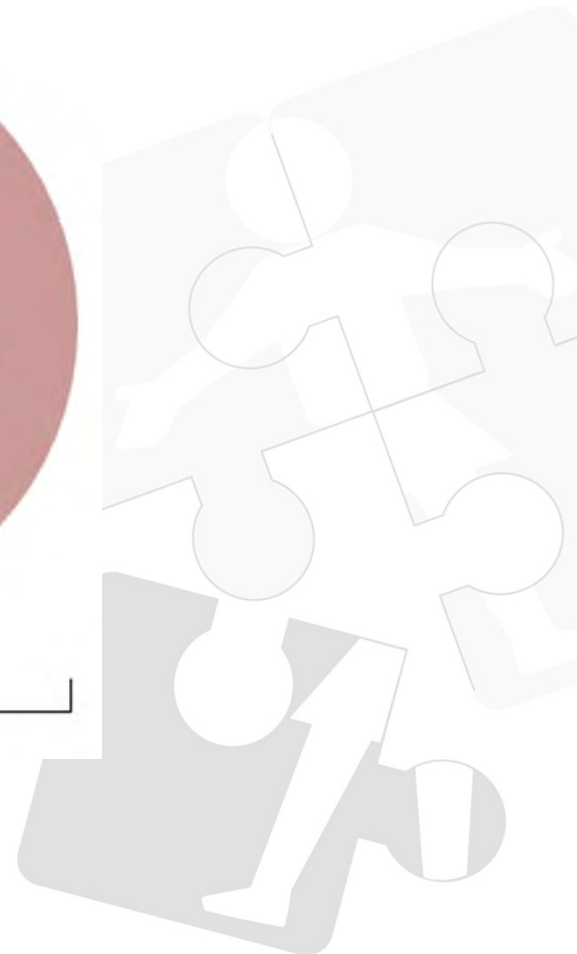
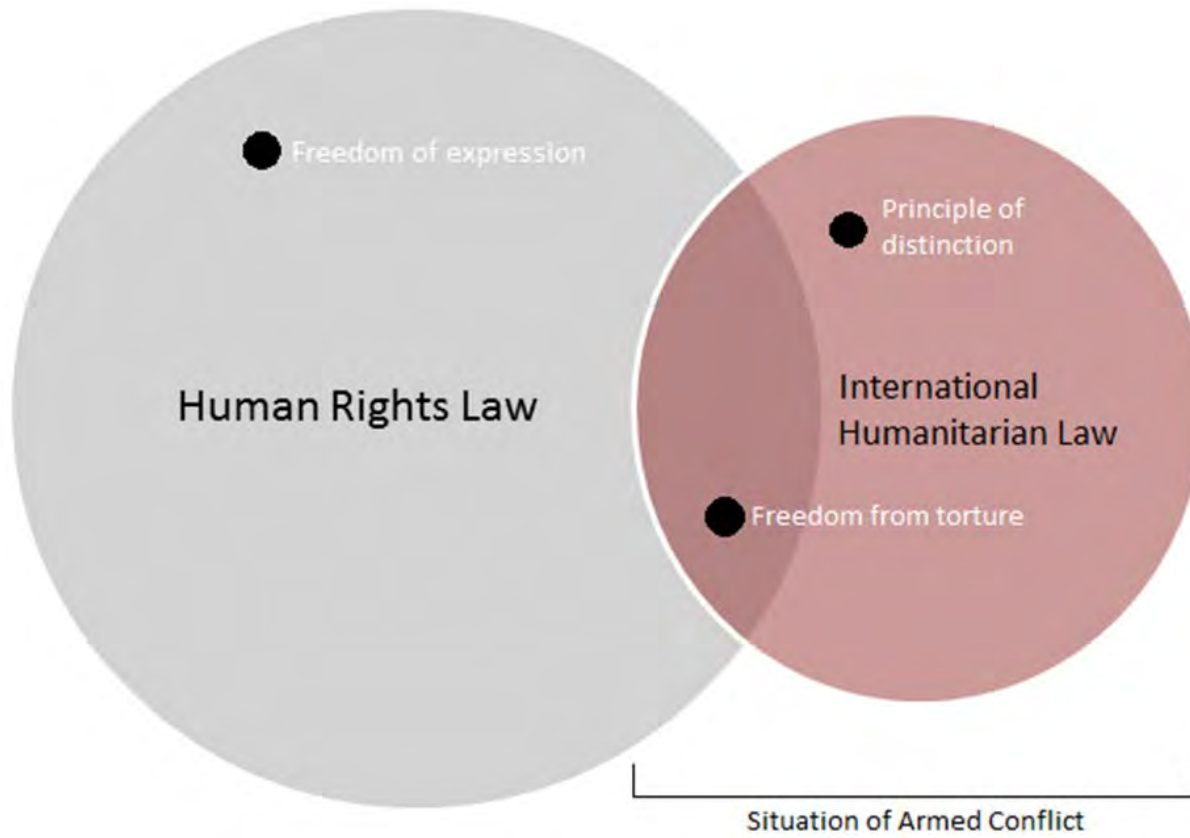
- Applies to all persons,
- Applies at all times, i.e. both in peacetime and in situations of armed conflict
- May in some cases be limited or suspended, according to strict rules
- Some rights are absolute and may never be limited or suspended, eg. prohibition of torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment

HUMANITARIAN NORMS

Together IHL and IHRL relevant to armed conflict or security situations make up the notion of “humanitarian norms”



HUMANITARIAN NORMS



INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

International Criminal Law → individual responsibility
eg. Rome Statue (1998)

IHL and IHRL → State and ANSA responsibility.



International Legal Protection for Children during Armed Conflict



MAIN PRINCIPLES : AID AND CARE

Children should be provided with the aid and care they require such as:

- ❑ Basic needs (food and water, sanitation, etc.)
- ❑ Healthcare
- ❑ Protection from Violence
- ❑ Family reunification if separated
- ❑ Education
- ❑ Leisure

Sources: CRC, API, APII, Customary law



MAIN PRINCIPLE: PROHIBITION ON RECRUITMENT AND USE

IHL and Human Rights Law prohibit the recruitment and use of children in hostilities by parties to conflict.

- ❑ Consent of the child not relevant.
- ❑ Use in hostilities covers more than just combat.
- ❑ There is inconsistency between the age standard (ranges from 15-18).
- ❑ Different standards may apply for States compared to “armed groups”.

GENEVA CONVENTIONS

ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL II TO THE 1949 GENEVA CONVENTIONS (APPLICABLE IN NON-INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT)

Article 4(3): Children shall be provided with the care and aid they require, and in particular:

(a) they shall receive an education, including religious and moral education, in keeping with the wishes of their parents, or in the absence of parents, of those responsible for their care;

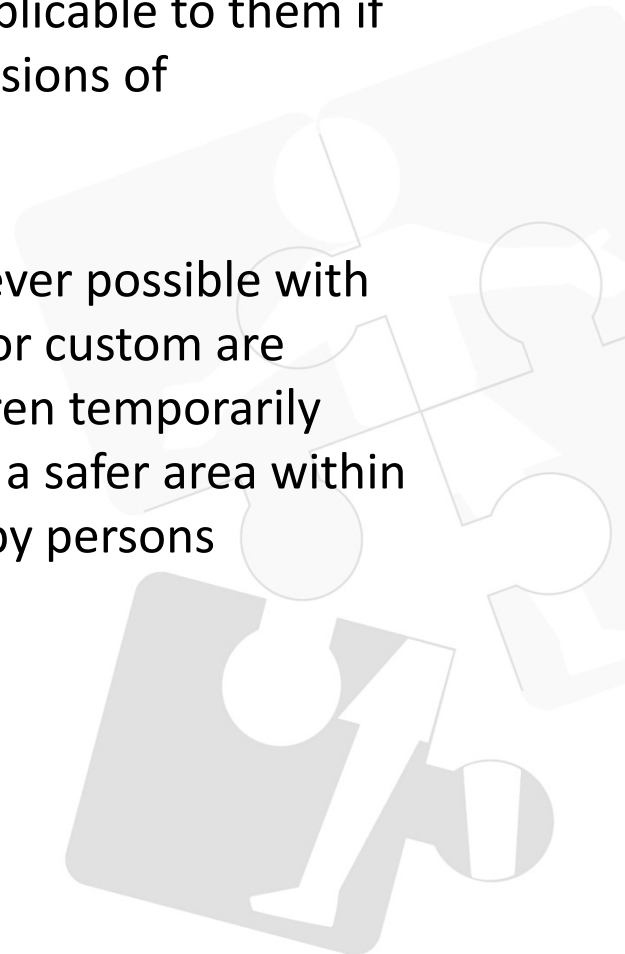
(b) all appropriate steps shall be taken to facilitate the reunion of families temporarily separated;

(c) children who have not attained the age of fifteen years shall neither be recruited in the armed forces or groups nor allowed to take part in hostilities;

GENEVA CONVENTIONS

(d) the special protection provided by this Article to children who have not attained the age of fifteen years shall remain applicable to them if they take a direct part in hostilities despite the provisions of subparagraph (c) and are captured;

(e) measures shall be taken, if necessary, and whenever possible with the consent of their parents or persons who by law or custom are primarily responsible for their care, to remove children temporarily from the area in which hostilities are taking place to a safer area within the country and ensure that they are accompanied by persons responsible for their safety and well-being.



CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Article 38

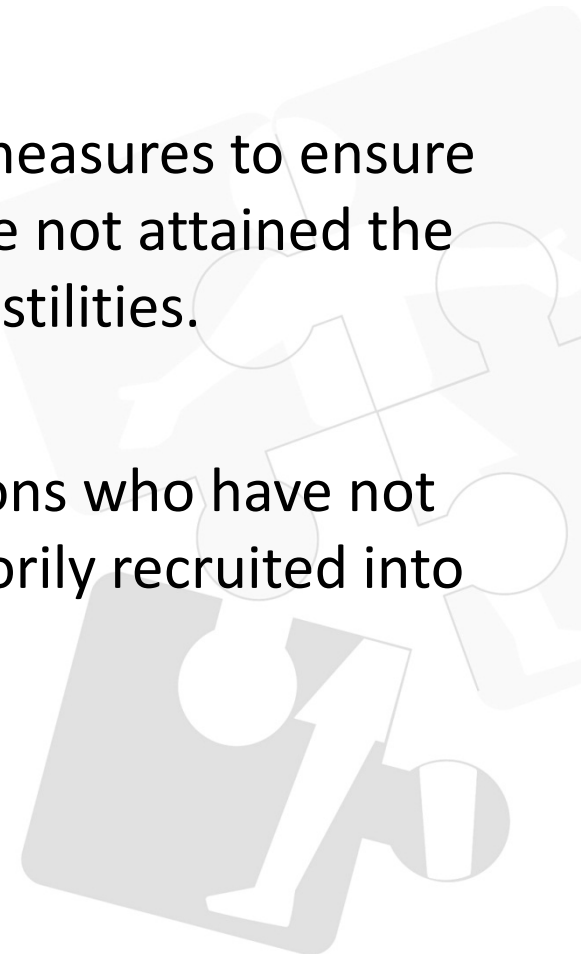
- 1) States Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child.
- 2) States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities.
- 3) States Parties shall refrain from recruiting any person who has not attained the age of fifteen years into their armed forces. In recruiting among those persons who have attained the age of fifteen years but who have not attained the age of eighteen years, States Parties shall endeavour to give priority to those who are oldest.
- 4) In accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: OPAC

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts

Article 1: State Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take a direct part in hostilities.

Article 2: State Parties shall ensure that persons who have not attained the age of 18 years are not compulsorily recruited into their armed forces.



CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: OPAC

Article 3

- 1) States Parties shall raise the minimum age in years for the voluntary recruitment of persons into their national armed forces from that set out in article 38.3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child [15 years old], taking account of the principles contained in that article and recognizing that under the Convention persons under 18 are entitled to special protection.
- 2) Each State Party shall deposit a binding declaration upon ratification of or accession to this Protocol which sets forth the minimum age at which it will permit voluntary recruitment into its national armed forces and a description of the safeguards that it has adopted to ensure that such recruitment is not forced or coerced.

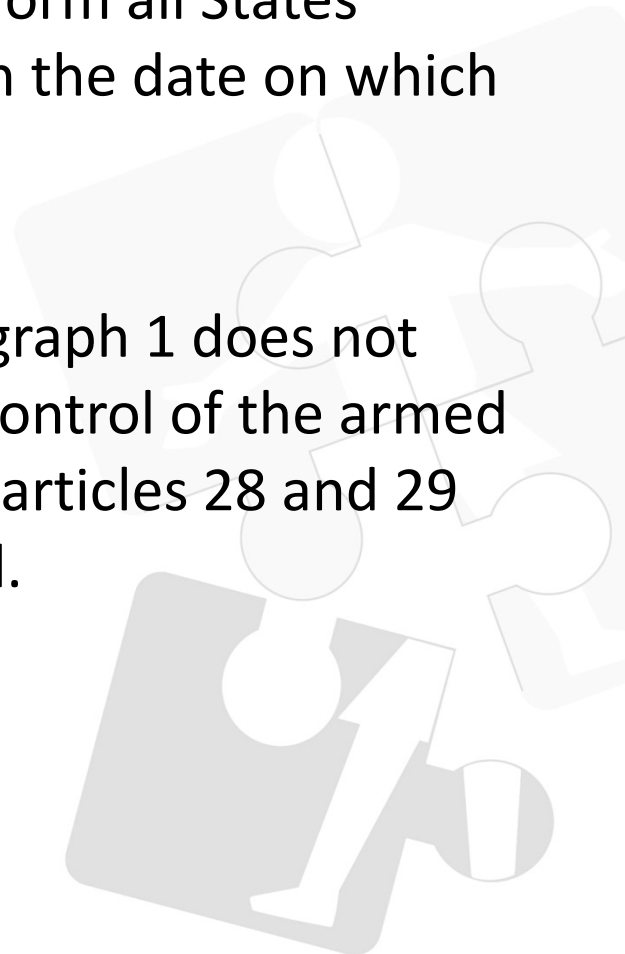
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: OPAC

- 3) States Parties which permit voluntary recruitment into their national armed forces under the age of 18 shall maintain safeguards to ensure, as a minimum, that:
- Such recruitment is genuinely voluntary;
 - Such recruitment is done with the informed consent of the person's parents or legal guardians;
 - Such persons are fully informed of the duties involved in such military service, and
 - Such persons provide reliable proof of age prior to acceptance into national military service.

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: OPAC

4) Each State Party may strengthen its declaration at any time by notification to that effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall inform all States Parties. Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received by the Secretary-General.

5) The requirement to raise the age in paragraph 1 does not apply to schools operated by or under the control of the armed forces of the States Parties, in keeping with articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: OPAC

Article 4

- 1) Armed groups, distinct from the armed forces of a State, should not, under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years.
- 2) States Parties shall take all feasible measures to prevent such recruitment and use, including the adoption of legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices.
- 3) The application of the present article under this Protocol shall not affect the legal status of any party to an armed conflict.

SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ON MINIMUM RECRUITMENT/USE AGES

	AP1	AP2	CRC	AfCRWC AfWP	ICC	ILO182	OPAC	SLSpCt	Custom
Government									
Compulsory	15*	15	15*	18	15	18	18	15	15+
Voluntary	15*	15	15*	18	15	n/a	16+	15	15+
Use/participation	15	15	15	18	15	?	18	15	15+
Armed Group									
Compulsory	n/a	15	n/a	n/a	15	n/a	18	15	15+
Voluntary	n/a	15	n/a	n/a	15	n/a	18	15	15+
Use/participation	n/a	15	n/a	n/a	15	n/a	18	15	15+

* In recruiting those between 15 and 18 years, “States Parties shall endeavour to give priority to those who are oldest”.

Additional issues include:

Armed conflict – international – non-international – no armed conflict

Participation - Direct participation - Active participation in hostilities

Armed Force – Armed Group

Best Interest of the Child

OTHER POLICY INSTRUMENTS REGARDING CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

- Security Council Resolutions:

1261 (1999)

1314 (2000)

1379 (2001)

1460 (2003)

1539 (2004)

1612 (2005)

1882 (2009)

1999 (2011)

- Paris Principles (2007)



THE MONITORING AND REPORTING MECHANISM

The UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism

The UN Security Council has established a Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and a Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) to monitor, document and report abuses.

