General Assembly Third Committee
Background Guide 2024

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2024 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce to you our committee, the General Assembly Third Committee (GA3). Your committee’s work is facilitated by volunteer staffers. This year’s committee staff are: Director Kenny Van Nguyen and Assistant Director Maria Anne Ruedisueli (Session 1), and Director Johanna Günkel and Assistant Director Nadine Al Ali (Session 2). Kenny Nguyen is currently studying for his Master of Public Administration at the University of Colorado Denver. He has a B.A. in Political Science and Communication at the University of Colorado Boulder. Kenny is currently working as the Executive Assistant to Colorado’s Lt Governor, Dianne Primavera. Maria Anne Ruedisueli studied Political Science and History at Alma College and currently works for a publishing company in marketing and sales. Johanna holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and a Master's degree in Food Politics and Sustainable Development. She currently works as a Project Officer for an international NGO focused on children's rights and development. Nadine Al Ali studies Political Science at the University of Ottawa and has a background in communication arts. She is a Language and Culture Specialist at Microsoft as well as a writer and director in the film and theatre industries. The preparation of these materials was supported by Under-Secretaries-General Eileen Austin (Session 1) and Danielle Curtis (Session 2).

The topics on the agenda for this committee are:
1. Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children in Conflict
2. Preventing Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State’s policies in depth and use the bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the conference, each delegation should submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. ET on 1 March 2023 in accordance with the guidelines in the Position Paper Guide and the NMUN•NY Position Papers website.

Two resources, available to download from the NMUN website, serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions:

- The NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide, which explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions.
- The NMUN Rules of Procedure, which includes the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory NMUN Conduct Expectations on the NMUN website. They include the conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for this committee, please contact the Deputy Secretaries-General at dsg.ny@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

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Session 1

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Session 2
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United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the United Nations system simulated at NMUN•NY. It shows where each committee "sits" within the system to demonstrate the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose, and powers within the United Nations system.
Introduction
The General Assembly is the main deliberative and policy-making body in the United Nations system.\(^1\) With its universal membership, the General Assembly makes policy recommendations to actors at all levels, including governments, regional organizations, and other United Nations bodies.\(^2\) Its work is spread across six Main Committees, each of which discusses topics within a thematic area, adopting resolutions that are then considered by the broader General Assembly Plenary.\(^3\)

The General Assembly Third Committee is mandated to discuss all matters related to social, humanitarian, and cultural affairs, including human rights issues.\(^4\) This involves a wide variety of agenda items, including: advancement of women; protection of children; treatment of refugees through the elimination of racism and discrimination; promotion of fundamental freedoms and the right to self-determination; indigenous issues; and a range of social matters such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.\(^5\)

Mandate, Function, and Powers
The first article of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) established that one of the purposes of the United Nations is the achievement of international cooperation in the promotion of human rights.\(^6\) Its fourth chapter established the composition and capabilities of the General Assembly, and with it the mandate of the Third Committee.\(^7\) The Third Committee’s work is also heavily influenced by the *International Bill of Human Rights* (1966), an overarching framework consisting of three fundamental human rights documents, namely the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the 1966 *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, and the 1966 *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*.\(^8\)

The General Assembly acts as a forum for dialogue and cooperation, providing general policy recommendations rather than carrying out operative tasks.\(^9\) Its policy recommendations are non-binding and their implementation is conducted by Member States, the United Nations Secretariat, and other United Nations bodies, each of which independently align their work with General Assembly resolutions.\(^10\) The General Assembly’s resolutions are formal documents expressing the agreement and will of the international community, and the Third Committee adopts the majority of its resolutions by consensus, meaning no vote is taken and no Member States have objections to the content.\(^11\) In line with the *Charter of the United Nations*, the mandate of the General Assembly can be summarized as:

- The General Assembly **will generally**: make recommendations to Member States, the Security Council, other United Nations bodies and organs, United Nations specialized

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\(^1\) United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Main Bodies*. N.d.
\(^6\) Ibid.
\(^10\) Ibid. p. 52.
\(^11\) Ibid. p. 37, 52.
initiate studies and advance efforts to promote international cooperation; and consider or request reports from other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies; establish United Nations observance days, create expert groups or commissions, formulate mechanisms for treaty negotiation, or refer an issue to the International Court of Justice.\textsuperscript{12}

- The General Assembly will not generally: dictate the specific actions required for the implementation of policies it recommends, allowing Member States and other bodies to determine and implement operational details; create new bodies except in those rare instances where ubiquitous international demand requires the consolidation of existing bodies or where a concept and mandate have been fully developed, typically through years of negotiations; make recommendations on situations under consideration by the United Nations Security Council.\textsuperscript{13}

The Third Committee tends to focus on high-level policy recommendations, calling for meetings or conferences on specific issues, and the initiation of studies, often relying on bodies with specific expertise.\textsuperscript{14} Additionally, the Third Committee examines the reports of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, which are independent human rights experts mandated to report and advise from a thematic or country-specific perspective.\textsuperscript{15}

\textbf{Governance, Funding, and Structure}

The General Assembly is comprised of all 193 United Nations Member States, with observer status being granted to intergovernmental organizations and states without full membership.\textsuperscript{16} Each Member State receives a single, equal vote; observers may not vote on substantive items and most decisions require a simple majority.\textsuperscript{17}

The Third Committee adopts approximately two-thirds of its resolutions by consensus and without a recorded vote.\textsuperscript{18} Its resolutions are passed on to the General Assembly Plenary for consideration in an annual report.\textsuperscript{19} The Third Committee’s procedures are managed by a Secretariat and elected Bureau.\textsuperscript{20} The Bureau assists with opening and closing each meeting, managing the discussions, pronouncing decisions, assisting with drafts and documents, and ensuring compliance with the rules of procedure.\textsuperscript{21} The United Nations Secretariat also assists General Assembly committees by delivering substantive and logistical support.\textsuperscript{22} The Third Committee specifically considers reports from and engages in deliberations

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{12} Ibid. p. 36.
  \item \textsuperscript{14} United Nations, General Assembly. \textit{Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.} N.d.
  \item \textsuperscript{19} Ibid. pp. 37-38, 62, 68.
  \item \textsuperscript{20} Ibid. p. 12.
\end{itemize}
with the Human Rights Council and most human rights treaty bodies. No subsidiary bodies report to the Third Committee. All General Assembly meetings and events are funded through the United Nations regular budget.

