

**The current state of play of the mainstreaming of the human rights of women and girls  
in conflict and post-conflict situations**  
48th Session of the Human Rights Council

Thank you, Madame President.

This is a joint statement.

As laid out in the report, the protection and promotion of women's and girls' human rights are key for conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and recovery.

The way children experience conflict is inextricably tied to the combination of gender and age. In conflict settings, girls face increased risk of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, child marriage, and gender-based barriers to critical services. This includes safe access to education, mental health, legal and psychosocial support, and child-friendly essential sexual and reproductive health services and information.

9 of the 10 countries with the highest rate of child marriage are conflict-affected.<sup>1</sup>

And we estimate a staggering 72 million children, or one in six children globally, live within close proximity to conflicts armed groups have perpetrated sexual violence against children during the last year.<sup>2</sup>

98% of verified cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence were committed against girls.<sup>3</sup>

We call on the Human Rights Council and UN Member states to urgently address gaps in fulfilling the rights of girls in conflict settings, including:

- Supporting girls living in conflict to raise complaints of violations of their rights directly to HRC processes and mechanisms and providing them with dedicated spaces and systematic opportunities to meaningfully participate in decisions on all matters that affect them.
- Ensure that legal and policy frameworks and all accountability mechanisms and investigative bodies recognize and incorporate an age, gender and inclusion lens. This includes within the mandates of Commissions of Inquiry and Fact-Finding Missions, Human Rights Council Resolutions, Reports and briefings by UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders; and, Recommendations to UN Member States under the UPR.
- Ensure consistent inclusion and funding for specialized capacity and expertise on both gender and children within investigatory teams.
- Increase trainings and tools on how to monitor, investigate and document grave violations against women and girls; and

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<sup>1</sup> Girls Not Brides, Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings Brief-

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/HumanitarianSituations/GirlsNotBrides.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Save the Children, Weapon of War- [https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/18763/pdf/weapon-of-war-report\\_final.pdf](https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/18763/pdf/weapon-of-war-report_final.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> In 2018 CAAC data, 87% of sexual violence cases concern girls and 1.5% boys, the rest is not disaggregated. In 2019 CAAC data, 98% of cases concern girls and 2% boys. Disaggregation in previous years is weaker

- Recognize and collaborate with local girls and women's rights organizations and other relevant local and national partners, including human rights defenders, for the important role they play.

Thank you for your attention.