



**United Nations Human Rights Council | 39<sup>th</sup> session  
September 2018**

**Item 10 | Interactive Dialogue**

**Human Rights Situation of Children in Yemen**

Defence for Children International (DCI) welcomes the opportunity to speak in this dialogue.

Yemen continues to face the worst humanitarian crisis globally with 75 per cent of the population requiring some form of humanitarian assistance and protection. Furthermore, more than 6,000 children have been killed or injured in the violence since the conflict began, children's health continues to suffer due to malnutrition, and approximately 2 million children are out of school.

DCI welcomes the findings of the Group of Independent Eminent International and Regional Experts, which set out the violations of international law that have occurred since September 2014. They highlight that parties to the conflict have regularly restricted humanitarian aid and attacked civilians and civilian infrastructure, including schools and hospitals; and conducted arbitrary arrests, detentions and executions. We underline the impact of those violations on children, including recruitment of children as soldiers, injuries or deaths as a result of attacks on civilians, and the use of schools as detention centres. However, despite these widespread violations, all parties to the conflict have failed to conduct credible investigations into abuses.

Therefore, DCI urges members of the Human Rights Council to:

- Condemn violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict;
- Call on all parties to the conflict to cease immediately and prevent the recruitment and use of children in the armed conflict;
- Call on all parties to the conflict to comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including measures to protect civilians, particularly children, and to investigate violations and ensure accountability; and
- Renew and strengthen the mandate of the Group of Independent Eminent International and Regional Experts to investigate all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights and international humanitarian law, to establish the facts and circumstances, and to identify those who should be criminally investigated for responsibility for grave crimes, including through command responsibility. The Group should present oral updates its report directly to the Council.

Thank you.