23 Ibid. pp. 73-74.
24 Ibid.
Bibliography


1. Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children in Conflict

Introduction

The United Nations has confirmed over 325,000 violations committed against children between 2005 and 2022, displaying the expansive and growing nature of this issue.\(^{26}\) With over 110 conflicts worldwide, one in six children lives within a conflict zone.\(^{27}\) There has been an increase of attacks on schools and hospitals, disproportionately impacting students and children with disabilities.\(^{28}\) As defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1989), a child is anyone under the age of 18.\(^{29}\) Children are inherently more vulnerable than adults, with their mental, physical, and behavioral development relying heavily on their experiences during their adolescence, which for 1.6 billion children is in a conflict-affected country.\(^{30}\) The distinct characteristics of children, significantly their age, physical and mental health, culture, gender, and location, cause them to be affected differently in conflict.\(^{31}\) Security Council resolution 1612 on “Children and Armed Conflicts” (2005) outlines six offensives towards children: murder and intentional harm; recruitment and use of child soldiers; attacks on schools or hospitals; any sort of sexual violence; abduction and trafficking; and, refusing or delaying humanitarian assistance.\(^{32}\)

Violent conflict occurs when two or more groups have opposing views and take actions to cause mental and/or physical damage to those involved or those near the conflict, including women and children.\(^{33}\) In order to better serve communities that are living amongst conflict, the United Nations Development Group has identified common indicators in conflict-affected areas.\(^{34}\) These areas may include an international or inter-state conflict, a time of transition from war into peace, the occurrence of human rights violations on a mass level, socio-political unrest, and/or weakness within the state and its government.\(^{35}\)

The number of children living in conflict has been rising steadily since 2000 due to acts of war, famine, and sickness.\(^{36}\) During times of conflict, vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities and students, often face increased discrimination.\(^{37}\) Persons with disabilities may not have the ability to flee an unsafe area or they will be forced to make difficult decisions about continuation of their care, which contributes to additional challenges with reintegration efforts.\(^{38}\) Schools have become a bigger target for groups to attack during armed conflicts.\(^{39}\) Attacks on vulnerable populations create lasting negative

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\(^{27}\) Geneva Academy. RULAC Classifies a New Non-International Armed Conflict in Sudan. 2023.


\(^{31}\) Save the Children. Countries in Conflict. 2023.


\(^{39}\) United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. Joint Statement for the commemoration of the International Day to Protect Education from Attack
impacts on children’s lives, affecting their ability to recover from conflict and live a healthy and productive adulthood. According to Assistant Secretary-General Ilze Brands Kehris, the international community must work fervently to bring an end to violence and ensure further protections for future generations, as children in conflict remain the furthest behind in meeting the child protection-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**International and Regional Framework**

The foundational documents for promoting and protecting the rights of children are the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948), the *International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR) (1966), and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) (1966). The UDHR states that children are entitled to special care and social protections, with articles 25 and 26 stating that every person, including children, has the right to receive an education. Article 10 of the ICESCR recognizes the importance of the family unit in society, as children are dependent on their family for care, education, and safety and well being. By extending protections to the family unit, it provides greater protections to vulnerable children. Article 24 of the ICCPR lays out basic rights for children, including the right to a nationality, a name, and protection from the state.

The CRC, adopted by the General Assembly, brought the importance of children’s rights to the forefront of the international community. The *Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of the Children in Armed Conflicts* (Optional Protocol), adopted in 2001, directly extends the rights found in the CRC to children in conflict zones, including but not limited to children’s rights to protection, education, healthcare, shelter, and adequate nutrition. The Optional Protocols guide Member States with four general principles: equal treatment under the law, emphasizing child centric care, the right to a full life, and incorporation of the child in society. Furthermore, the *Geneva Conventions* (1949) and the *Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions* (1977) created the foundations of international humanitarian law, including rules of war. The *Fourth Geneva Convention*, in particular, focuses on civilians and their protections from inhumane treatment in times of conflict. Article 24 states that orphaned children are entitled to care, education, and connection to their culture, while article 89

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45 Ibid.
highlights the preferential treatment of children when distributing food, as they have different requirements than adults to remain in good health.  

With the adoption of the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* (1998), Member States collectively identified the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, which include crimes against and involving children. Article 6 condemns the trafficking of children, stating it is an act of genocide, while article 8 prohibits and classifies recruiting children under the age of 15 to fight as a war crime. In 2016, the International Criminal Court (ICC) published the *Policy on Children* to have a common language when discussing the gravity of crimes against children, and outlining how children can be impacted in unique ways by crimes due to their age, sex, gender, and other identities. Through this policy, ICC affirms their commitment to investigating crimes against children, as well as the various rights afforded to children under international law.

In 2007, the *Free Children from War* conference, organized by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the French Government, adopted the *Paris Principles and Commitments on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups* (Paris Principles and Commitments) to reaffirm support for children’s rights in conflict zones and express continued concern at their involvement in the armed forces. The Paris Principles and Commitments highlight four objectives: combat recruitment of children in war by armed groups; ensure the release of children affiliated with armed groups; support the reintegration of children into society; and support best practices to protect children from recruitment by armed groups.