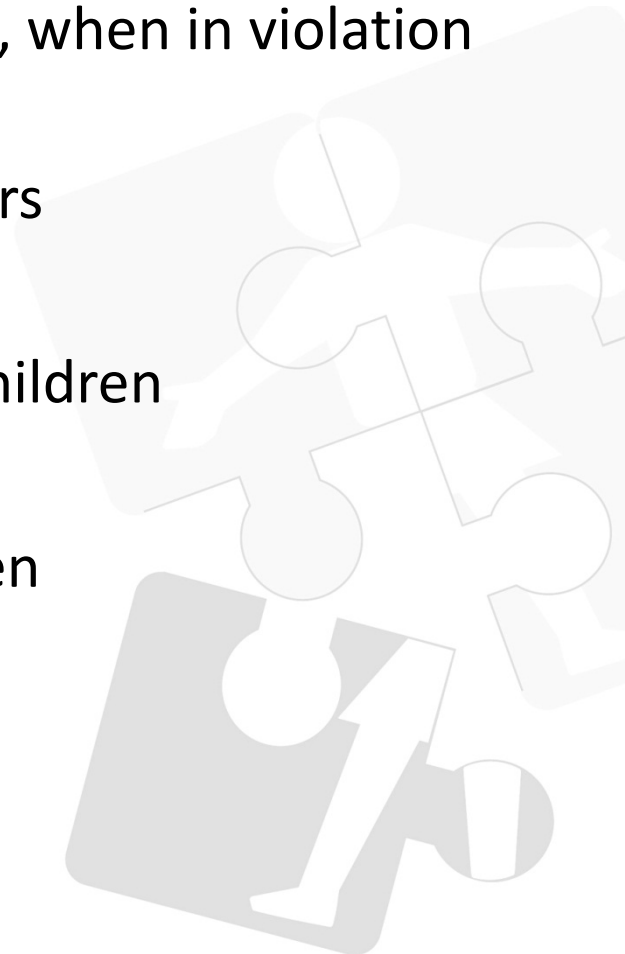
This includes annexes in the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council which lists as violators parties to conflict—State and ANSA—that commit one of 6 grave violations against children.

THE MONITORING AND REPORTING MECHANISM

The Six Grave Child Rights Violations

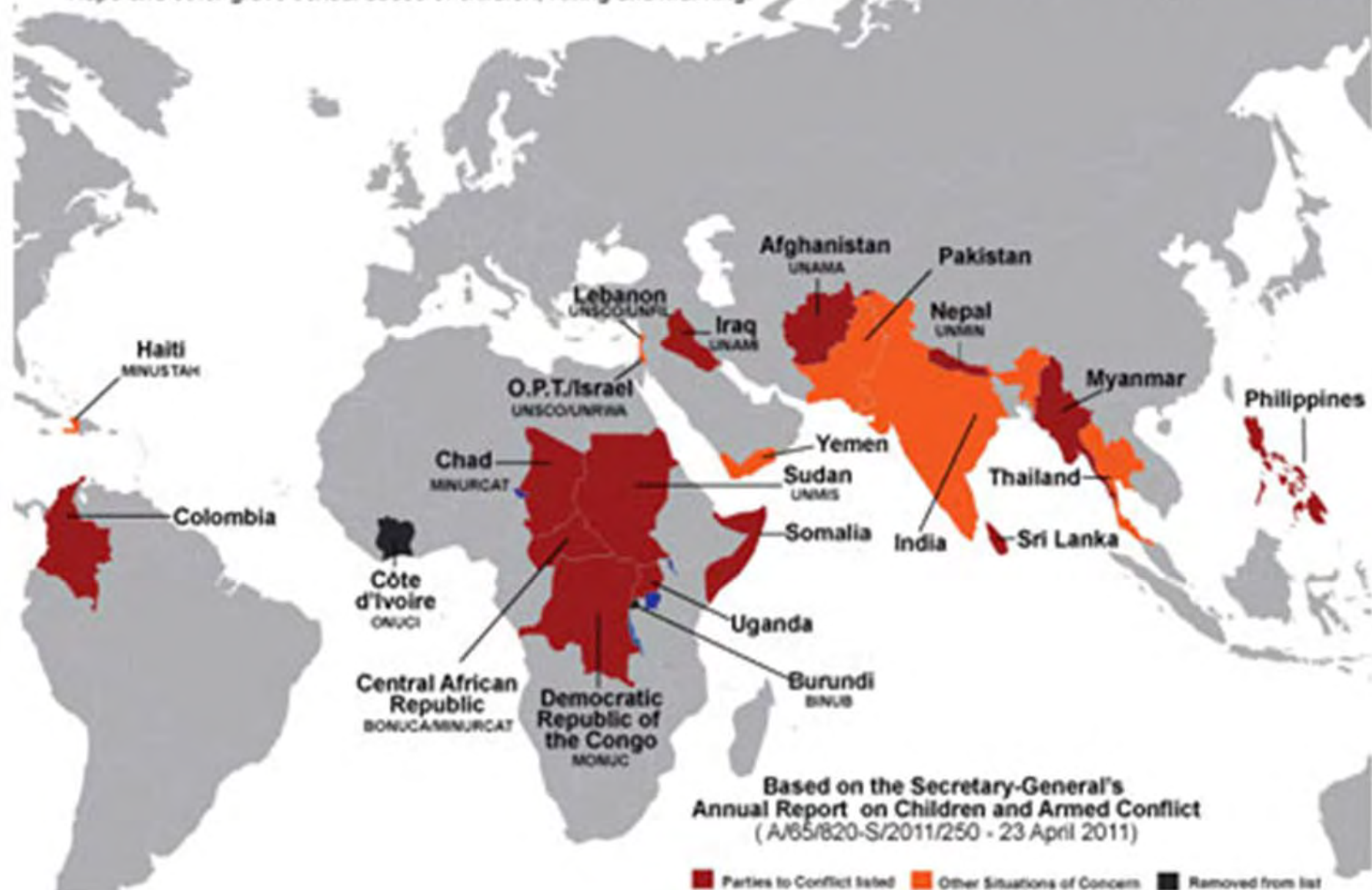
The Secretary-General has identified six categories of grave violations against children in armed conflict, when in violation of international law:

- ❑ Recruitment or use of children as soldiers
- ❑ Killing and maiming of children
- ❑ Rape and other grave sexual abuse of children
- ❑ Abduction and forced displacement
- ❑ Denial of humanitarian access to children
- ❑ Attacks against schools and hospitals



Grave Violations Against Children in Armed Conflict

Recruitment or use of children as soldiers; Attacks against schools or hospitals;
Denial of humanitarian access for children; Abduction of children;
Rape and other grave sexual abuse of children; Killing and Maiming.



*THE DEED OF COMMITMENT
FOR THE PROTECTION OF
CHILDREN
FROM THE EFFECTS OF ARMED
CONFLICT*



DEED OF COMMITMENT: SPECIAL PROTECTION

The child specific norms of the *Deed of Commitment* take the general protections of humanitarian norms as the starting point



STRUCTURE OF *THE DEED OF COMMITMENT ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT*

- Declaration
- Preamble (first 8 paragraphs)
- Core Provisions (Articles 1-7)
- Implementing Provisions (Articles 8-9)
- Other Provisions (Articles 10-16)



DECLARATION

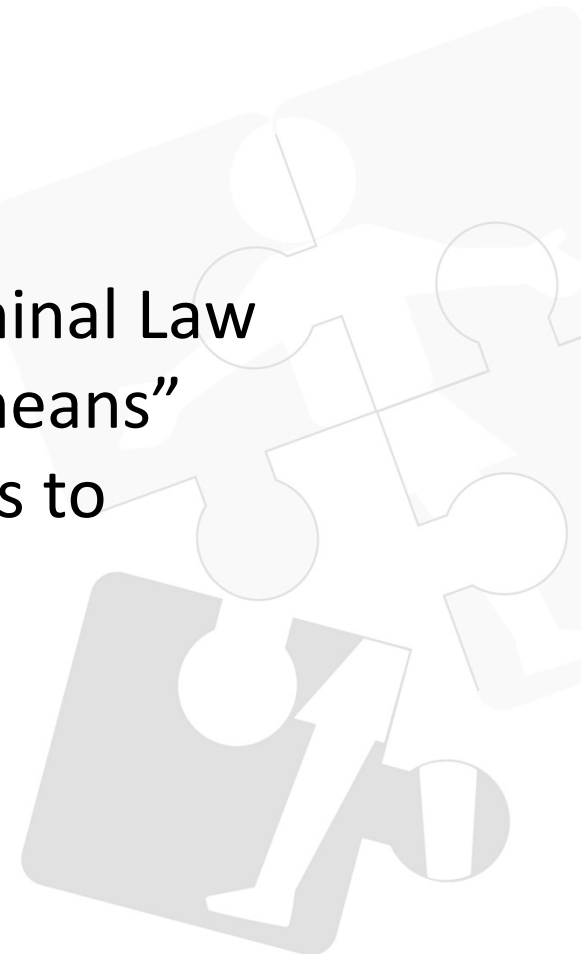
***We, (name of signatory),
through our duly authorized
representative(s) ... hereby commit
ourselves to the following terms.***



The *Deed* is signed by responsible political/military leaders authorized on behalf of the signatory organization, by Geneva Call, and the Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

PREAMBLE

- Impact of the conflict
- Protection of civilians, particularly children
- Best interest of the child
- Potential risk of exposure to attack
- Variance in international standards
- Standards under International Criminal Law
- Rejection of the “ends justify the means”
- Applicability of humanitarian norms to ANSAs
- Applicability to girls and boys



AGE DEFINITION

‘And understanding that for the purposes of this Deed of Commitment: “children” are defined as persons under the age of 18, and where there is doubt as to whether a person has reached the age of 18, she/he will be treated as a child.’

- Under the age of 18 means that a person is a child until 18 years from her/his date of birth
- In cases of doubt, the signatory must treat the person as a child until it is established that she/he is not
- It is important for signatories to develop effective ways to verify age

CORE PROVISIONS (ARTICLES 1-7)



ARTICLE 1: USE IN HOSTILITIES

‘TO ADHERE to a total ban on the use of children in hostilities.’

The prohibition is absolute

Some examples of use of children in hostilities:

- ❑ Direct participation in combat operations
- ❑ Defending military objectives such as military installations, military objects as well as military personnel
- ❑ Participation in activities such as scouting, spying, sabotage, decoys, couriers at front lines, transporting ammunition in preparation for attack, or manning military checkpoints
- ❑ Direct support function such as porters of supplies to frontlines, or any activities at frontlines

ARTICLE 2: RECRUITMENT

‘TO ENSURE that children are not recruited into our armed forces, whether voluntarily or involuntarily. Children will not be allowed to join or remain in our armed forces.’

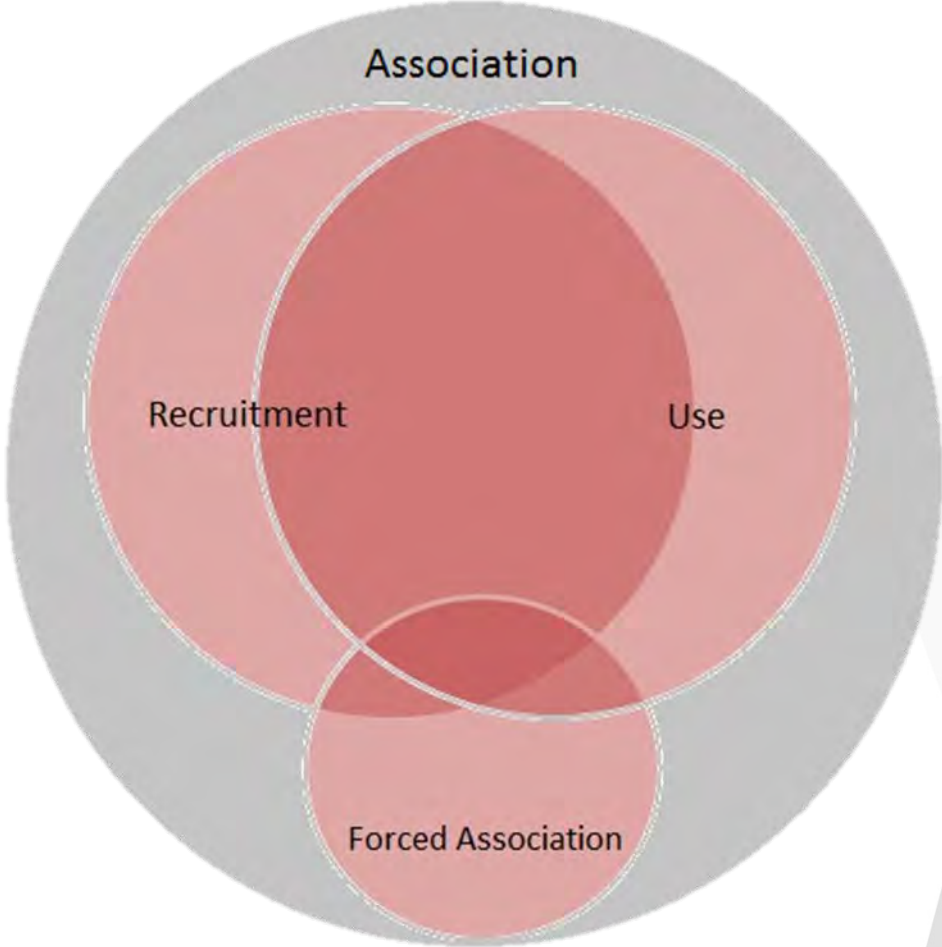
- ‘Recruitment’ covers both formal and informal membership
- Only applies to the ‘armed forces’ of the organization
- All roles within the armed forces, not just use in hostilities
- No exceptions—even if the child wants to join
- Includes children who are already members at time of signing, or who are later discovered to be under 18
- This provision does not prevent, nor excuse, signatories from taking action to protect children

ARTICLE 3: FORCED ASSOCIATION

‘TO NEVER COMPEL children to associate with, or remain associated with, our armed forces. By associate, we mean any type of direct or supporting activity whether combat-related or otherwise. In the event that children have been compelled to do so, they will be released at the earliest possible opportunity in accordance with Article 6 of this Deed of Commitment.’

- Association includes all situations in which a child takes on an active role in connection with armed forces
- The notion ‘forced’ covers not just violence or threats of violence, but any intimidation which may influence the child’s free will
- Any relations children enter into with members of armed forces, particularly sexual relations, must be voluntary and age appropriate
- A child must be able to disassociate
- Any disassociation of the child must be carried out in accordance with the conditions of Article 6

USE, RECRUITMENT AND ASSOCIATION



ARTICLE 4: MILITARY OPERATIONS I

‘TO ENSURE that children do not accompany our armed forces during our military operations and to take all feasible measures so that children in areas where we exercise control are not present during military operations.’

- This first part of this provision eliminates the need to determine whether such actions are considered use in hostilities, as they are prohibited in their own right



ARTICLE 4: MILITARY OPERATIONS II

*‘TO ENSURE that children do not accompany our armed forces during our military operations **and to take all feasible measures so that children in areas where we exercise control are not present during military operations.**’*

- Protects children under the control of signatories, whether or not associated with the armed forces
- “Feasible measures” are realistic preventative measures that may include (but are not limited to):
 - Locating military targets away from locations where children are present
 - Negotiating agreements with the opposing party to create zones of child protection
 - Evacuation plans
 - Safety measures
 - Construction of bunkers, etc.

ARTICLE 5: DETENTION

'TO TREAT humanely children who are detained or imprisoned for reasons related to the armed conflict, in accordance with their age and gender specific needs, recognizing that deprivation of liberty may be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time. The death penalty will not be pronounced or executed on a person for any offense committed while a child.'

- Detention of children is permitted under IHL and IHRL only for necessary reasons of security and under extraordinary circumstances, but best interest of the child is still applicable
- If children are detained, they must be treated humanely and in accordance with their specific needs
- Children should be kept with other family members if they are also detained, and the best interest of the child should be the primary factor to determine whether a child should be detained separately or together with other adults
- There should be periodic review of the justification for detention
- The death penalty must not be used on persons for crimes committed when still a child

ARTICLE 6: RELEASE

‘The release or disassociation of children from our armed forces must be done in safety and security, and whenever possible, in cooperation with specialized child protection actors.’

- This provision applies to any release or disassociation of children, whether or not it is the result of a violation of this *Deed of Commitment*
- Children should be returned to their family or to an appropriate alternative guardian, taking into account the best interests of the child
- If circumstances prevent the conditions of this provision from being met immediately, children must be properly cared for in the meantime, and must not be treated contrary to Articles 1-5
- Where possible, Geneva Call may be in a position to assist in the implementation of this provision by facilitating cooperation with specialised child protection actors

ARTICLE 7: AID AND CARE I

‘TO FURTHER ENDEAVOUR TO PROVIDE children in areas where we exercise authority with the aid and care they require, in cooperation with humanitarian or development organizations where appropriate...’

- ❑ ANSAs are not just part of the problem, but also part of the solution
- ❑ Signatories may have limited resources in providing or mobilizing aid and care for children, but should still make efforts in good faith
- ❑ All children under the signatory’s authority
- ❑ Cooperation with national and international child protection actors
- ❑ Where possible, Geneva Call will facilitate such efforts

ARTICLE 7: AID AND CARE II

'...Towards these ends, and among other things, we will:'

- I. Take concrete measures towards ensuring that children have access to adequate food, health care (including psycho-social support), education, and where possible, leisure and cultural activities
- II. Protect children against sexual and other forms of violence
- III. Facilitate the provision of impartial humanitarian assistance to children in need
- IV. Facilitate efforts by impartial humanitarian organizations to reunite children with their families
- V. Avoid using for military purposes schools or premises primarily used by children

IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS (ARTICLES 8-9)



ARTICLE 8: IMPLEMENTATION I

'TO ISSUE the necessary orders and directives to our political and military organs, commanders and fighters for the implementation and enforcement of our commitment, including measures for information dissemination and training. Commanders and superiors are responsible for their subordinates. In case of non-compliance, we will cease violations immediately and instigate appropriate investigations and sanctions in accordance with international standards.'

- The manner in which the *Deed* is implemented will be specific to each signatory according to its own internal rules, structures and procedures
- Commanders and superiors are to ensure that their subordinates are properly educated and trained on their specific responsibilities

Geneva Call is ready to assist by:

- Providing training
- Consulting on the development of internal implementation guidelines
- An implementation checklist will be made available

ARTICLE 8: IMPLEMENTATION II

*'TO ISSUE the necessary orders and directives to our political and military organs, commanders and fighters for the implementation and enforcement of our commitment, including measures for information dissemination and training. Commanders and superiors are responsible for their subordinates. **In case of non-compliance, we will cease violations immediately and instigate appropriate investigations and sanctions in accordance with international standards.'***

If violations occur, signatories will work transparently with Geneva Call towards:

- Ceasing the violations and protecting victims
- Collecting and applying lessons learned to limit the possibility of such violations occurring again
- Ensuring that investigations are conducted and procedures are taken towards suspected violators while respecting fair process
- Ensuring sanctions recognize the gravity of the violation without constituting unlawful treatment

ARTICLE 9: ACCOUNTABILITY

'TO ALLOW AND COOPERATE in the monitoring and verification of our present commitment by Geneva Call and other independent international and national organizations associated for this purpose with Geneva Call. Such monitoring and verification include visits and inspections in all areas where we operate, and the provision of the necessary information and reports, as may be required for such purposes in the spirit of transparency and accountability.'

Monitoring mechanism under this *Deed of Commitment*:

- Monitoring and verification by Geneva Call and its partners
- Self-monitoring
- Third party information

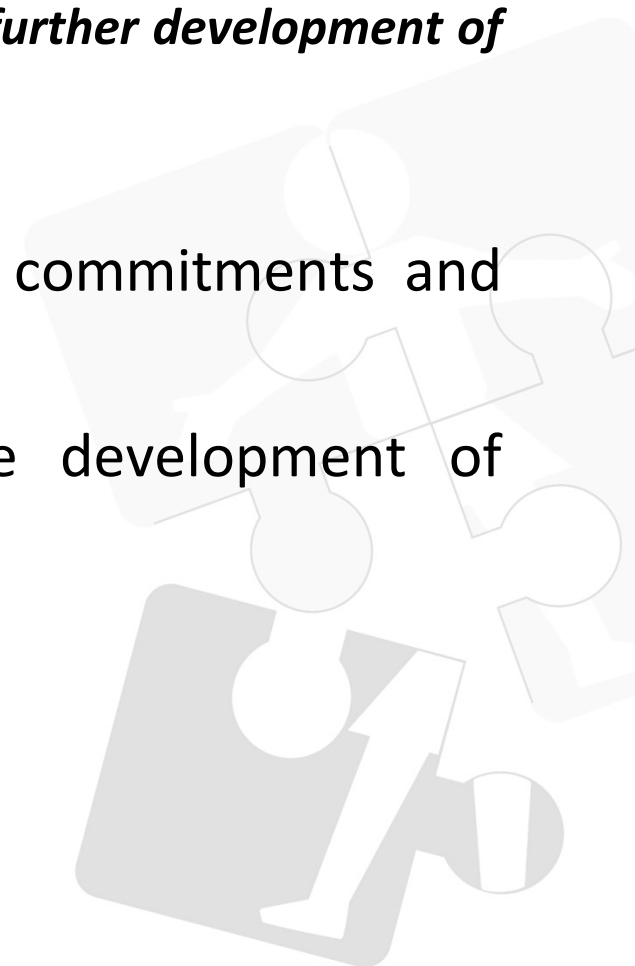
OTHER PROVISIONS (ARTICLES 10-16)



ARTICLE 10: BROADER COMMITMENTS

'TO TREAT this commitment as one step or part of a broader commitment in principle to the ideal of humanitarian norms, particularly of international humanitarian law and human rights, and to contribute to their respect in field practice as well as to the further development of humanitarian norms for armed conflict.'

- Signatories are encouraged to make commitments and adhere to other humanitarian norms
- Signatories may play a role in the development of humanitarian norms



ARTICLE 11: LEGAL STATUS

'This Deed of Commitment shall not affect our legal status, pursuant to the relevant clause in Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.'

Consistent with Common Article 3 to the Geneva Conventions



ARTICLE 12: PUBLICATION

‘We understand that Geneva Call may publicize our compliance or non-compliance with this Deed of Commitment.’

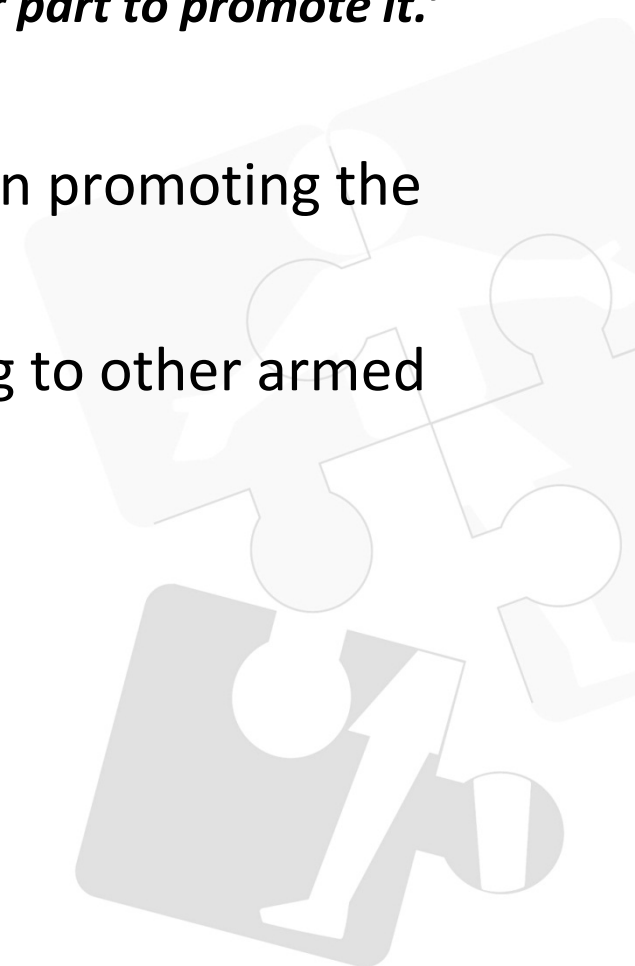
A form of positive or negative sanction to the concerned armed group before the international community



ARTICLE 13: PROMOTION

'We see the desirability of attracting the adherence of other such armed actors to this Deed of Commitment and will do our part to promote it.'

- Signatories can and should play a role in promoting the standards
- This includes explaining and advocating to other armed actors, if relationships permit



ARTICLE 14: IMPACT ON PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS

'This Deed of Commitment complements, or supersedes, as the case may be, any existing unilateral declaration of ours on children and armed conflict.'

- In cases of previous declarations, if standards are consistent both will apply
- If any standards are inconsistent the relevant pre-existing provision(s) will be repealed
- This provision does not affect any existing or future UN action plans

ARTICLE 15: RESERVATIONS

‘Any reservation to this Deed of Commitment must be consistent with its object and purpose, international humanitarian law, and the minimum obligations of State parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. It must be expressed in writing upon signature and will be periodically reviewed towards attaining the highest possible respect for the rights of children. Geneva Call will be the final arbiter on the permissibility of any reservation.’

- A reservation is a restriction that could be applied by a signatory under exceptional circumstances
- Only possible with the strict conditions contained in the Article
- Geneva Call has final decision as to whether a reservation is permissible

ARTICLE 16: COMING INTO EFFECT

'This Deed of Commitment shall take effect immediately upon its signing and receipt by the Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva which receives it as the custodian of such deeds.'

- The signatory must be prepared to implement *the Deed of Commitment* immediately on signing
- The Government of Geneva as the custodian of the signed *Deeds of Commitment* enhances their solemnity and authority

GENEVA CALL'S ROLE

- Promoting adherence
- Supporting and facilitating implementation and assistance
- Monitoring compliance



POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF SIGNING THE DEED OF COMMITMENT?

