

**PREVENT
PROTECT
REHABILITATE**

CHILD SOLDIERS



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300,000 CHILD SOLDIERS AS PART OF TODAY'S 50 MILLION SLAVES



GENEVA, 12 September 2022 (ILO News) – **Fifty million** people were living in modern slavery in 2021, according to the latest [Global Estimates of Modern Slavery](#). Of these people, 28 million were in forced labour and 22 million were trapped in forced marriage.

The number of people in modern slavery has risen significantly in the last five years. **10 million more** people were in modern slavery in 2021 compared to 2016 global estimates. Women and children remain disproportionately vulnerable.



Modern slavery occurs in almost every country in the world, and cuts across ethnic, cultural and religious lines.

Criminals are operating with impunity and making \$150 billion a year while 50 million people suffer.

Child soldiering as a neglected contemporary slavery issue

DEFINITIONS

Human Trafficking :

In human trafficking, the focus is on the **exploitation of a human being, combined with coercion or deception.**

This coercion can be created by physical or psychological violence.

In most cases, however, it is physical violence.

Child soldiers could be **victims of the different forms of human trafficking** ----->

Forced labor	Women, men, children, in industry, agriculture, fishing, etc.
Child Recruitment	Child Soldiers
Forced sex	Prostitution, surrogacy
Purchase and theft of children	For adoption or abuse
Child pornography	Mostly on the Internet
Organ theft	For transplantation
Forced Crime	Begging, theft, drug trafficking, terrorism

CHILD SOLDIERS - INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women New York, 1979
- Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989**
- **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Right of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 2000**
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990

- **AU, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990, Art. 22**
- COE, European Convention on Human Rights, 1950
- **COE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, 2005**
- UE, Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 2000
- OAS, American Convention on Human Rights, 1969
- AU, African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981
- ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, 2012

LABOUR LAW

- **ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), Art 3 a)**
- Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949
- Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975

- COE, European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers, 1977
- UE, Directive 2014/36/E of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

- **Geneva Conventions of the 12 August 1949**
- **Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of the 12 August 1949, 1977**
PI, Art, 77, 2
PII, Art. 4, 3 c

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

- **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 1998,**
Art. 8 b xxvi (international armed conflicts), e vii (non-international a.c.)

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT LAW

- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951
- Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967
- Convention relating to the status of stateless persons, 1954

U.N. CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (UNTOC) 2000

- **Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children**
- **Palermo Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air**

WHAT TO DO?

ACTION PLAN

HOW TO END THE RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT:

ONE Issue military command orders prohibiting the recruitment and use of children

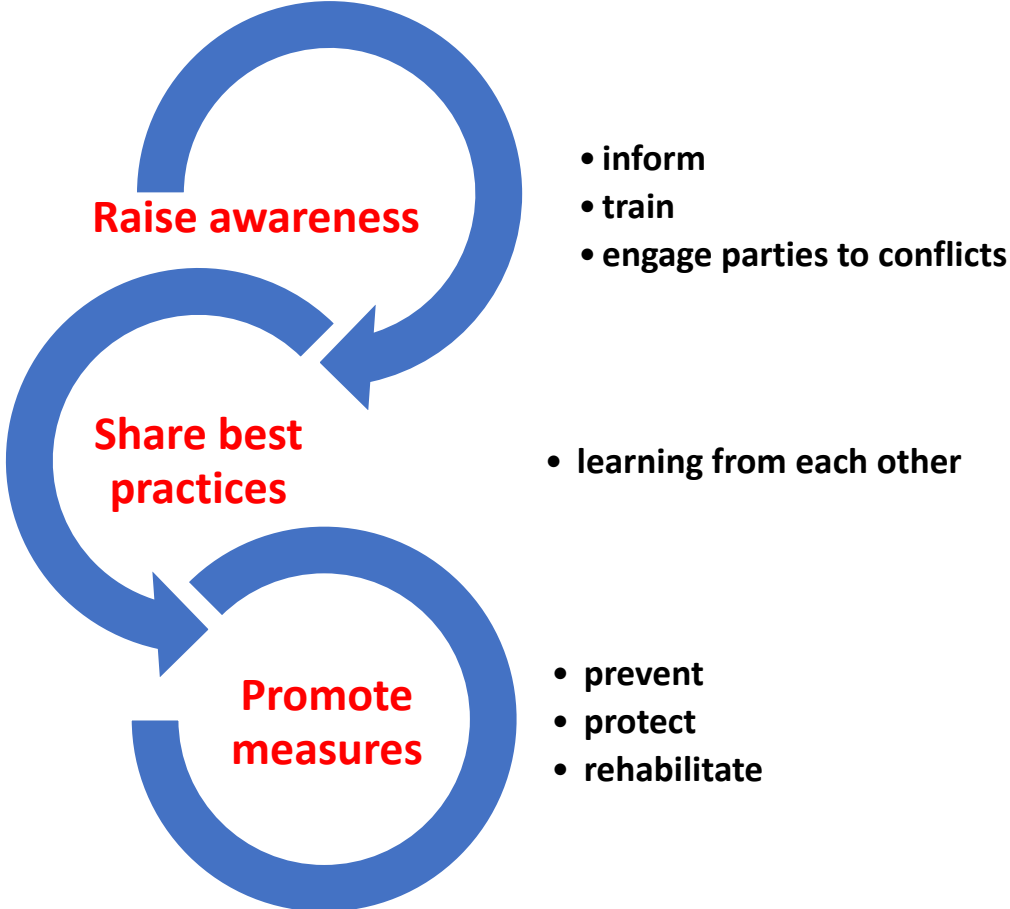
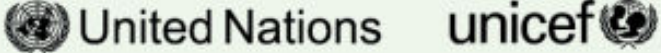
TWO Release all children identified in the ranks of security forces

