

COMMITTEE: SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN COMMITTEE (SOCHUM)

TOPIC: DISCUSSION ON PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN CONFLICT ZONES

SPONSORS: IRAN, SWITZERLAND AND GREECE

SIGNATORIES: Pakistan, Germany, Venezuela, South Africa, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Yemen, Malaysia, Canada, UAE, Russian Federation, Cuba, Spain, Sri Lanka, France, Australia, The United Kingdom, Kuwait, Japan, Argentina, Chile

Topic: Discussion on the protection of women and children in conflict zones

The General Assembly's third committee,

Deeply concerned about the safety of children and women who are deeply affected due to armed conflicts,

Recalling the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, and additional protocols, 1977, the International Humanitarian Law and relevant resolutions relating to the protection of children in conflict zones,

Expressing concern towards the spike in human trafficking due to a lack of security during a political or armed conflict in which two-thirds of the population is women and girls,

Noting with deep regret about the shockingly increasing number of child marriages in countries with humanitarian conflicts, with a 20% increase in such marriages in countries like Yemen, South Sudan and Syria,

Recalling Resolution 1325 which acknowledged the negative impacts of war on women and girls, and included them in peace-building and post-conflict humanitarian development,

Recognizing the drastic impacts of the war on children and women, mentally and physically with 13% increased chances of being diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder,

Bearing in mind the social exclusion, rejection by family and the social stigma faced by victims during conflicts due to the aftermath of sexual assaults, physical violence and exploitation by the captors,

Aware of escalating numbers of children and women turning to substance abuse, with a 95% increase in drugs like marijuana among child soldiers and a 26% increase in drug abuse among female rape victims,

Emphasizes the need for immediate action to prevent further income,

1. Encourages the need to provide refuge to the civilians of conflict-torn nations by countries that have decreasing and low populations but lots of resources, in ways such as but not limited to:
 - a. Providing them with a temporary citizenship
 - i. That is valid until the person wishes to withdraw the citizenship

- ii. It enables the adult refugees to apply for survival jobs to sustain
 - iii. Providing them access to government-operated hospitals, Schools, and housing facilities
 - b. Helping them to reintegrate into society and guaranteeing them fundamental human rights, in ways such as but not limited to:
 - i. Protecting them from racial, religious, and culture-based violence
 - ii. Assurance to seek government aid when discriminated against
 - iii. Declaring that discrimination of any sort can be a legal crime
 - c. The refugees must abide by the laws of that country and any violation can be considered a serious offense;
- 2. Suggests the need to set up counselling and rehabilitation services alongside hospitals to counter the increasing number of addictions among people, including children, and provide mental health care to victims of traumatic events, in ways such as but not limited to
 - a. Providing training to healthy individuals to become counsellors to deal with mental health issues, in ways such as but not limited to:
 - i. Setting up camps across the nation which can be supported by international organizations like WHO, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, etc.;
- 3. Recommends a general international emphasis on the education of people who were not able to gain schooling due to special circumstances, in ways such as but not limited to
 - a. Setting up schools for people learning over 18 years of age
 - b. Making self-defence a compulsory part of the school curricula for both children and adults to protect themselves from perpetrators at times of emergency
 - c. Make schooling up to middle school compulsory;
- 4. Further requests for international cooperation in dealing with human trafficking cases as most of the trafficking chains are international, cooperation makes it easy to track down the victims who were forced to be a part of this chain, in ways such as but not limited to:
 - a. Keep strict policies and surveillance to ensure that corruption is not followed to prevent human trafficking
 - b. Slavery or forced labour must be outlawed;
- 5. Also Urges to prevent any forms of social rejection, and stigma against victims of child abuse or sexual assault, in ways such as but not limited to:
 - a. Creating social awareness among people to stop victim-shaming
 - b. Necessary help required by the victim must be provided by the government
 - c. Any form of escape for the rapist or the perpetrator such as, by marrying the victim must be declared a crime
 - d. Therapy sessions for victims of violence or those who were forced into participation in an armed conflict;
- 6. Strongly encourages the scheme of family planning, after the conflict to empower women, in ways such as but not limited to:
 - a. Making it one of the top priorities of the nation

- b. By not forcing women to have children and providing them with the necessary maternal health care
 - c. By not discriminating against them in the employment market;
- 7. Requests all governments to develop national policy frameworks to protect civilians in conflicts in ways such as but not limited to:
 - a. Setting up proactive measures that mitigate and respond to civilian harm by national militaries, partner forces and international coalitions
 - b. By making arms export conditional on respect for international humanitarian and human rights laws, in line with the Arms Trades Treaty
 - c. By improving their ability to protect civilians in urban warfare, including finding alternatives to the use of explosive weapons;
- 8. Advises the member states to support the United Nations and others in engaging with non-state armed groups to develop policies, codes of conduct, and action plans to protect civilians;
- 9. Further recommends that Member states should support heightened advocacy on the protection of civilians and take concerted efforts to ensure accountability for serious violations to end the climate of impunity.