- Humanitarian concerns—improved conditions for children
- Facilitates assistance in addressing the problem
- Signals to local communities that the ANSA is interested in child protection
- Signals to the international community that the ANSA takes responsibility for its obligations and is willing to respect IHL
- Puts pressure on other parties to the conflict to reciprocate
- Enhances the humanitarian reputation of the ANSA

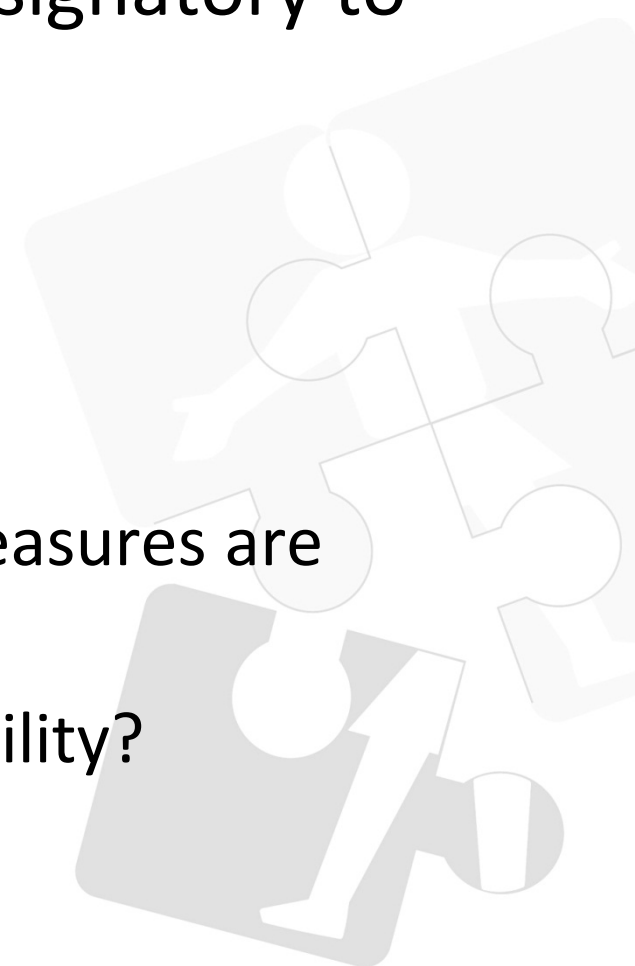
THE DEED OF COMMITMENT:

NEXT STEPS



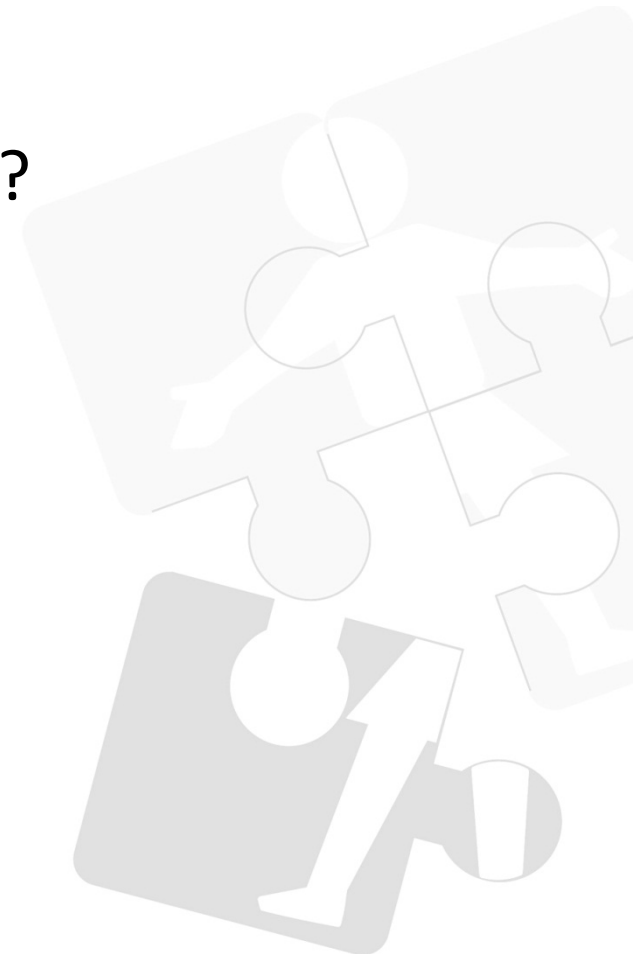
NEXT STEPS

- What steps will your organization take to decide whether to become a signatory to the *Deed of Commitment*?
 - What is the process?
 - Who decides?
- If YES
 - Who signs?
 - What compliance measures are needed?
 - Who takes responsibility?



IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

- 1- What needs to be done to ensure compliance?
- 2- What are the challenges?
- 3- What measures could be taken?
- 4- How do you monitor ?



DOCTRINE (POLICY)

Issue the necessary orders/directives/regulations etc:

“Translate” the Deed of Commitment into the internal legal and regulatory processes of your military and political organs.

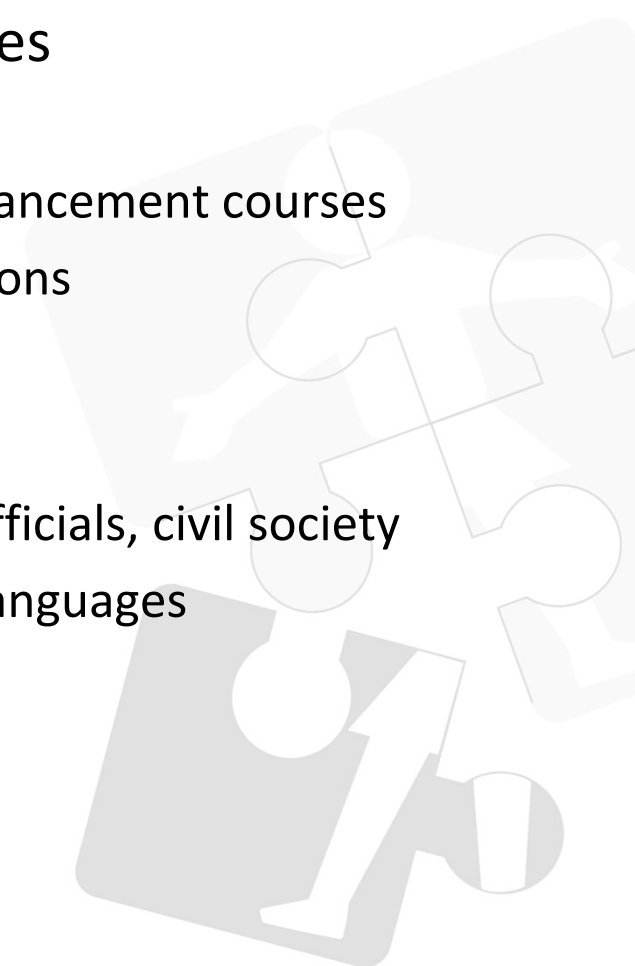
- ❑ Codes of conduct
- ❑ Military manuals
- ❑ Military orders
- ❑ Civilian laws, regulations, administrative procedures
- ❑ Other?



DISSEMINATION AND TRAINING

- Include the principles from the *Deed Of Commitment* in military curriculum and training exercises
 - Make relevant for each level of command
 - Include in induction, refreshment and advancement courses
 - Discuss in debriefing after relevant operations

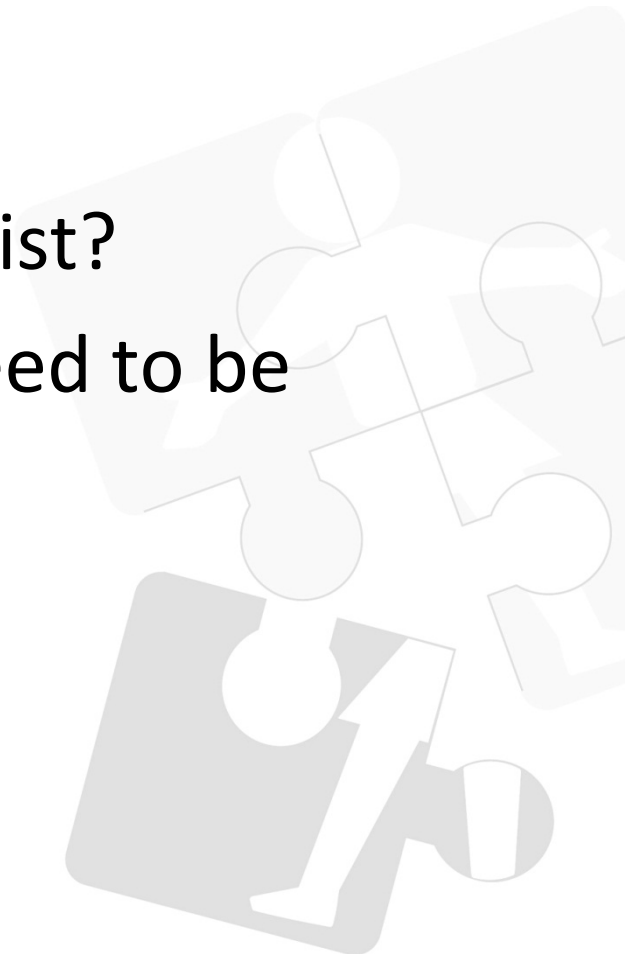
- Educate public and authorities
 - Children, teachers, parents, government officials, civil society
 - Translate *Deed of Commitment* into local languages



PROTECTION MEASURES

Protection refers to Articles 1-6

- What protection measures exist?
- What protection measures need to be implemented?