The rights of children are also outlined in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015), with many SDGs encompassing the overarching goal of ending conflict and mitigating abuse. SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG Goal 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) each take into account the promotion and protection of the rights of children in conflict. In particular, target 16.2 aims to end the abuse, trafficking, and torture of children. Target 4.A focuses on providing safe and non-violent learning environments for children and persons with disabilities.

**Role of the International System**

The United Nations, in particular the General Assembly Third Committee, works to promote, preserve, and protect the rights of children in all conflicts. At the 66th session of the Third Committee in 2011, Member States were called to strengthen their collaboration with the United Nations to further protect children in conflict. During the first plenary meeting of the 77th session in 2022, Member States included

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56 Ibid. pp. 11-16.
60 United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. *Children and armed conflict and the SDGs*. N.d.
the “promotion and protection of the rights of children” in their agenda, showing its importance in the current global sphere. Moreover, General Assembly resolution 71/177 on “Rights of the child” (2016) acknowledges the great evil that violence against children is and emphasizes the need for their special protections in the form of access to health care, continuity of quality education, and reintegration into society. General Assembly resolution 74/133 on “Rights of the child” (2019) affirms many rights of children in conflict zones, including their right to family, and delineates the duties of a state when a child does not have parental care. In 2021, the General Assembly adopted resolution 76/147 on “Rights of the child,” in which Member States reaffirmed a child’s right to a nationality through registration at birth, and denounced all abuse committed against children, including physical, mental, and sexual abuse.

UNICEF is the world’s leading source of data, research, and reporting on topics concerning children, such as the education of children in conflict; vaccination status and the effects of armed conflict; and, nutrition and food security during armed conflicts. UNICEF works collaboratively with other bodies of the United Nations to provide humanitarian care and support to those experiencing armed conflict, natural disasters, or other crisis situations. UNICEF also aims to integrate monitoring and reporting within their programs with hopes of increased accountability for Member States. UNICEF works to protect children in conflict zones through the continuation of education during emergencies, which provides children and students with emotional support, external protections from armed groups, and sanitation facilities. In 1997, UNICEF and the NGO Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child organized a symposium to address the recruitment of children into armed forces and implemented the Cape Town Principles and Best Practice on the prevention of recruitment of children in the armed forces and on demobilization and social reintegration of child soldiers in Africa. This convention establishes the minimum age for membership in an armed group at 18 and requests Member States to require proof of age and a regulated recruitment process. It encourages Member States to prioritize the demobilization of children in a way that is sensitive to their emotional and physical health and to start the reunification process with their families as soon as possible.

The United Nations Security Council has taken a strong stance for children in conflict zones by protecting their rights and condoning those who violate them through its resolutions. Security Council resolution 1379 (2001) on “Children in armed conflict” requested that the parties that continue to use children in their armed services be listed in the annual report of the Secretary-General. In 2003, Security Council resolution 1460 on “Children in armed conflict” noted with concern the cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, especially by peacekeepers and humanitarian workers. Adopted by a unanimous vote in 2005, Security Council resolution 1612 on “Children and armed conflict” establishes a working group and a monitoring and reporting mechanism for the use of child soldiers and strongly condemns their

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75 Ibid. pp. 4-5.
The working group, made up of the Security Council members, is responsible for preparing an annual report of their activities and making recommendations to the Security Council on possible measures to promote the rights and well-being of children in conflict.\(^8^0\) As further proof of the gravity of crimes against children, Security Council resolution 1698 (2006) on “Democratic Republic of the Congo” implemented sanctions against Member States targeting children in armed conflict.\(^8^1\) More recently, the Security Council adopted resolution 2427 (2018) on “Children and armed conflict,” highlighting a framework for mainstreaming protections and rights of children in times of conflict.\(^8^2\) Security Council resolution 2601 (2021) on “Children and armed conflict” urges Member States to prevent and address attacks on schools and hospitals.\(^8^3\)

The mandate of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC) was established through General Assembly resolution 51/77 (1997) on “The rights of the child” to focus on the disproportionate impact of war on children through broad and effective protection for children.\(^8^4\) The SRSG CAAC, currently Virginia Camba from Argentina, is concerned that children with disabilities are more vulnerable at the time of attack, more susceptible to face stigma, more likely to lack access to basic needs.\(^8^5\) Camba calls for the adoption and implementation of policies that criminalize those who violate international law, especially grave violations against children.\(^8^6\) In her 2022 annual report, *Children and armed conflict*, Camba focuses on children being deprived of their liberty and emphasizes that detention should be used as a last resort.\(^8^7\)

Collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) is imperative in efforts supporting the rights and protection of children in conflict.\(^8^8\) International and national NGOs are crucial in delivering specialized support to Member States in times of crisis.\(^8^9\) The SRSG CAAC has established an advisory group of NGOs to share their opinions, foster collaboration on best practices, and strengthen North-South cooperation.\(^9^0\) Human Rights Watch, a NGO on the SRSG CAAC advisory board, established their Children’s Rights division in 1994 and works with the United Nations to investigate abuses against children through fact finding missions.\(^9^1\) Human Rights Watch also works closely with local human rights groups to enact positive change in their communities.\(^9^2\) Save the Children, another NGO on the advisory board, has a youth-led initiative to build trust within communities and bring about lasting programs for health, education, and protection.\(^9^3\) In addition, World Vision works closely with children who have had their rights violated to reunite them with their families and communities when possible through providing care, shelter, and therapy to the children.\(^9^4\)

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\(^8^0\) Ibid. p. 3.
\(^8^5\) United Nations, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children. *Children with Disabilities.* N.d.
\(^8^8\) United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. *Civil Society Partners.* N.d.
\(^8^9\) United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Deliver Humanitarian Aid.* N.d.
\(^9^0\) United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. *Civil Society Partners.* N.d.
\(^9^2\) Ibid.
Eliminating violence against children

Violence against children causes a myriad of consequences in communities and institutions, including schools; perpetrators could include teachers, caretakers, family members, law enforcement authorities, or other children. Specifically, tens of thousands of children that are living within a war zone suffer from acts of violence. The definition of violence as stated in the CRC includes “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.” In several parts of the world, violence is common and socially accepted as a form of punishment for children. Furthermore, children that live within a conflict zone are greatly affected by the violence taking place around them, and they are unable to access the protection that they need. No Member State is immune to violence against children, which can span across socio-economic class, race, religion, and culture. Violence can result in the death of children, and survivors often face physical and emotional disturbances for their entire lives that can affect their communities and those around them.

The SRSG CAAC has launched a global campaign to generate global awareness of atrocities committed against children living in a conflict zone. This campaign, called the ACT to Protect Children Affected by Conflict, aims to bring together members of the international community to develop and implement action plans to protect children that are suffering in conflict zones. The purpose of this campaign is to educate the public on measures that are being taken to protect children, and also what can be done by the global community to help with these efforts. The SRSG CAAC has identified six grave offenses that have most affected children with the goal being to work with the international community to collect information, generate reports, and take action to improve the situations of these children.

The first grave offense is that children are recruited to participate in the conflicts. Children are recruited to roles such as cooking for fighters, laying mines, spying, and active fighting, and frequently have their rights violated. The next grave offense is that children are often horribly injured, or worse, killed as a result of the violence taking place in their community. Next, children in conflict zones are sometimes victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, sexual violence, and forced marriage. Another grave offense is attacks against schools and hospitals, which are supposed to be safe havens for children. Also, mass abductions of children have been used as a tactic within a conflict zone to target specific groups and terrorize communities. Finally, the last grave offense is that communities are denied access to humanitarian aid, especially children that are displaced due to conflict. The SRSG CAAC aims to enlist

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97 Ibid. p. 4
101 Ibid.
103 Ibid.
104 Ibid.
105 Ibid.
106 Ibid.
109 Ibid.
110 Ibid.
111 Ibid.
112 Ibid.
the help of United Nations organizations, CSOs, and parties to conflict to implement their *ACT to Protect Children Affected by Armed Conflict*.\(^{113}\)

The Paris Principles’ efforts for sustainable humanitarian and development practices include child-centered coordination between CSOs, humanitarian organizations, and peacekeeping and development organizations that can address the recruitment of child soldiers.\(^{114}\) These efforts will lead to the deterrence of child recruitment and protect them from violence by being directly involved at early stages to prevent unlawful recruitment, and to allow for reintegration of children back to civilian life and society.\(^{115}\) The SDGs have a unique relationship that reflects the lives of children within political, economic, social frameworks, and cultural environments.\(^{116}\) SDG 5 focuses on the progress for children’s protection from domestic and other forms of violence such as gender-based violence.\(^{117}\) SDG 5 also establishes that gender-based violence, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation, are direct human rights violations.\(^{118}\)

The Third Committee has held several sessions to discuss the impacts of conflict and inequalities on children.\(^{119}\) The Third Committee concluded discussions around the vulnerability of young girls with regards to violence and discrimination, with additional statements that armed conflicts create significant threats to all children’s development and access to their human rights.\(^{120}\) Children are often fragile and vulnerable, and investing in their well-being and protection from violence has been emphasized by the international community.\(^{121}\) Neurological and behavioral research shows that early childhood experiences are crucial in developing the brain and social structures, yet challenges remain within schools and in children’s lives, including sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labor, and the effects of armed conflict.\(^{122}\) These acts of violence are concealed or hidden from the public, as perpetrators will abandon the children themselves.\(^{123}\) The children most at risk are often part of marginalized communities, such as children with HIV and AIDs or refugees from conflict zones.\(^{124}\) The vast majority of child victims are unable to seek assistance due to their age and lack of advocacy, or do not have the resources to recover from their traumas, and the post traumatic effects often will perpetuate cycles of abuse and neglect.\(^{125}\)

### Rights of Children with Disabilities in Armed Conflict

Approximately 15% of the world’s population, or 1 billion people, have some form of disability, including nearly 240 million children with disabilities.\(^{126}\) The *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD), established and ratified in 2007, defines a disability as “a long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment that, in interaction with the environment, hinders one’s participation in society on an equal basis with others.”\(^{127}\) Children with disabilities can face a range of impairments that lead to functional difficulties in their lives, such as difficulty seeing, moving, communicating, making friends, or

\(^{113}\) Ibid.  
\(^{115}\) Ibid.  
\(^{117}\) Ibid.  
\(^{120}\) Ibid.  
\(^{122}\) Ibid.  
\(^{124}\) Ibid.  
\(^{125}\) Ibid.  
\(^{127}\) Ibid.
caring for themselves. Often, children with disabilities are the most marginalized group of individuals within their communities, resulting in additional barriers and challenges in accessing social services like healthcare and education. Children with disabilities should be able to participate in society and have fulfilling lives; however, this depends on the extent of accommodations they receive that allow for equitable standing with their non-disabled peers.

In times of armed conflict, children with disabilities are especially impacted and vulnerable to extreme disruptions in their lives, including compromised health care services and loss of access to education. Destruction of social service infrastructures can result in compromised rehabilitation service, health care, and social supports. In addition, attacks on schools can impact inclusion of children with disabilities disproportionately, pushing children with disabilities into isolation or exploitative work. For refugees, these disruptions can cause a loss of access to humanitarian assistance. A study in 2018 by Syria Relief found that four out of five children with disabilities in Syria did not have access to education. Furthermore, children with disabilities face higher risks of abandonment and the inability to escape attacks without assistance, due to physical limitations or being unable to hear attacks, like airstrikes.

The international community has recognized the need to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities in armed conflict. In 2016, the World Humanitarian Summit adopted the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities on Humanitarian Action, which recognized the disproportionate risks and intersecting forms of discrimination that children with disabilities face. Moreover, in 2019, the Security Council adopted resolution 2475 on “Ground-Breaking Text on Protection of Persons with Disabilities in Conflict,” requesting the Secretary-General incorporate data and information regarding children and people with disabilities in his report. This was the first time that the Secretary-General’s Office reviewed matters related to abuses against disabled people and children with a focus on specific reports and briefings to the Security Council. Resolution 2475 also incorporated measures for appropriate and inclusive assistance for children with disabilities affected by armed conflict with “access to basic services, including health care, education, assistive devices, and psychosocial support.” In 2022, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Children with Disabilities issued a joint statement that sought to strengthen the rights and protections of children with disabilities with guidance to Member States surrounding the adoption of laws and policies that would be in line with a human rights approach to children with disabilities. Additionally, this statement incorporated tools for civil society and stakeholders to be advocates for targeted strategies and action plans for deinstitutionalization to eliminate all forms of discrimination. Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Virginia Gamba, in a joint statement with the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, urged the

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128 Ibid.
129 Ibid.
130 Ibid.
132 Ibid.
133 Ibid.
134 Ibid.
135 Ibid.
138 Ibid.
140 Ibid.
141 Ibid.
143 Ibid.
international community to meaningfully include children with disabilities in humanitarian responses, conflict prevention, reconciliation, reconstruction, and peacebuilding.\textsuperscript{144}

**Conclusion**

Conflict results in significant physical, emotional, mental, and social damage to the development of children.\textsuperscript{145} Conflict and violence constitute serious human rights violations and directly impact the development of children.\textsuperscript{146} Children with disabilities are one of the most marginalized and deeply affected groups of people, with limited resources and the inability to support themselves during crises.\textsuperscript{147} The Security Council, Third Committee, UNESCO, CRC and CRPD have contributed to addressing the crisis with children and the tolls these conflicts have on children’s development.\textsuperscript{148} Yet, these international efforts to mitigate violence have been limited over the years during conflicts and, in many cases, have only recently begun to address children, especially children with disabilities.\textsuperscript{149}

**Further Research**

As delegates conduct further research and consider how to address this topic, they should consider: how can the General Assembly Third Committee further protect and promote children’s rights within conflict taking into consideration their specific physical, emotional, mental and cultural needs? What responsibilities do governments and international bodies have to protect children and report the violations when they occur? What can be done to strengthen reporting mechanisms? How can future offenses be mitigated in the first place?

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\textsuperscript{146} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{147} United Nations Children’s Fund. *Children with disabilities.* N.d.


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2. Preventing Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

“I appeal to all governments and societies to promote the values of tolerance and respect for diversity, and to build a world where no one has to be afraid because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.”

Introduction

Globally, people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) face violations of their fundamental human rights based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). According to the United Nations Free and Equal Campaign (UNFE), a person’s sexual orientation “refers to a person’s physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction towards other people.” Sexual orientation encompasses, among others, heterosexuality, where individuals experience attraction to those of the opposite sex, homosexuality, characterized by an attraction to individuals of the same sex, and bisexuality, which involves attraction to both the same and opposite sex. Gender identity, on the other hand, is defined as a person’s subjective identification as man, woman, third gender, in-between genders, or agender. A person is regarded as transgender when their gender identity does not align with their biological sex and the gender role assigned to them by society. Intersex individuals have distinct biological sex characteristics, such as sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, hormonal, or chromosomal characteristics that deviate from typical male or female sex characteristics. Within the LGBTQIA+ community, individuals with different sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and gender characteristics are often referred to under the umbrella term queer.

LGBTQIA+ persons face various types of discrimination and stigma, including in the education, employment, and healthcare sectors. They often experience sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), which encompasses a range of harmful acts directed against their sexuality and gender, such as rape, abuse, torture, or killings. Moreover, same-sex relationships are criminalized in over 70 countries and are subject to the death penalty in 12 countries. In the past decades, the international community has increasingly addressed this issue. For instance, since 2003, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted seven resolutions on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions, including those related to the persecution of sexual and gender minorities.

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151 United Nations, Department of Global Communications. LGBTQ+ Free and Equal, not criminalized. N.d.
153 Ibid.
154 Ibid.
155 Ibid.
156 Ibid.
161 United Nations, Department of Global Communications. LGBTQ+ Free and Equal, not criminalized. N.d.
to discrimination based on SOGI.\textsuperscript{162} Despite the efforts of the international community, millions of people worldwide still face SOGI-related discrimination and violence.\textsuperscript{163}

