architecture & children
UIA Built Environment Education network

Call to all countries from UIA Work Programme Architecture & Children

We members of the UIA WP Architecture & Children*[1] ,

- strong in its 48 members from 36 countries and guests from 23 other countries,
- strong in its status being an active work body and part of the International Union of Architects (UIA) with 3.5 million architects from 115 countries

We are deeply affected by the devastating war in Ukraine as well as other armed crises around the World. Children living in urban areas of great vulnerability and risk, including climate change extreme events and drug traffic controlled areas with conflagrated armed conflict and war.

We strongly condemn the way the children are being treated in war zones.

We call on the international community to take urgent action to ensure that international law is respected and to do more to protect the world's children – our children – from the horrors of armed conflict.

It is time to end the war on children*[2]. If we do nothing we backslide in a world of uncontrolled barbarity.

We urgently call on all countries to help children currently affected by the war and honour the commitments they have signed on all continents:

- The **Geneva Conventions,** of 1949, and their **Additional Protocols** of 1977. *[3]
- The **Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict** of 1974. *[4]
- The **UN Convention of rights of the child,** signed in 1989 by 140 countries.
- T**he Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups,** developed in 2007, consolidate global humanitarian knowledge and experience in working to prevent recruitment, protect children, support their release from armed forces or armed groups and reintegrate them into civilian life.
- **The Safe Schools Declaration,** developed in 2015, provides states the opportunity to express broad political support for the protection and continuation of education in armed conflict, and is the instrument for states to endorse and commit to implement the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict. To date, 72 states have signed the declaration. Source: Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack
- **The Vancouver Principles,** a comprehensive set of pledges that includes political commitments by Member States to enhance the training, planning and conduct of their own forces as they relate to the recruitment and use of child soldiers. Building upon the existing framework on child protection – most notably the Paris Principles – the Vancouver Principles take a practical approach to ending child soldiers, specifically with regard to identifying warning signs and taking early action to end recruitment.

*[1] www.architectureandchildren-uia.com
*[2] see report *War on children* by Save the children
https://www.savethechildren.net/sites/default/files/waronchildren/pdf/waronchildren.pdf
*[3] see Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict
https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/protectionwomen.pdf
*[4] see report *War on children* by Save the children
https://www.savethechildren.net/sites/default/files/waronchildren/pdf/waronchildren.pdf