PROTECTION MEASURES- EXAMPLES

- Processes for when children want to join
 - What to do with them?
- Child protection focal points in military units
- Age verification process for recruitment
- Record keeping of associated children
- Project management for measures to protect children from enemy attack

ASSISTANCE MEASURES

Assistance refers to Article 7

- ❑ What assistance measures exist?
- ❑ What assistance needs are there?
- ❑ How to manage/administer assistance measures?
- ❑ How to cooperate with assistance agencies?

ARTICLE 7: ASSISTANCE MEASURES

‘...Towards these ends, and among other things, we will:’

- ❑ Take concrete measures towards ensuring that children have access to adequate food, health care (including psychosocial support), education, and where possible, leisure and cultural activities
- ❑ Protect children against sexual and other forms of violence
- ❑ Facilitate the provision of impartial humanitarian assistance to children in need
- ❑ Facilitate efforts by impartial humanitarian organizations to reunite children with their families
- ❑ Avoid using for military purposes schools or premises primarily used by children

MONITORING MECHANISM

- ❑ Create a field monitoring mechanism
- ❑ Appoint a focal point
- ❑ Keep records
- ❑ Maintain regular exchanges with Geneva Call



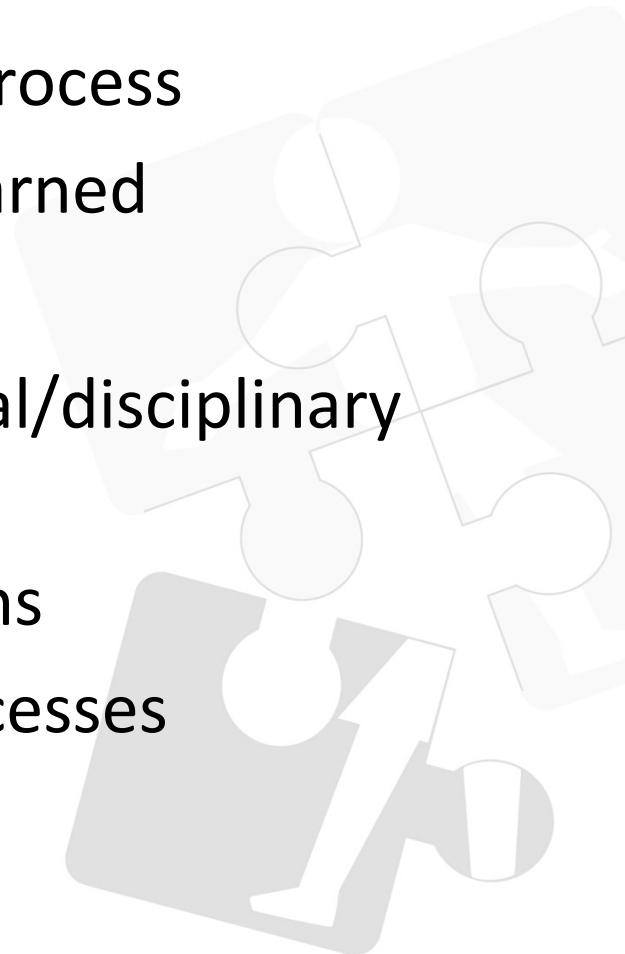
ADDRESSING VIOLATIONS

Prepare a plan for handling violations

- ❑ End violation immediately and protect children
- ❑ Adopt an effective investigation process
- ❑ Record and implement lessons learned

Sanctions

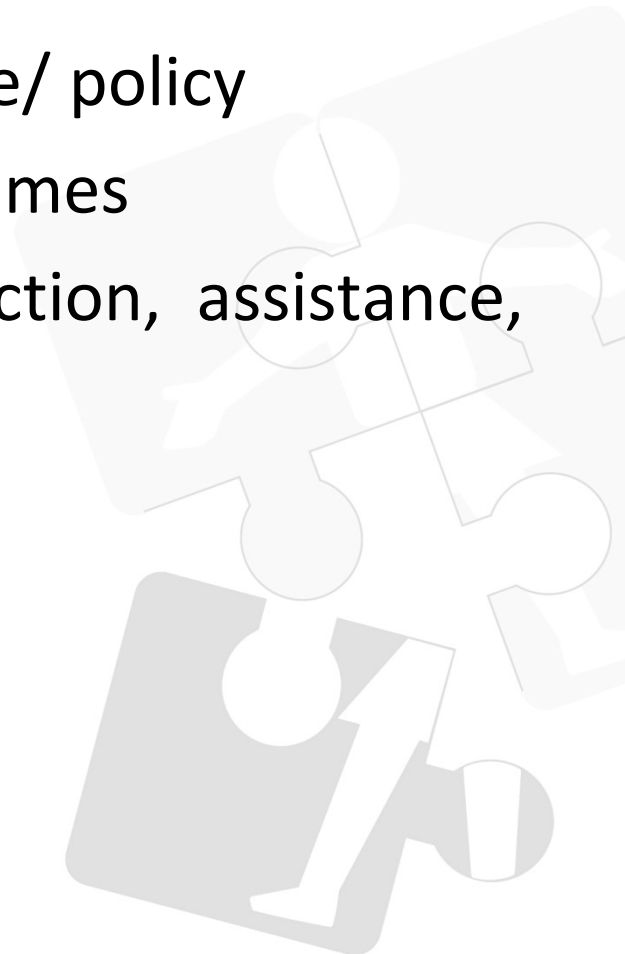
- ❑ Clear and transparent rules—penal/disciplinary code
- ❑ Clear trigger to begin investigations
- ❑ Fair and effective disciplinary processes



RESPONSIBILITY

Who is responsible for what?

- ❑ Creation of internal doctrine/ policy
- ❑ Education/training programmes
- ❑ Operationalization → protection, assistance, field monitoring
- ❑ Enforcement of sanctions
- ❑ Monitoring all of the above



PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM THE EFFECTS OF ARMED CONFLICT:

NEXT STEPS



IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

- 1- What can be done to improve child protection?
- 2- What are the challenges?
- 3- What measures could be taken?
- 4- How do you monitor ?



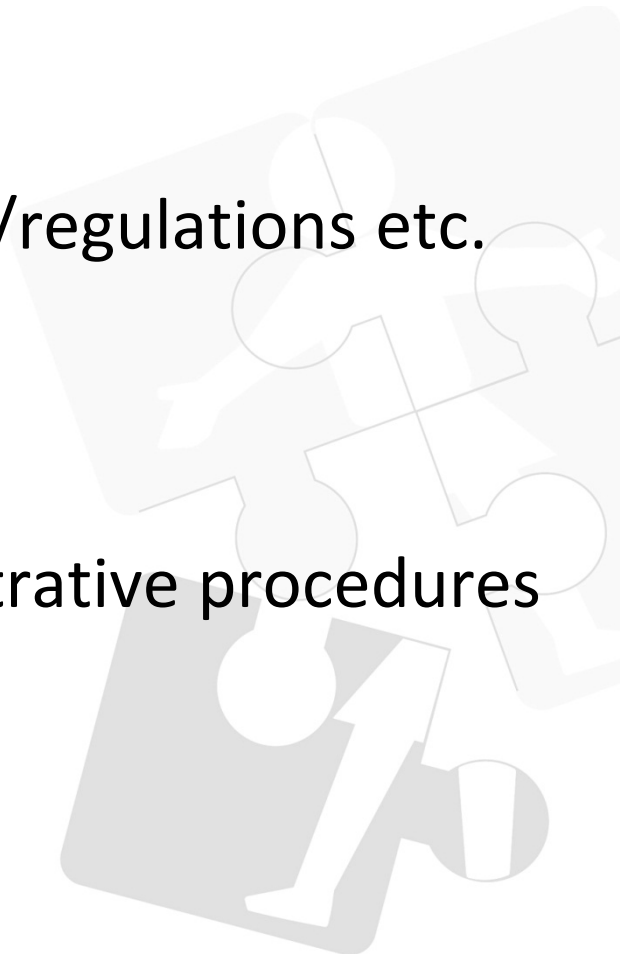
DOCTRINE (POLICY)

Consult internally and decide on internal policy

- Which constituencies to involve?
- How to decide?

Issue the necessary orders/directives/regulations etc.

- Codes of conduct
- Military manuals
- Military orders
- Civilian laws, regulations, administrative procedures
- Other?



DISSEMINATION AND TRAINING

- Include in military curriculum and training exercises
 - Make relevant for each level of command
 - Include in induction, refreshment and advancement courses
 - Discuss in debriefing after relevant operations

- Educate public and authorities
 - Children, teachers, parents, government officials, civil society



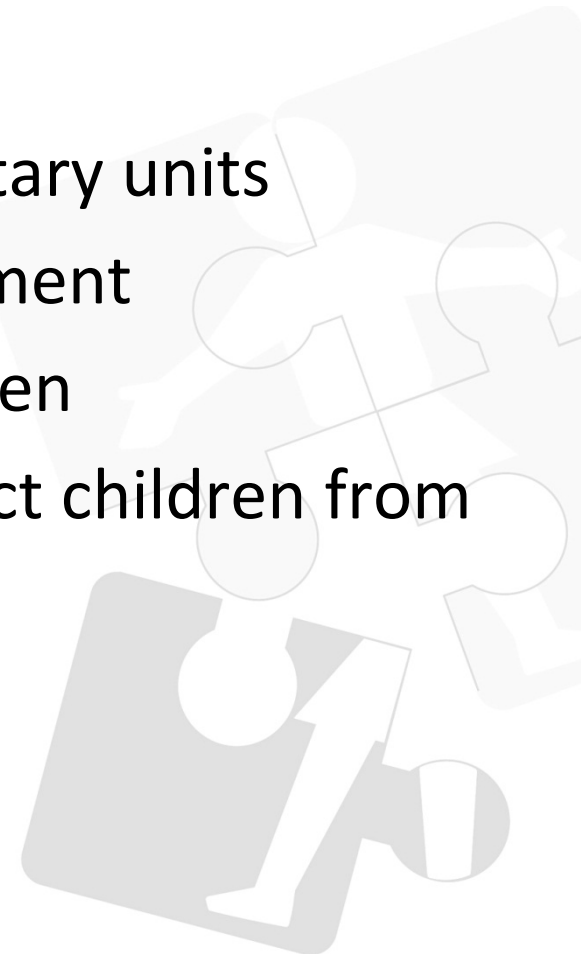
PROTECTION MEASURES

What protection measures exist in current doctrine?
What protection measures should be implemented?



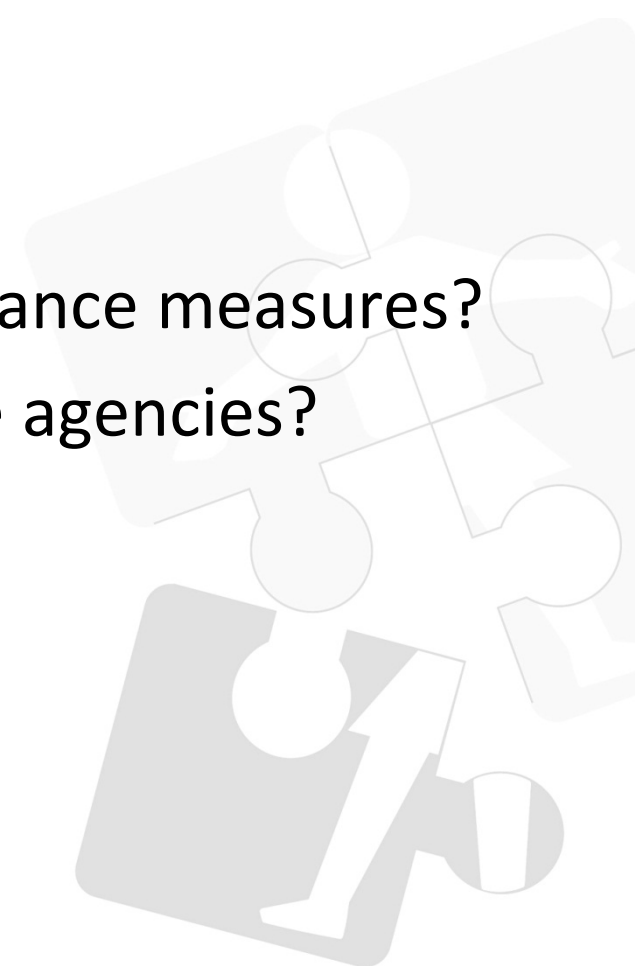
PROTECTION MEASURES- EXAMPLES

- Processes for when children want to join
 - What to do with them?
- Child protection focal points in military units
- Age verification process for recruitment
- Record keeping of associated children
- Management of measures to protect children from enemy attack



ASSISTANCE MEASURES

- ❑ What assistance measures exist?
- ❑ What assistance needs are there?
- ❑ How to manage/administer assistance measures?
- ❑ How to cooperate with assistance agencies?



ASSISTANCE MEASURES

Among other things:

- ❑ Take concrete measures towards ensuring that children have access to adequate food, health care (including psycho-social support), education, and where possible, leisure and cultural activities
- ❑ Protect children against sexual and other forms of violence
- ❑ Facilitate the provision of impartial humanitarian assistance to children in need
- ❑ Facilitate efforts by impartial humanitarian organizations to reunite children with their families
- ❑ Avoid using for military purposes schools or premises primarily used by children

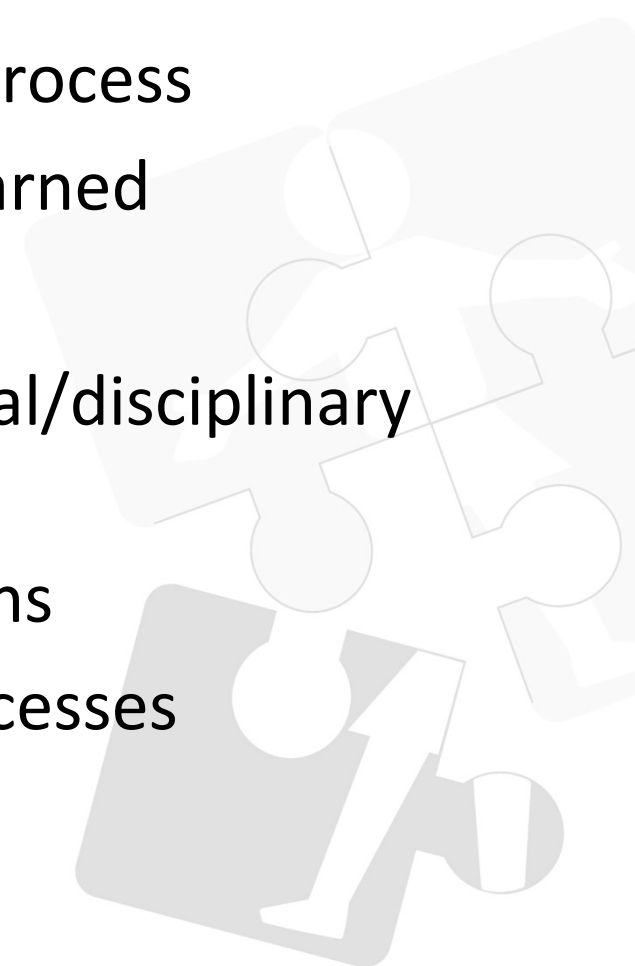
ADDRESSING NON-COMPLIANCE WITH OWN DOCTRINE

Prepare a plan for handling violations

- ❑ End violation immediately and protect children
- ❑ Adopt an effective investigation process
- ❑ Collect and implement lessons learned

Sanctions

- ❑ Clear and transparent rules—penal/disciplinary code
- ❑ Clear trigger to begin investigations
- ❑ Fair and effective disciplinary processes



RESPONSIBILITY

Who is responsible for what?

- ❑ Creation of internal doctrine/policy
- ❑ Education/training programmes
- ❑ Operationalization → protection, assistance
- ❑ Enforcement of sanctions
- ❑ Monitoring all of the above