THREE Ensure children's reintegration into civilian life

FOUR Criminalize the recruitment and use of children

FIVE Integrate age-verification mechanisms in recruitment procedures

CHILDRENANDARMEDCONFLICT.ORG



CO-OPERATION

Involve stakeholders, governments, other parties to conflicts, civil society, religious organizations and religious leaders, as well as the business sector and the media, without forgetting academia, education and medical services



Proposals

- 1. Adapt international treaties and domestic legislations to combat forms of child violence and exploitation on the internet**
- 2. Implement existing treaties, domestic legislation and National Action Plans on Children in Armed Conflicts**
- 3. Raise awareness and train stakeholders on identification, protection, and rehabilitation of child soldiers**
- 4. Increase support to prevention, protection and rehabilitation efforts by Governments and civil society, including restorative justice and reconciliation.**



SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA
AMBASSADOR
AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WEBINARS AND FREE ONLINE RESOURCES ON COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

1. Religious Helping Trafficking Victims along the Road of Recovery - 20 October 2020
2. Religious Working In International Advocacy Against Human Trafficking - 27 October 2020
3. Impact Of Human Trafficking On Health: Trauma - 1 December 2020
4. Impact Of Human Trafficking On Health: Healing - 8 December 2020
5. International Prosecution Of Human Trafficking — Where Are We Now? - 16 February 2021
6. International Prosecution Of Human Trafficking — What can be done? - 23 February 2021
7. International Prosecution Of Human Trafficking — Best Practices - 2 March 2021
8. Demand As Root Cause For Human Trafficking – Sex Trafficking & Prostitution - 13 April 2021
9. Demand As Root Cause For Human Trafficking – Forced Labor, Empowering Consumers - 20 April 2021
10. Root Causes For Human Trafficking – The Role Of Technology - 5 May 2021
11. Aspects juridiques de la traite des êtres humains - 11 mai 2021
12. Assistance humanitaire et sociale des victimes de la traite des êtres humains - 18 mai 2021
13. Modern slavery and decent work - 22 June 2021
14. Legal Approaches To Reducing The Demand Behind Human Trafficking - 12 October 2021
15. Migration and Human Trafficking – 16 November 2021
16. Religions Against Human Trafficking – 7 December 2021
17. Sexual Slavery – Testimony - Middle Eastern And Nigerian Women Enslaved - 8 February 2022
18. Demand for HT: We Are All Responsible for HT as Consumers of Forced Labor and Sexual Slavery.– 14 June 2022
19. Justice & HT: The Gap Between the Law and Its Implementation in Practice– 28 June 2022
20. Countering The Use Of Technology To Recruit And Control Victims Of Human Trafficking,– 20 September 2022
21. Human Trafficking & Laudato Si': Towards A New Paradigm To Ensure The Protection Of Human Dignity – 6 October 2022
22. HT and Migration: Current assessment of the perilous journey in the Mediterranean Sea – 7 November 2022

