



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
**PERMANENT MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York

SIDE EVENT

“Rebirth: Empowerment and Rehabilitation of Girls in Armed Conflicts”

Organised by

the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict and the Institute of Political Studies San Pius the V

**Friday 17 April 2026
10:00am – 11:30am**

United Nations Headquarters – Conference Room 8

CONCEPT NOTE

The event will aim to create a meaningful space of dialogue among experts, scholars, diplomats, and international institutions in order to advance the protection, rehabilitation, and empowerment of girls affected by armed conflict. In conflict and post-conflict contexts, girls can experience the full range of human rights violations and abuses, including conflict-related sexual violence.¹ At its core, the side event seeks to ensure that youth perspectives—grounded in research, field engagement, and direct work with conflict-affected communities—are actively and substantively integrated into international peace and security discussions.

The event has four principal objectives.

First, it seeks to strengthen institutional dialogue on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related National Action Plans, with particular attention to rehabilitation and social reintegration. In this context, reintegration is understood as a comprehensive and long-term process that goes beyond immediate protection or emergency assistance. It includes restoring access to

1

The term 'conflict-related sexual violence' refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, forced marriage, and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity.



education and vocational opportunities, supporting psychosocial recovery, rebuilding family and community relationships, addressing stigma and discrimination, and fostering economic autonomy and civic participation. The event therefore promotes coordinated, rights-based policies capable of accompanying girls from survival to full and meaningful inclusion within their families, communities and societies.

Second, it intends to enhance advocacy and awareness regarding the specific vulnerabilities, rights, and resilience of girls in conflict and post-conflict contexts, encouraging a shift in perspective that recognizes them not only as victims, but as active agents of recovery and social transformation.

Third, the event aspires to reinforce multilateral cooperation by fostering partnerships among diplomatic missions, academic institutions, UN agencies, and civil society actors committed to comprehensive, gender-sensitive, and sustainable peacebuilding strategies

Finally, it aims to affirm youth participation as a concrete and policy-relevant contribution, offering young scholars and mediators the opportunity to present research findings, field experiences, and operational recommendations that can inform institutional responses.

The side event represents a key milestone of *Rebirth: Empowerment and Rehabilitation of Girls in Armed Conflict*, promoted by the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict and the Institute of Political Studies S. Pius the V, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy. The project is implemented within Italy's V National Action Plan (2025–2029) under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Rebirth promotes the empowerment, rehabilitation, and social reintegration of girls aged 15–18 who have survived armed conflict, operating in Iraq, Lebanon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, and Kosovo.

This side event in New York within the United Nations environment will serve as a strategic platform to integrate youth-driven research and field-based experience into international policymaking, while reaffirming the central role of girls and young people as active agents in building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable peace.

Within this framework, experts will be invited to share reflections and engage in dialogue around key questions, including:

What are the main obstacles to the effective social reintegration of girls formerly affected by armed conflict?

What is the role of judiciary in addressing vulnerability of girls and positive obligations of States under international human rights law?

How can education systems and local institutions better support long-term rehabilitation and prevent re-marginalization?



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
**PERMANENT MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York

What role can universities and research centres play in translating field experience into actionable policy guidance?

How can stigma and discrimination against survivors be addressed at the community level?

Which models of cooperation between governments, international organizations, and civil society have proven most effective in supporting reintegration processes?

By exploring these questions, the side event aims to generate actionable insights and policy-oriented recommendations that can strengthen both international and national efforts to protect, rehabilitate, and empower girls affected by armed conflict.

PROGRAM

Moderator: **Mrs. Savita Pawnday**, Executive Director, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

Welcome Address

Ms. Saša Jurečko, Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations

Keynote Addresses

Mrs. Vanessa Frazier, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

Prof. Dr. Vasilka Sancin, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights

The role of judiciary in addressing vulnerability of children affected by armed conflicts and positive obligations of States under international human rights law

Panel: Protection, rehabilitation, and empowerment of girls affected by armed conflict

Prof. Dr. Laura Guercio, Link Campus University of Rome, Secretary General of the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict,



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
**PERMANENT MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York

From Social Reintegration to Rebirth: The Role of Academia in Strengthening Legal Protection Frameworks and Reintegration Mechanisms for Children Affected by Armed Conflict within the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

Mr. Francis Shako, US representative of Congolese Foundation for Human Rights and Peace

Challenges in the social reintegration of children affected by armed conflicts and the role of civil society organizations

Mr. Greg Carroll, Salem University, Center for Childhood and Youth Studies

Youth led relational resilience: from surviving conflict to co-creating peace

Q&A Session

Closing remarks

Ambassador Gianluca Greco, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations