

In the context of
The 30th Anniversary of
The Convention on the Rights of the Child

PREVENTING SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN AN EDUCATIONAL TOOLBOX

Thursday 14 November 2019, 14:00 - 15:30
Palais des Nations, Room XXIV 



SPEAKERS



Mr. Philip D. Jaffé

Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child



Dr. Elizabeth Letourneau

Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and
Director, Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse



Ms. Anya Gass

Girls Advocacy Officer, Plan International



Ms. Shushan Khachyan, Moderator

Human Rights Officer, Groups and Accountability Section, OHCHR



Call to Action by Ms. Ronit Raphael

Founder and President, L.RAPHAEL

Founder of Tom's Secret - The Global Army Against Child Abuse

OPENING REMAR

H.E. Ms. Aviva Raz Shechter

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Israel

H.E. Mr. Walter Stevens

Ambassador, Permanent Observer of the European Union

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Child sexual abuse is a gross violation of children's rights. According to the World Health Organization, **12% of children in the world were sexually abused in the past year**, amounting to about 260 million victims. Such abuses can take various forms, from harassment to rape and can happen in any setting, including homes, institutions, schools, recreational settings, and workplaces. The online sphere enables sexual violence of children, by simplifying the creation and dissemination of sexually abusive images and by adding new avenues through which adults might lure children into abusive or exploitative situations.

The international community has adopted various instruments to protect children from sexual violence, such as the CRC and its additional protocols - and more specifically articles 19, 34, 35 and 39 -, the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, as well as Human Rights Council resolutions such as A/HRC/RES/13/20.

Article 19 of the CRC insists on the importance for States to establish "social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement."

While prevention is often mentioned, it is rarely the focus of government efforts. Rather, most resources focus on a-posteriori efforts to detect, punish, and monitor perpetrators and to provide treatment and other resources to victims.

As we mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is time to reaffirm our commitment to the prevention of child sexual abuse and the promotion of children's rights and well-being.

Innovative projects focus on a pro-active, preventive approach, most often by educating children, educators, and parents about the risk of victimization and - increasingly - about the risk of perpetration. In some countries, children account for a large portion of child sexual abuse offenses, often because they are unaware of appropriate age boundaries, the concept of consent, or the fact that online sexual images of other children are illegal.

This event aims to increase public awareness about child sexual abuse, as well as sharing best-practices that have proven successful, especially putting forth preventive solutions to the sexual abuse of children through education of children, parents, educators and teachers.