Next webinars:

23. Forced Labor and Transparency in Supply Chains
29 November 2022

24. Faith and Fight against HT
6 December 2022

1. **Webinars** on human trafficking

www.adlaudatosi.org



2. Free **online course**

on human trafficking in English & French

www.cuhd.org



3. **Good practices**

www.christusliberat.org



<https://nohumantrafficking.orderofmalta.int>

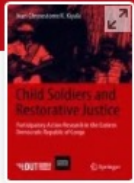
4. **Digital Library** on Human Trafficking

<https://bit.ly/DIGITAL-LIBRARY-2022>

LA JUSTICE RESTAURATIVE POUR LES MINEURS



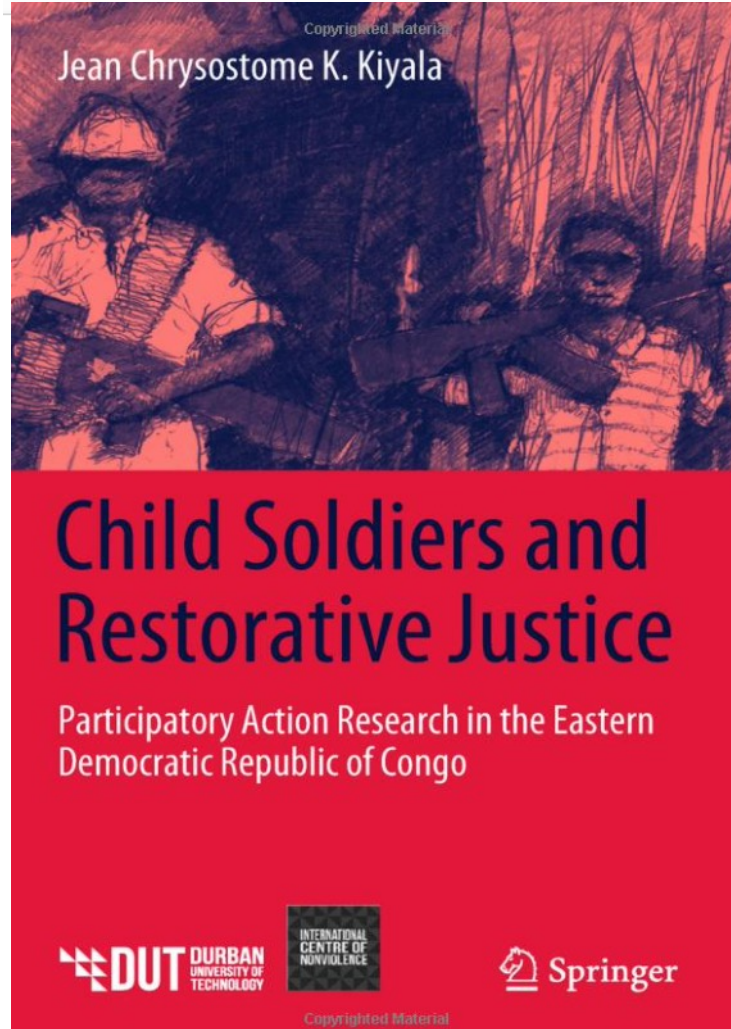
Manuel sur les programmes de justice réparatrice



Book | © 2019

Child Soldiers and Restorative Justice

Participatory Action Research in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo



- This book investigates how, while children used as soldiers are primarily perceived as victims of offences against international law, they also commit war atrocities. In the aftermath of armed conflict, the mainstream justice system targets warlords internationally, armed groups and militias' commanders who abduct and enrol children as combatants, leaving child perpetrators not being held accountable for their alleged gross human rights violations. Attempts to prosecute child soldiers through the mainstream justice system have resulted in child rights abuses. Where no accountability measures have been taken, demobilised young soldiers have experienced rejection, and eventually, some have returned to soldiering. This research provides evidence of the potential of restorative justice peacemaking circles and locally-based jurisprudence – specifically the Baraza - to hold former child soldiers accountable and facilitate their reintegration into society.