

Special Session 3

Children's voices, sustainable futures:

Protecting child rights in times of conflict

Tuesday, 15 April 2025, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Beirut time

Background and objectives

- Provide children and youth with a platform to share their experiences, challenges, and ideas, ensuring their perspectives influence child rights and youth policies.
- Highlight how protecting children's rights contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and amplify the experiences of children affected by conflict to inspire resilience and change.
- Promote strong partnerships among governments, international organizations, civil society, and children to develop inclusive and sustainable solutions that protect and uphold children's and youth rights.

Questions to be addressed

Q1: What commitments have the government, UN agencies, and stakeholders made to protect and promote children's and youth rights in line with the SDGs and existing child rights strategies for sustainable solutions?

Q2: How do you understand children's rights during war and emergencies? How can you help ensure that children's and youth voices are heard and included in rebuilding communities?

Moderator: **Maya Abou Samra**, Child Rights Governance Specialist, Save the Children, Lebanon Country Office

Panelists – Representatives from Save the Children Advisory Committee:

Yaman Abu Siyam, 17-year-old, South Lebanon. Passionate in community work, he has led peer-to-peer activities with a focus on right to education, healthcare, and right to participation.

Lara Al Malla, 15-year-old, Beirut. Passionate advocate for girls' rights. She has led initiatives and campaigns promoting gender equality. Lara has participated in multiple consultations, including those organized by UN Women, and has successfully delivered a speech on the 100th Anniversary of the Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

Shahed Mekhleif, 15-year-old, Beirut. She has contributed to national advocacy events focused on child rights and youth empowerment and participated in different initiatives empowering children and youth to speak out against child rights violations and advocate for change.

Ali Al Haddam, 18-year-old, North Lebanon. He has participated in international events and consultations advocating for children's and youth rights. This includes participation in the Beijing Declaration consultation on girls' rights and International Youth Day campaign.

Sarah Yaseen, 19-year-old, Beqaa – Lebanon. She has contributed to key campaigns and initiatives, including the Girls' Right to Education campaign, the Beijing Declaration consultation.

Jad Hamid, 17-year-old, South Lebanon. He has participated in regional discussions on the Beijing Declaration and contributed to data collection for a child-led report submitted to the UNCRC committee on children's rights in Lebanon.

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please register [here](#).

Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in Committee Room 1 (B1 floor).