**International and Regional Framework**

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948) established the principles of non-discrimination and equality for all individuals, which serves as the basis for safeguarding the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community, including the right to health and well-being as emphasized in article 25.\textsuperscript{164} The *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR) (1966) highlighted in Article 12 the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health with no discrimination.\textsuperscript{165} Similarly, the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) (1966), especially in Article 26, reinforced the fundamental principles of non-discrimination in the realm of civil and political rights.\textsuperscript{166} While these treaties do not explicitly mention sexual orientation or gender identity, they recognize fundamental rights related to various aspects of well-being and civil liberties, which extend to all persons, including LGBTQIA+ individuals.\textsuperscript{167} In 2006, General Assembly resolution 60/125 entitled “International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development” established the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) to address human rights issues globally.\textsuperscript{168} In 2011, HRC adopted resolution 17/19 on “Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity,” acknowledging human rights violations based on SOGI and calling for an end to violence and discrimination against LGBTQIA+ individuals, which marked a significant and historical step towards recognizing LGBTQIA+ rights at the international level.\textsuperscript{169} Although the General Assembly has addressed LGBTQIA+-related issues, this has only led to resolutions within the context of extrajudicial killings.\textsuperscript{170} For example, the General Assembly’s first resolution 69/182 (2014) on “Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions” urges states to ensure the protection of all people and conduct any necessary investigations into hate killings including those that are SOGI motivated and this underscored the importance of accountability and justice.\textsuperscript{171}

Additionally, in 2015, the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which set out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): in particular, SDG 3 (good health and well-being) aims to guarantee universal access to covered sexual and reproductive health services, including educational awareness (targets 3.7 and 3.8).\textsuperscript{172} Other pertinent SDGs are SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities).\textsuperscript{173} In 2016, HRC established the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IESOGI) with resolution 32/2 on “Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity,” wherein the expert is mandated to

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\textsuperscript{166} United Nations, General Assembly. *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXII)).* 1966.

\textsuperscript{167} Ibid.


\textsuperscript{171} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{172} United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1).* 2015.

\textsuperscript{173} Ibid.
monitor and report on human rights violations against LGBTQIA+ people globally. IESOGI has identified the SDGs as a powerful tool to address the drivers of SOGI-based discrimination and violence and pinpointed three challenges that need to be faced to ensure the SDGs’ promise of inclusivity, namely inadequate and uneven efforts by states to address SOGI discrimination and violence, barriers faced by LGBTQIA+ human rights organizations and a lack of disaggregated data on the scale and prevalence of SOGI-based discrimination and violence.

The Yogyakarta Principles, founded in 2006 by a group of human rights experts, play a vital role in guiding the application of international human rights law to issues of SOGI. While not part of the official United Nations framework or legally binding, these principles have shaped LGBTQIA+ rights-related discussions and policies within the United Nations and in the broader context of international human rights and are often referenced by United Nations entities and cited as a source of non-binding guidance on international human rights interpretation related to SOGI issues. Additionally, Yogyakarta Principles + 10 provides supplemental information to the original principles and reinforces the importance of protecting the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals by intertwining international human rights law developments with the newly found understanding of violations against people based on SOGI.

At the regional level, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights under the Organization of American States adopted resolution 01/18 in 2018, calling on Member States to prevent violence and discrimination and promote equality for LGBTQIA+ individuals in the Americas. Moreover, the European Union (EU), through its Charter of Fundamental Rights, explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. The EU’s LGBTIQ Equality Strategy (2020-2025) further reinforces the commitment to promote equal rights for LGBTIQ people across its Member States. The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, a regional human rights body for Africa, adopted a resolution on “Protection against Violence and other Human Rights Violations against Persons on the Basis of their Real or Imputed Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity” in 2014, which recognized the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals and urged African states to take measures to protect them from violence and discrimination.

Role of the International System

UNFE, an initiative under the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), has advocated since 2013 for policy changes to combat discrimination and promote LGBTQIA+ rights globally by engaging with governments, civil society, and the public to raise awareness and challenge stereotypes. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been actively promoting inclusive development and human rights through initiatives such as an LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Index that measures development outcomes for LGBTQIA+ individuals which in turn informs policies and

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177 Ibid.
178 Ibid.
programs to strengthen inclusion.\textsuperscript{184} UNDP launched a handbook in 2017 that offers parliamentarians tools for inclusive reform initiatives.\textsuperscript{185} Moreover, they provide legal advocacy backing to challenge discriminatory laws, enhance the capacity of civil society organizations through training, and promote anti-discrimination campaigns to combat stigma.\textsuperscript{186} UNDP also works to improve healthcare access for LGBTQIA+ individuals and supports the establishment of safe spaces and community centers.\textsuperscript{187} Additionally, UNDP advocates for better data collection and research on LGBTQIA+ issues to inform evidence-based policies and engage with the private sector to promote LGBTQIA+ inclusion in workplaces.\textsuperscript{188}

Furthermore, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) plays a pivotal role in promoting inclusive education and combating discrimination in educational settings through its support of initiatives such as the Education Sector Responses to Homophobic Bullying program which provides guidelines for educational institutions to address and prevent bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity.\textsuperscript{189} Additionally, in contribution to the SDGs, UNESCO has developed a strategy on education for health and well-being that addresses issues such as gender-based violence, gender disparities, bullying, and discrimination in schools.\textsuperscript{190} These educational initiatives destigmatize LGBTQIA+ relationships, providing a queer-safe environment to promote healthy and consensual relationships, foster gender equality, and empower people to make informed decisions which, in turn, prevents early pregnancies and reduces the risks of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).\textsuperscript{191}

The World Health Organization (WHO) has provided many countries with guidelines to develop inclusive healthcare systems.\textsuperscript{192} For instance, WHO has developed the Consolidated Guidelines on HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and STI Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Care for Key Populations (2022), which include specific recommendations for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention and care tailored to key populations, including LGBTQIA+ individuals.\textsuperscript{193} Furthermore, WHO has developed the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 (2021), which includes strategies to promote mental health, prevent mental disorders, and ensure access to quality mental health services for all, including LGBTQIA+ individuals.\textsuperscript{194} Moreover, the International Labour Organization (ILO), in accordance with the right to health for all, has developed the ILO Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work to address HIV-related discrimination, including discrimination against LGBTQIA+ individuals living with HIV.\textsuperscript{195} ILO also actively advocates for workplace equality, supporting non-discrimination policies and inclusive practices to protect LGBTQIA+ workers from violence and discrimination.\textsuperscript{196}

