

Start date: 01/12/04

Ratification of the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of the Child

Call to action

Please write to the government of Nepal, using the following sample letter as a guide.

Sample letter

Dear Prime Minister,

I am deeply concerned by the fate of more than 300,000 children who are engaged in armed conflict worldwide. Children who are used as soldiers are exposed to the worst dangers and the most horrible suffering, both psychological and physical. Many of these children have witnessed or taken part in acts of violence, often against their own families or communities.

On 25 May 2000 the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. The Protocol, which entered into force on 12 February 2002 and which your country signed on 8 September 2000, sends a clear message that any use of children in war is unacceptable.

I hope that your government will:

- ratify without reservations the Optional Protocol to the (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict;
- adopt a minimum age of at least eighteen for voluntary recruitment, and stipulate this age in the binding declaration to be made under article 3 of the Optional Protocol at the time of ratification;
- adopt whatever legislation is necessary to ensure that the international obligations arising from the Optional Protocol are implemented in the laws of your country;

Yours sincerely,

Target contact details

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Map of Nepal