



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

NEW YORK, 12 OCTOBER 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 68 A, B: RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

STATEMENT BY KATHRIN NESCHER, SECOND SECRETARY

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam Chair,

UNICEF estimates that around 28 Million children today have fled violence and insecurity¹. We live in a world where whole generations of children grow up in situations of conflict and displacement. This jeopardizes their enjoyment of the right to health, to education, to food, and in the sphere of less formal rights, their right to play, to be carefree – which is an indispensable part of childhood, and therefore personal growth and development.

We have created mechanisms at the UN to ensure that children have the chance to enjoy these rights and that those who violate them are held to account. One of the key elements of the UN's protection effort is the monitoring mechanism established in Security Council Resolution 1612 to document grave violations against children in conflict situations. The documentation used is based on information vetted for accuracy, resulting in a credible and evidence-based listing of perpetrators. We would like to reiterate our strongest support for the mandate of the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict. Any interference

¹ http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Uprooted_growing_crisis_for_refugee_and_migrant_children.pdf

with her mandate seriously jeopardizes the integrity not only of this mechanism, but also of others that the United Nations has put in place.

Reports from Aleppo show that Syrian and Russian forces have continuously hit schools and hospitals; in Yemen, it is estimated that around a third of air raids have targeted civilian sites, again including schools and hospitals – one the most appalling events happened just this past weekend². These are objects protected under international humanitarian law; attacking them while in civilian use is therefore a war crime. And it is a gross violation of children’s rights to education and health. UNHCR reports from June 2016 show that 2.1 Million Syrian children were without access to education – nearly 40%³. It is difficult to imagine this number has decreased in light of recent developments. In total, only about half of today’s refugee children have access to primary school, only 22% attend secondary school. While mitigating their immediate suffering – by providing humanitarian aid and stopping the senseless destruction of what’s left of their homes – is our highest priority. We must also ensure that we think “beyond basic survival”, as the High Commissioner for Refugees put it. Denying these children their right to education is denying them of any remaining prospect of developing their full potential in the future. This affects all of us, and it affects our sustainable development.

Madam Chair,

200’000 unaccompanied minors applied for asylum in Europe between 2008 and 2015⁴, around half of them in 2015 alone. These children are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and exploitation. Save the Children Italy has documented some of the harrowing and increasingly sophisticated tactics of traffickers to force girls as young as 13 into prostitution and boys into slavery-like jobs in construction and the hospitality sector⁵. All of us have agreed to take steps

² <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/16/third-of-saudi-airstrikes-on-yemen-have-hit-civilian-sites-data-shows>

³ <http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2016/9/57d7d6f34/unhcr-reports-crisis-refugee-education.html>

⁴ http://www.savethechildren.org/atf/cf/%7B9def2ebe-10ae-432c-9bd0-df91d2eba74a%7D/FORCED_TO_FLEE.PDF

⁵ <http://www.savethechildren.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=8rKLIXMGIpI4E&b=93571111&ct=14904821>

to address this issue in the New York Declaration on refugees and migrants, adopted just weeks ago. We call upon all remaining Member States who have not yet done so to ratify the UNCTOC Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Reaching universalization of this protocol is essential in protecting women and children from trafficking and in promoting the necessary cooperation among State Parties to tackle the issue together.

I thank you.