

BOOK LAUNCH SEMINAR (HYBRID)

Thursday 9 October 2025, 15:00 to 17:00 (CET)

University of Geneva, Campus Biotech, Room H8-01-D and Online

CHILDREN AND VIOLENCE AGENCY, EXPERIENCE, AND REPRESENTATION IN AND BEYOND ARMED CONFLICT

In collaboration with the Law and Society Initiative of the University of Lausanne (IDES), the University of Geneva's Centre for Children's Rights Studies is organising a seminar on the occasion of the launch of the book **Children and Violence. Agency, Experience and Representation in and beyond Armed Conflict.**

In line with the book's main tenets, the seminar will explore innovative approaches to the study of children and violence in contexts of armed conflict. Starting from the need to respect the agency and dignity of children and youth, the event moves beyond a prevalent focus on child soldiers in the Global South and invites critical reflection on the place of the child amid global power politics and decolonisation. Research on children and military violence tends to focus exclusively on the extremist image of child soldiering, promoting a parsimonious approach that fails to acknowledge the complexities inherent in addressing the intersectionality of children and violence. The book's editors and several contributing authors will examine these dynamics, with a focus on children ensnared in military conflict and enmeshed in political activism. Presentations will discuss how children join fights, how they fight, and what happens to them after fighting officially ends.

The seminar is of particular interest to researchers, legal professionals in international humanitarian law and human rights, practitioners in humanitarian action and disarmament, PhD candidates, students, as well as representatives of NGOs and UN entities.

PROGRAMME

Welcome Address

Prof. Karl Hanson, chair and moderator (University of Geneva, Centre for Children's Rights Studies, Switzerland).

Children and Violence: Overview, Contributions, Threads

Prof. Mark A. Drumbl (Washington and Lee University, School of Law, USA)
Dr. Jastine C. Barrett (Independent Human Rights Consultant, UK)

Presentations

Dr. Sylvie Bodineau (Independent Researcher in Anthropology, France)
From child soldiers to struggling citizens. Children and youth in a broken and uneven social contract in conflict and post-conflict Democratic Republic of the Congo

Prof. Silvia Scarpa (John Cabot University of Rome, Italy)
Guilty victims or not? Non-punishment of child trafficking victims and child soldiers under international law

Prof. Mohamed Kamara (Washington and Lee University, USA)
Childhood, victimhood, and agency in Namina Forna's *The Gilded Ones* and Kim Nguyen's *War Witch*

Prof. Myriam Denov (McGill University, Canada)
Children born of conflict-related sexual violence in Rwanda. In search of recognition and advocacy"

Commentary

Prof. Cécile Aptel (Deputy Director of UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight, author of the book *Atrocity Crimes, Children and International Criminal Courts: Killing Childhood*, (Routledge, 2023)

Q&A Session

Conclusion

Dr. Christelle Molima (University of Lausanne, Law and Society Initiative, Switzerland)

Closing Reception

REGISTRATION

We invite you to register for the event here. Due to the limited number of seats, please indicate your in-person attendance by **3 October** .

For **in-person** participation (Campus Biotech, Geneva) – **register here**

For **online** participation (via Zoom) – **register here**

The Open Access version of this book, available at <https://www.taylorfrancis.com>, has been made available under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) 4.0 license.



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

**CENTRE FOR CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS STUDIES**

Unil

UNIL | Université de Lausanne

IDES

Plateforme interfacultaire
droit et société