

Watchlist Social Media Packet: 2025 Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict

UN Secretary-General António Guterres is expected to publish his annual report on children and armed conflict (CAAC) in June. On June 25th the UN Security Council will hold its annual open debate on CAAC under Guyana's presidency. Watchlist has released its annual special bulletin ahead of the open debate, which provides key recommendations to the Security Council and other Member States on CAAC and outlines concrete steps through which they can reaffirm their commitment to the CAAC agenda.

Watchlist has prepared the following communications packet for social media engagement, based on the special bulletin. The packet includes sample tweets, as well as suggested tags, hashtags, and relevant publications. We invite you, members of the Watchlist network, to consider joining us in spreading these messages and bringing CAAC to the forefront ahead of the open debate.

KEY WATCHLIST RESOURCES

- May 2024, [*"Explosive Weapons and the Children and Armed Conflict Agenda"*](#)
- April 2025, [*"A Credible List": Recommendations for the Secretary-General's 2025 Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict*](#)
- May 2025, [*Open Letter Calling for a Complete and Accurate List of Perpetrators*](#)
- June 2025, [*Special Update – Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict*](#)



SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGING

In an effort to draw greater attention to the June 2025 open debate and CAAC priorities at large, Watchlist will post key messaging on social media in the days leading up to it. The messaging below is drawn from Watchlist's special bulletin, as well as the April policy note, "A Credible List": Recommendations for the Secretary-General's 2025 Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict."

Watchlist invites its members to promote the following messages on social media by using the sample posts below, reposting Watchlist's posts ahead of, or on the day of the open debate, or tagging Watchlist (@1612Watchlist on Twitter/X) in your own posts.

Sample Tweets:

- On June 25, the #UNSC will hold its annual open debate on #CAAC. In the leadup, @1612Watchlist will be highlighting key issues impacting #children in armed conflict today & providing recommendations to @UN Member States & agencies on how to better protect them. Stay tuned!
- In June, @PMUN_GUY will host the #UNSC's #OpenDebateCAAC, where @UN Member States will address current challenges, call for action, & reaffirm their commitments to protecting #children affected by war. Will you be watching? Click below to see @1612Watchlist's recommendations for the 2025 report: <https://watchlist.org/publications/a-credible-list-recommendations-for-the-secretary-generals-2025-annual-report-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>

- June is an important month at the @UN - SG @antonioguterres will publish his 2025 report on #CAAC & @PMUN_GUY will convene the annual #OpenDebateCAAC. We look forward to engaging in this important process to protect #children in armed conflict. <https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>
- @UN SG @antonioguterres is expected to release his annual report on #CAAC in June, with info on grave violations committed against #children between Jan 1 and Dec 31, 2024. Click below to see @1612Watchlist's recommendations for the 2025 report: <https://watchlist.org/publications/a-credible-list-recommendations-for-the-secretary-generals-2025-annual-report-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>
- In an April policy note, @1612Watchlist calls on @antonioguterres to list 4 parties to conflict in 3 country situations in the annexes of his forthcoming annual report on #CAAC. Click below to see @1612Watchlist's recommendations for the 2025 report: <https://watchlist.org/publications/a-credible-list-recommendations-for-the-secretary-generals-2025-annual-report-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>
- In an April policy note, @1612Watchlist calls on @antonioguterres to further investigate to determine whether 20 parties to conflict in 15 country situations should be listed in the annexes of his forthcoming annual report on #CAAC. Click below to see @1612Watchlist's recommendations for the 2025 report: <https://watchlist.org/publications/a-credible-list-recommendations-for-the-secretary-generals-2025-annual-report-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>
- In preparation for the #UNSC's #OpenDebateCAAC, @1612Watchlist provides @UN Member States with recommendations on how to best utilize this opportunity to reaffirm their support for the #CAAC agenda  <https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>
- We look forward to a fruitful #UNSC's #OpenDebateCAAC in June held under @PMUN_GUY's presidency. You can follow our coverage on Twitter and read @1612Watchlist's special update here: <https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>
- Did you know more #children are living in conflict zones today than at any time in the previous 2 decades? The 2025 #UNSC #OpenDebateCAAC is an opportunity for Member States to recommit to protecting children in war. See @1612Watchlist's recommendations  <https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>

- The listing mechanism in the annexes of SG's annual report on #CAAC is a critical tool for promoting compliance w/ international law. At #OpenDebateCAAC, #UNSC & other Member States should call for a complete & evidence-based list of perpetrators in the annexes of the SG's annual report that accurately reflects the data collected and verified by the MRM. Additionally, Member States should strongly urge the SG to implement a rigorous, objective, and transparent process to ensure that parties are listed and de-listed according to the 2010 criteria, consistently across all country situations. Read @1612Watchlist's full list of recommendations here: <https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>
- As we mark 20 years since the adoption of SCR 1612 which established the MRM and the SCWG-CAAC, more action is needed to enforce compliance with obligations to protect children in armed conflict and ensure accountability for those who continue to commit grave violations. The open debate presents a critical opportunity for Member States to reaffirm their commitment to the CAAC agenda and translate it into action. Click below to see @1612Watchlist's recommendations for the 2025 report:
- <https://watchlist.org/publications/a-credible-list-recommendations-for-the-secretary-generals-2025-annual-report-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>
 - o This includes implementing existing frameworks, investing in child protection capacities, and holding perpetrators accountable. Member States, UN entities, and civil society should work towards consistent, meaningful, and safe child participation in decisions affecting them.
- #CAAFAG are too often treated as security threats & denied proper reintegration support. At #OpenDebateCAAC, @UN Member States should:
 - o reaffirm their commitment under international law to treat all #children affected by armed conflict primarily as victims and use detention only as a last resort,
 - o call for the release and timely transfer of children in security force custody to civilian child protection authorities, and
 - o encourage the adoption and effective implementation of handover protocols to prevent the military detention of children as well as for access to detention facilities for UN and other independent monitors.

Read @1612watchlist's full list of recommendations: <https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>

- Child protection staff on the ground are needed more than ever if we are to end & prevent grave violations against #children in armed conflict. At the #CAAC open debate, Member States should call for increased child protection capacity in UN peace operations and political missions, including maintaining child protection best practice, capacity, and standards in all new missions, with financial, political, and operational support; prioritize child protection considerations in the context of mission drawdown or transition, per SCR 2764 (2024).
- <https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>

- 17 countries have neither signed nor ratified #OPAC. 7 have signed but not yet ratified. @1612Watchlist calls for all Member States who haven't yet done so to ratify #OPAC & endorse #ParisPrinciples, #VancouverPrinciples, #EWIPADeclaration, & #SafeSchoolsDeclaration. Further, Member States should encourage endorsers to uphold their commitments and fully implement and exchange lessons learned and good practices. Read @1612Watchlist's full list of recommendations here: <https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>
- The denial of humanitarian access is one of the most prevalent grave violations against #children in armed conflict documented by the @UN. At June's #OpenDebateCAAC, Member States should demand that all parties to conflict allow & facilitate unimpeded, rapid, & safe access to ensure delivery of principled humanitarian assistance to affected populations, especially #children. <https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>
- At the upcoming #OpenDebateCAAC, Member States should call on parties to take immediate and specific steps to end and prevent rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, ensure survivors have access to comprehensive, gender-sensitive, and age-appropriate response systems and services, and strengthen preventative measures. Read @1612Watchlist's full recommendations here: <https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>
- In 2021, the #UNSC adopted resolution 2601 on protecting #education in armed conflict. At the #CAAC open debate, Member States should reiterate the resolution's messages, including education access for girls, refugee & IDP children, & children with disabilities. <https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>
- Parties to conflict continue to kill and maim #children in increasingly high numbers, including by using explosive weapons in populated areas (#EWIPA) with disproportionate impacts on #children. At the #CAAC open debate, Member States should:
 - o call on states to review military doctrine, policies, and planning around the use of #EWIPA, adopting an avoidance policy, and ensure child-specific impacts are systematically considered and addressed;
 - o renew efforts to mark and clear explosive remnants of war; and promote explosive ordnance risk education, conflict preparedness, and protection for affected communities.

Read the full list of recommendations here: <https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>

- The upcoming #OpenDebateCAAC will focus on strategies to prevent and end grave violations against #children with emphasis on killing and maiming and rape and other forms of sexual violence, particularly against girls.

Parties to conflict continue to kill and maim #children in increasingly high numbers, including by using explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA) with disproportionate impacts on #children. Rape and other forms of sexual violence against #children is rampant, systematically used as a weapon of war, and remains severely underreported.

Read @1612Watchlist's recommendations ahead of the Open Debate on CAAC here:

<https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>

- In its new special bulletin, @1612Watchlist outlines 3 primary recommendations for the #UNSC & @UN Member States as they prepare for the 2025 #OpenDebateCAAC in June.
 1. Strongly reiterate support for the UN's CAAC agenda, demand increased compliance with international law and child protection norms, and strengthen accountability measures for perpetrators of grave violations;
 2. Strengthen the effective use of existing mechanisms and tools to monitor, report, and respond to grave violations;
 3. Redouble efforts to prevent grave violations against children and protect their rights in armed conflict.

See @1612Watchlist's full recommendations here: <https://watchlist.org/publications/june-2025-special-update-open-debate-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>

TWITTER HANDLES

Security Council Members

Permanent Members:

- China - [@Chinamission2un](#)
- France - [@franceonu](#)
- Russian Federation - [@RussiaUN](#)
- United Kingdom - [@UKUN_NewYork](#)
- United States - [@USUN](#)

Elected Members:

- Algeria - [@AlgeriaUN](#)
- Denmark - [@Denmark_UN](#)
- Greece - [@GRUN_NY](#) (Chair of the SCWG-CAAC)

- Guyana - @PMUN_GUY (President of the Security Council for June)
- Pakistan - @PakistanUN_NY
- Panama - @panamaonuny
- Republic of Korea - @ROK_Mission
- Sierra Leone - @SierraLeoneUN
- Slovenia - @SLOtoUN
- Somalia - @SomaliaatUN

Elected Incoming Council Members for 2026/2027 term

- Bahrain - @BahrainMsnNY
- Colombia - @ColombiaONU
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (no account)
- Latvia - @LatviaUN_NY
- Liberia - @Mofa_Liberia (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, no separate account for mission)

Non-Council Member States – Permanent Missions / and Observer States on Twitter

- Argentina - @ArgentinaUN
- Australia - @AustraliaUN
- Austria - @AustriaUN
- Afghanistan - @AfghanMissionUN
- Albania - @AlMissionUN
- Algeria - @AlgeriaUN
- Azerbaijan - @AzMissionUN
- Bahrain - @BahrainMsnNY
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- El Salvador - @ElSalvadorUN



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- Viet Nam - [@VietNam_UN](#)
- Venezuela - [@ONUVE NuevaYork](#)
- Yemen - [@Yemen_MissionNY](#)

Regional Organizations

- African Union - [@_AfricanUnion](#), [@AfricanUnionUN](#)
- ASEAN - [@ASEAN](#)
- European Union - [@EUatUN](#)
- League of Arab States - [@arableague_gs](#)
- NATO - [@NATO](#)
- Non-Aligned Movement - [@namkenia](#)
- Nordic Cooperation - [@nordenen](#)
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation - [@OIC_OCI](#)

UN Actors

- OSRSG-CAAC - [@childreninwar](#)
- OSRSG-VAC - [@UN_EndViolence](#)



- OSRSG-SVC - [@endrapeinwar](#)
- Secretary-General Antonio Guterres - [@antonioguterres](#)
- UN Department of Peace Operations - [@UNPeacekeeping](#)
- UN Human Rights - [@UNHumanRights](#)
- UN Humanitarian - [@UNOCHA](#)
- UNICEF - [@UNICEF](#)
- UNICEF Executive Director, Catherine Russell - [@unicefchief](#)

Watchlist Network

- Watchlist - [@1612Watchlist](#)
- Amnesty International - [@amnesty](#), [@AmnestyUN](#)
- Child Rights International Network (CRIN) - [@CRINwire](#)
- ChildFund Alliance - [@ChildFundAll](#)
- The Dallaire Institute - [@DallaireInst](#)
- Defence for Children International - [@DCIsecretariat](#)
- Geneva Call - [@genevacall](#)
- Global Centre for the Responsibility To Protect - [@GCR2P](#)
- Human Rights Watch - [@hrw](#)
- Legal Action Worldwide (LAW) - [@LegalActionWW](#)
- Nonviolent Peaceforce - [@peaceforce](#)
- Plan International - [@PlanGlobal](#), [@PlanNY_UN](#)
- Save the Children International - [@save_children](#), [@savechildrenUN](#)
- Street Child - [@streetchilduk](#)
- Terre des hommes - [@TDH_IF](#)
- War Child - [@warchild](#), [@WarChildHolland](#)
- World Vision International - [@WorldVision](#), [@WorldVisionUN](#)

SUGGESTED HASHTAGS

- #OpenDebateCAAC
- #UNSC
- #children
- #childrensrights
- #CAAFAG
- #OPAC
- #SafeSchoolsDeclaration
- #ParisPrinciples
- #VancouverPrinciples
- #EWIPA
- Hashtag countries (i.e., #Afghanistan)