\textsuperscript{184} United Nations Development Programme. LGBTI Index. 2019.
\textsuperscript{187} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{188} United Nations Development Programme. Private Sector and SDGs. 2017.
\textsuperscript{192} World Health Organization. Improving LGBTIQI Health and Well-being in Consideration for SOGIESC. 2023.
\textsuperscript{193} World Health Organization. Consolidated guidelines on HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations. 2022.
\textsuperscript{196} International Labour Organization. Inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) persons in the world of work: A learning guide. 2022.
To ensure the protection of LGBTQIA+ individuals in humanitarian response settings, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration have jointly developed the *Training Package on the Protection of LGBTI Persons in Forced Displacement* (2015) which includes guidelines and capacity assessments for personnel. Additionally, its document on protecting LGBTQIA+ people in situations of forced displacement provides insights into challenges and advancements related to safeguarding forcibly displaced LGBTQIA+ individuals, discussing efforts made by UNHCR and organizations to ensure their safety, rights, and well-being, covering topics such as legal protections, healthcare access, social integration, regional challenges, including case studies, statistics and recommendations to enhance support for LGBTQIA+ persons in forced displacement situations.

The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association is a non-governmental organization (NGO) whose efforts in the #RenewIESOGI campaign, which gathered support from 1312 NGOs from 174 states and territories, contributed to the successful renewal of the United Nations IESOGI. Another NGO that promotes LGBTQIA+ rights at regional and international human rights forums as well as comprehensive sexual education is Outright International, a US-based organization that holds a consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The EU’s Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has been actively involved in protecting LGBTQIA+ individuals from violence and discrimination by conducting research and surveys on various aspects of LGBTQIA+ rights such as discrimination, hate crime, and access to healthcare. Moreover, they have collaborated with civil society organizations, providing support and expertise in addressing issues faced by LGBTQIA+ communities. In turn, the EU has also undertaken initiatives like the EU List of Actions to Advance LGBTI Equality, outlining steps and recommendations to promote and protect the rights of LGBTQIA+ people across the EU Member States.

**The Right to Health**

The right to health is established in Article 25 of the UDHR and in Article 12 of the ICESCR. It includes “the right to control one’s health and body, including sexual and reproductive freedom, and the right to be free from interference, such as the right to be free from torture, non-consensual medical treatment and experimentation,” and the right to a health care system free from discrimination. Despite the international recognition of the fundamental right to health, people worldwide are often denied access to health services because of their SOGI. The challenges go beyond denying these individuals access to

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202 Ibid.


health services and include sexual and gender-based violence, increased vulnerability to STIs such as HIV and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) due to exclusionary health programs, and higher mental health risks due to stigmatization.207

To address the susceptibility of LGBTQIA+ persons to STIs, OHCHR and the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) published the Consolidated Version of the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights (2006), which provides recommendations for states on action against HIV/AIDS.208 This includes the recommendation to adopt anti-discrimination laws that criminalize violence against homosexual people and legally recognize same-sex relationships in order to reduce the vulnerability of homosexual persons to HIV/AIDS.209 Further to this, the WHO Consolidated Guidelines on HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and STI Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Care for Key Populations (2022) provides concrete recommendations for states on protecting vulnerable populations, including LGBTQIA+ individuals, from STIs.210 These recommendations include actions to provide supportive interventions, such as education and information, and to address structural barriers to health care, common health concerns, and immediate health impacts related to STIs.211 Through SDG 3 (good health and well-being), specifically targets 3.7 and 3.8, the United Nations has committed to providing access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, for all people regardless of their SOGI.212 However, in implementing SDG 3 (good health and well-being), entities such as UNDP and LGBTQIA+ rights organizations have identified the lack of data and evidence-based research on LGBTQIA+ health concerns as a major challenge to inclusive and universal health for all.213 Overall, collecting LGBTQIA+ health data while upholding privacy and confidentiality has been recognized as a key priority for LGBTQIA+ inclusion in attaining SDG 3 (good health and well-being).214 In addition, IESOGI has called on Member States not only to systematically collect data but to disaggregate the extent and patterns of discrimination based on SOGI and use the resulting evidence as a basis for action.215

The 2022, IESOGI report HRC 50/27 on “The right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health of persons, communities, and populations affected by discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity in relation to the SDGs” identifies the structural causes of discrimination in the health sector based on SOGI, specifically the criminalization, pathologization, and stigmatization of homosexuality or trans identification in many countries.216 In this context, the report underlines that LGBTQIA+ people often avoid seeking healthcare due to discrimination and stigmatization by healthcare providers.217 The report also highlights that in many countries education about sexuality is often either absent or exclusionary and puts LGBTQIA+ people at increased risk of

209 Ibid.
211 Ibid.
217 Ibid. p. 6.
Additionally, the report emphasizes that LGBTQIA+ individuals frequently experience mental health issues resulting from physical and psychological attacks linked to their SOGI, often leading to suicide or suicide attempts.219 Building on this identification of structural causes, the report offers guidance on how to overcome the discrimination of queer persons in the health sector by introducing the ASPIRE Guidelines.220 The ASPIRE approach comprises acknowledging the discrimination and vulnerabilities of LGBTQIA+ persons; supporting LGBTQIA+ human rights defenders and organizations; protecting persons from SGBV through legislative and programmatic measures; combatting indirect discrimination; fostering representation of LGBTQIA+ persons in monitoring and evaluating measures against SGBV; and promoting comprehensive research to enable evidence-based action to combat SGBV.221 The ASPIRE Guidelines were first introduced in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, encouraging governments to comprehensively address the increased vulnerability of LGBTQIA+ persons during the pandemic by working with LGBTQIA+ rights organizations.222

**Discrimination and Violence in Armed Conflicts**

LGBTQIA+ individuals are particularly vulnerable in armed conflicts because of their SOGI and are susceptible to sexual violence in the form of rape, torture, persecution, killing, as well as physical and psychological assault.223 The vulnerability of queer persons in armed conflict settings was first acknowledged by the United Nations Security Council in 2015 during a meeting on crimes against LGBTQIA+ persons in Iraq and Syria.224 The vulnerability of LGBTQIA+ people to violence in armed conflicts is often driven by offenders’ pursuit of societal homogeneity.225 Perpetrators’ motives often involve intimidating LGBTQIA+ communities and regarding all LGBTQIA+ individuals as potential threats within resistance movements.226 This violence, driven by personal or societal bias, gains legitimacy in the eyes of perpetrators through the enactment of laws criminalizing same-sex relationships, and the absence of readily available legal avenues further intensifies the vulnerability of LGBTQIA+ individuals.227 While LGBTQIA+ persons are not explicitly protected in armed conflicts under international humanitarian law (IHL), many scholars argue that they are protected as civilians under the common Article III of the Geneva Conventions (1949), which calls for the humane treatment of non-combatants “without any adverse distinction founded on race, color, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria.”228 In this context, scholars suggest that “any other similar criteria” covers a person’s SOGI.229 For violations based on a person's SOGI to be treated as violations of IHL, there must be a causal link between the person’s SOGI and the violation, as well as a sufficient connection to the armed conflict.230

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218 Ibid. pp. 9-10.
219 Ibid. p. 11.
220 Ibid. p. 19.
221 Ibid. pp. 19-21.
226 Ibid.
227 Ibid.
229 Ibid.
The 2022 IESOGI report 77/235 on “Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity” highlights the lack of a contemporary interpretation of gender and sexuality in IHL, particularly in relation to the experiences of LGBTQIA+ persons in conflict.231 The report highlights the need to update IHL with the explicit inclusion of SOGI, moving beyond a binary understanding of sex and gender, to offer comprehensive protection for LGBTQIA+ individuals during armed conflicts.232 Moreover, the report emphasizes that conflict-related violence against LGBTQIA+ individuals is not an isolated issue but rather a structural problem, requiring a structural approach to address SGBV in armed conflicts.233 During a side event of the General Assembly Third Committee to the 77th session of the General Assembly in 2022, IESOGI further called for preventive measures in armed conflicts to protect LGBTQIA+ persons from conflict-related SGBV, such as legal recognition of LGBTQIA+ rights or training of border guards.234 Other measures to protect LGBTQIA+ persons from conflict-related SGBV include creating safe shelters for LGBTQIA+ persons as well as identifying and addressing barriers faced by LGBTQIA+ persons in accessing emergency services and assistance.235 To address these barriers, IESOGI highlighted the importance of including LGBTQIA+ rights organizations in the planning and implementation of humanitarian assistance.236 The work of the United Nations to prevent violence based on SOGI in armed conflicts is informed by civil society organizations, such as Outright International, which advocates for enhanced data collection on the needs of LGBTQIA+ persons in conflict settings to provide a basis for comprehensive strategies to protect LGBTQIA+ individuals from conflict-related violence.237

In addition to data collection, IESOGI has identified raising awareness of the experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals in armed conflicts as an important step towards preventing conflict-related violence based on SOGI.238 In certain contexts, and predominantly in retrospect, this has already been put into action with various post-conflict countries highlighting the experiences of queer persons in armed conflicts in their reconciliation efforts.239 In addition to raising awareness, recommendations to prevent further violence and discrimination based on SOGI include measures such as access to justice, preserving the historical memory of the LGBTQIA+ community’s experiences in armed conflict, and promoting economic and political equality for LGBTQIA+ persons.240

Conclusion

In recent decades, violence and discrimination based on SOGI have been increasingly addressed by the international community.241 Although the United Nations and several Member States have committed to

232 Ibid. p. 22.
233 Ibid. p. 15.
addressing SGBV, LGBTQIA+ individuals continue to be victims of this on a daily basis.\textsuperscript{242} For instance, members of the LGBTQIA+ community often face obstacles in realizing their right to health, education, and work.\textsuperscript{243} Regarding discrimination in the health sector, LGBTQIA+ individuals are more vulnerable to STIs such as HIV/AIDS due to discriminatory and exclusionary healthcare systems and education programs.\textsuperscript{244} Furthermore, they are at a higher risk of experiencing mental health problems due to the stigma and discrimination they encounter.\textsuperscript{245} Additionally, in conflict settings, they are particularly exposed to SGBV due to inadequate preventative measures and limited access to judicial remedies.\textsuperscript{246} The General Assembly and other United Nations entities have raised awareness about the issue through dedicated resolutions and reports.\textsuperscript{247} The United Nations, in collaboration with civil society organizations, has continually emphasized the need to enhance data collection efforts to develop evidence-based measures aimed at preventing discrimination and violence based on SOGI.\textsuperscript{248}

\textbf{Further Research}

When researching this topic, delegates may consider the following questions: Given the stigmatization of individuals based on their SOGI across the world, along with the criminalization of same-sex relationships in approximately 70 countries, what measures can the international community take to advocate for equal rights and safeguard LGBTQIA+ persons from human rights violations? How can the General Assembly provide policy oversight to enhance the implementation of the SDGs and ensure equitable access to education, work, and healthcare for all individuals, regardless of their SOGI? How can the global community promote preventative measures in areas of conflict to safeguard LGBTQIA+ individuals from violence during armed conflicts?

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