



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
Federal Public Service
**Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and
Development Cooperation**



INVITATION

The Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
And UNICEF are honoured to invite you at the event

PROTECTING CHILDREN IN AND OUT OF EMERGENCIES:

*10th Anniversary Commemoration of the Entry into Force of the Optional Protocols
to the Convention on the Rights of the Child*

27 February, 2:00 p. m. - 6:00 p. m.
Egmont Palace, Place du Petit Sablon 8, Brussels, Belgium

AGENDA

Welcome (2:00 p. m.)	Paul Magnette, Minister for Development Cooperation, Belgium
Opening statement	Her Royal Highness, Princess Mathilde of Belgium
Introduction	Paul Magnette, Minister for Development Cooperation, Belgium
Screening of testimony	Ms Grace Akallo, Network of Young People Affected by War (NYPAW) and United Africans for Women and Children Rights (UAWCR)

Panel (2:45 p. m.)

Moderator: Peter Moors, Director-General for Development Cooperation, Belgium

- Ms Johanna Brandt, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF
- Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
- Ms Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

Question & Answer period (4:00 p. m.)

Reception (5:00 p. m. - 6:00 p. m.)

Translation EN-FR-NDL

Armed conflicts and other forms of emergencies have a devastating effect on children. Both in the immediate and longer term, every crisis has a detrimental impact on children's ability to survive and develop. During the last 10 years, 2 million children have been killed in situations of armed conflict; others have been abducted and or recruited and used by armed forces or groups. Children are sexually violated, trafficked, sold or exploited as a consequence of conflict or in the precarious aftermath of a natural disaster. Millions of other children have experienced crises through family separation, the loss of loved ones or sudden, forced dislocation.

Protecting children in such situations is both a life-saving measure and a sound investment in reducing the life-long negative impact on children's well-being and future development.

The cornerstones of the international framework that protect children in and out of emergencies are the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and its' Optional Protocols on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC), and on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC).

The Government of Belgium is a major supporter of UNICEF's work to protect children, particularly in situations of armed conflict and humanitarian crisis.

With this event in the scope of the 10th anniversary commemoration of the entry into force of the Optional Protocols, Belgium wishes to remind the diplomatic community and all involved actors regarding the increased risks of grave violations, exploitation and sexual abuse that children face as a result of crises.

On top of awareness of this matter, the event aims to promote the universal ratification of the Optional Protocols, to involve the concerned stakeholders, and to prompt them to take effective steps to improve the protection of children.

Registration form

It is required to register before 18 February 2012 to the following email address:
Alliancetoprotectchildren@diplobel.fed.be - tel. 02 501 40 99 or 43 59 or 36 52

Please provide following information:

Name :

Title:

Organisation:

Function:

Postal address:

Tel.:

Email address: