

On-going challenges ...

More than half a million children under-18 have been recruited into government armed forces, paramilitaries, civil militia and a wide variety of non-state armed groups in more than 85 countries worldwide. At any one time, more than 300,000 of these children are actively fighting as soldiers with government armed forces or armed opposition groups worldwide. Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) efforts have helped some former child soldiers return to civilian life with their families and communities. However, many child soldiers remain in armed forces and groups, while others have been overlooked by DDR programmes. Girls in particular are at risk of neglect because they often play less visible roles in conflict, or are stigmatized due to rape and sexual abuse.

We still need your support for a child soldier free world ...

- ◆ **Become a member or supporter** of the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers (CSC) in your country or region
- ◆ **Participate in CSC action appeals**, publicized in our newsletter and on our website
- ◆ **Link to our website** (www.child-soldiers.org) at the end of your e-mails and raise awareness of child soldiers
- ◆ **Make a donation**, in cash, kind or time

For more information, please contact us at: Tel: +44 (0)20 7713 2761; Fax: +44 (0)20 7713 2794; Email: info@child-soldiers.org; 2-12 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9HF United Kingdom

Contact details for regional coordinators and national coalitions in Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Middle East are available on our website or via the International Secretariat (details above).

The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers is registered as a limited company (no. 4411965) in England.

The Child Soldiers Coalition Educational and Research Trust is registered as a charity (no. 1095237) in England.



COALITION TO STOP THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS

...working to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers, to secure their demobilisation and to ensure their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.



© Save the Children

Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers
2-12 Pentonville Road, London N1 9HF
Tel: +44 (0)20 7713 2761
Fax: +44 (0)20 7713 2794
info@child-soldiers.org
www.child-soldiers.org

Who we are ...

Founded in 1998, the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers (CSC) unites national, regional and international organisations and networks in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. Its founding organisations are Amnesty International, Defence for Children International, Human Rights Watch, International Federation Terre des Hommes, International Save the Children Alliance, Jesuit Refugee Service, the Quaker United Nations Office-Geneva and World Vision International.

In addition, the CSC maintains active links with UNICEF, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict.

What we do ...

The CSC works in the following three areas:

Research and monitoring: The CSC is the leading network for monitoring and reporting on the use of child soldiers worldwide. We publish geographic and thematic research on child soldiering, while strengthening local, regional and international monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

Advocacy and public education: The CSC promotes universal ratification and implementation of international legal standards prohibiting the recruitment and use of children as soldiers. It campaigns against child soldiering by particular armed forces and groups. We support a “straight-18” policy to prevent any participation in armed conflict by children under 18.

Networking and capacity building: With representation in every region of the world, the CSC promotes and coordinates training, information-sharing and capacity building activities for NGOs in priority countries, and facilitates documentation and dissemination of experience and promising practices.

Our achievements ...

“I wish to pay a very special tribute to the Coalition to Stop the

Use of Child Soldiers; we owe today’s outcome [successful negotiation of the Optional Protocol] in large measure to their patient work, determination and all-out mobilization...”
- HE Mr Olara Otunnu, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict

The CSC has been at the forefront of efforts to ban the recruitment and use of child soldiers, while encouraging sustainable networks to promote demobilization and reintegration of former child soldiers. Highlights include:

- Instrumental role in the negotiation, adoption and entry into force of international legal instruments prohibiting child soldiering, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.
- Active engagement with influential international actors, such as the UN Security Council, the Human Security Network, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- First-ever Child Soldiers Global Report, and comprehensive research reports and briefings, detailing military recruitment laws, practice and the use of child soldiers in conflict by both governments and non-state actors.
- Ground-breaking thematic research on child soldiering and sexual exploitation, displacement, gender, juvenile justice and reintegration.
- Coalition networks in over 40 countries worldwide, with regional coordination in 5 continents.
- Information-sharing on effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration strategies for former child soldiers.