

## Join us!

Demand with your hand print and your name beneath: Stop! No use of children as soldiers! No arms in children's hands! Try to win your friends, your family, your school-mates and your colleagues for the idea. Collect red hands at schools, universities, companies, at city festivals and in pedestrian zones. All you need is red finger paint and paper for the action. You can send or assign your collected hands to politicians, so that they notice and act. No matter if it is the mayor, member of the local, regional or national parliament or of international bodies like the European Union or the United Nations: Ask them to advocate the campaign's demands and to start initiatives about it. It's important that the politicians inform you later about their activities. You can also involve musicians or other celebrities and the media in your Red Hand activity to spread the protest and the demands of the campaign. Take pictures and upload one of them on our website!

[www.redhandday.org](http://www.redhandday.org)

## German Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers

The following organizations are members of the German Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers: Aktion Weißes Friedensband, Amnesty International, German Red Cross Youth, Kindernothilfe, Lutheran World Federation, missio, Network Africa Germany, Plan International, Quaker-Help Foundation, terre des hommes, UNICEF Germany, World Vision.

- We inform the world about the issue of child soldiers.
- We appeal for actions and campaign.
- We advocate.
- Several member organizations support relief projects for child soldiers.

The German Coalition was founded in 1999 and cooperates with Child Soldiers International, the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict and other international organizations.

Further information: [www.kindersoldaten.info](http://www.kindersoldaten.info)

We are glad to answer your questions and provide you with any additional information and material.




## We demand:

- 1. "Straight 18":** Children under 18 shall not be recruited or trained by armies or any other armed group – no matter in which function (even if they are not carrying arms) or whether they join the groups „voluntarily“ or are recruited by force. In addition, there should be no promotion for recruitment directed to minors. All children below the age of 18 must be released from armies or other armed groups and supported in their reintegration to civil society.
- 2. Penalization of the perpetrators:** Individuals, states and armed groups who recruit children and use them as soldiers must be denounced and punished. Individuals shall be prosecuted by the International Criminal Court or a national court. National states and armed groups must be condemned and sanctioned by the state community.
- 3. Protection, support and political asylum:** Former child soldiers need to be provided with medical and psychological care and access to scholar or professional education, especially if they flee to developed countries. They need to be granted asylum and protection in the countries they fled to.
- 4. Increased financial funds for aid programmes:** National and international financial resources for prevention and reintegration programmes for child soldiers should be considerably increased.
- 5. Stop the export of arms:** No arms, component parts or munitions shall be exported to conflict zones where child soldiers can be found. This is especially applicable to small arms and also refers to third countries that transfer weapons to conflict areas. Further, all illegal ways by which weapons reach conflict areas need to be blocked.
- 6. Promote peace education:** Peace education and non-violent conflict resolution should be an obligatory part of the school curriculum and teacher- training.

Your counts 



 **German Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers**



# Show the world your Red Hand

Stand up against the use of children as soldiers

It is illegal to use children under the age of 18 as soldiers in conflicts and wars. In February 12th 2002, this was established by an Optional Protocol to the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child. Nevertheless, as estimated by the UN, there are about 250,000 child soldiers worldwide. In nearly all current wars and armed conflicts minors are used as soldiers because they are cheap and easy to manipulate. Most children are abused by non-state armed groups such as guerrilla or paramilitary groups as is the case in Columbia or in Syria. But some state armies, e.g. in Burma or in Sudan, also use children as regular soldiers in combat.

## Who is a child soldier?

"A child associated with an armed force or armed group" refers to any person below 18 years of age who is or who has been recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children, boys and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies or for sexual purposes. It does not only refer to a child who is taking or has taken a direct part in hostilities."  
(The Paris Principles 2007)

## Worldwide active!

Since 2002, every year on 12th February, people all over the world protest against this serious child rights violation. It is the international day against the use of child soldiers - called the Red Hand Day.

Thousands of children, youngsters and adults participate every year.

In many countries, on every continent, more than 400.000 red hand prints have been collected and have been assigned to politicians, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, state presidents, ministers and members of parliament. This is a huge success! But the public protest has to continue. There is some progress, but too little. All countries have a responsibility in this concern!



**Stop the recruitment of children under 18 – worldwide!**

**No arms in children's hands!**

**Upload your red hand photo: [www.redhandday.org](http://www.redhandday.org)**

Please inform us about your red hand activities, the amount of collected hands and the politician's reactions. Place a photo and a short activity report on the web page!  
**Thank you!**

