

## NATO Engages: The Brussels Summit Dialogue

### Fact Sheet – Inclusive Security *Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC)*



**NATO Engages Event Aim:** In July 2018, NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division and its partners will host ‘NATO Engages: The Brussels Summit Dialogue’ on the margins of the main NATO Summit in Brussels. The event will serve as an ideal platform to deepen and amplify the Summit’s core themes. It will do so by engaging a diverse range of opinion formers, policymakers, and multipliers, including younger audiences and digital influencers. The themes of the event seek to complement the main Summit agenda. One of the topics for the main plenary on-the-record sessions includes “Inclusive Security.”

**Inclusive Security Aim:** A topic of significant importance to the Alliance is that of Inclusive Security. All partners are keen to ensure that discussions on Women, Peace, and Security, Children and Armed Conflict, and the protection of civilians have a leading role in the ‘NATO Engages’ programme.

**Inclusive Security Categories:** The Inclusive Security collective includes Children and Armed Conflict, Cultural Property and Protection, Protection of Civilians, and Women, Peace, and Security including Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Each component has a bearing on the others.

**NATO and CAAC:** Children are affected by armed conflict in many different ways: They are killed and maimed, recruited or use as soldiers, sexually exploited, abducted, their schools and hospitals are attacked, and their access to humanitarian services is denied. NATO recognises that protecting children from the effects of armed conflict is both a moral imperative and an essential element to break the cycle of violence.

Since the topic of Children and Armed Conflict was first addressed at the 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago, the Alliance has made great progress in developing practical, field-oriented measures to address conflict-related violations against children. In March 2015, the North Atlantic Council adopted the policy document “The Protection of Children in Armed Conflict – the Way Forward” which provides additional guidance to further integrate UN Security Council Resolution 1612 and related resolutions into the Alliance’s military doctrine, education, training and exercises, as well as NATO-led operations and missions. A Standing Operating Procedures provides our troops with a robust tool to monitor and report on violations against children whenever they encounter them in NATO military operations. This will inform activities on the ground to strengthen the protection of children. NATO recently revised and expanded our pre-deployment training on Children and Armed Conflict for our Resolute Support Mission personnel in Afghanistan.

This robust policy framework was first applied in the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan where the first Senior Child Protection Advisor in a NATO-led Mission was deployed. This coherent approach was essential in supporting the Afghan Ministry of Defence in establishing its first Child Protection Policy. The policy aims to shield children from the adverse effects of armed conflict and especially to prevent perpetrations of violence against children in combat operations.

**Teamwork:**

This is a collaborative project that encompasses close cooperation with the NATO command structure and the international community including NGOs.

**Champions and Leaders:**

Ms. Clare Hutchinson, NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security and NATO Senior Focal Point for Children and Armed Conflict

Mr. Swen Dornig, CAAC Advisor to the NATO SGSR for Women, Peace and Security  
[dornig.swen@hq.nato.int](mailto:dornig.swen@hq.nato.int)

Ms. Katarina Andabak, CAAC Focal Point SHAPE, [Katarina.Andabak@shape.nato.int](mailto:Katarina.Andabak@shape.nato.int)

Ms. Tracy Cheasley, CAAC Focal Point HQ SACT, [tracy.cheasley@act.nato.int](mailto:tracy.cheasley@act.nato.int)

**Milestone Events:**

12 July 2018, NATO HQ, Brussels, Belgium, NATO ENGAGES: The Brussels Summit Dialogue <https://nato-engages.org/>

**Publications:**

[OPEN Publications](#), 2018, *Strengthening Responses on Child Protection: the CAAC Framework*, Ms. Charu Hogg, Chatham House

**Websites:**

NATO HQ, [www.nato.int/](http://www.nato.int/)  
Children and Armed Conflict, [www.childrenandarmedconflict.un.org](http://www.childrenandarmedconflict.un.org)

**App:**

Watchlist Children and Armed Conflict App,  
<https://watchlist.org/caac-smartphoneapp/>

**NATO CAAC Contact:**

Mr. Swen Dornig, CAAC Advisor to the NATO SGSR for Women, Peace, and Security  
[dornig.swen@hq.nato.int](mailto:dornig.swen@hq.nato.int)

PR Contact: Allied Command Transformation  
Public Affairs Office (ACT PAO)  
Address: 7857 Blandy Road, Suite 100  
Norfolk, VA 23551-2490  
Email: [pao@act.nato.int](mailto:pao@act.nato.int)  
Telephone: +1 (757) 747-3600  
Fax: +1 (757) 747-3234

###