

SPEAK OUT AGAINST ABUSE !

**A GUIDE ON HOW TO CONNECT WITH THE
UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPOREUR
ON THE SALE, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
AND SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN**



**UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
SPECIAL PROCEDURES**

SPECIAL RAPPOREURS, INDEPENDENT EXPERTS & WORKING GROUPS



What is the United Nations (UN)?

The United Nations (or the “UN”) is an international organisation created in 1945. It is made up of almost all the countries in the world, which works to protect and promote development, peace, security and human rights around the world.

What is a United Nations Special Rapporteur?

“Rapporteur” simply means “a person who reports”.

The United Nations Special Rapporteurs are independent experts. They report on human rights issues around the world. They focus either on one human rights theme or on a specific country.

For example, there is a Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, a Special Rapporteur on the right to education, and a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia.



Let's learn about the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children !

The first Special Rapporteur was appointed in 1990.

The Special Rapporteur helps to bring better protection to children who experience sexual abuse, exploitation and violence around the world.

The Special Rapporteur has a very special job and is the only one that focuses only on children below the age of 18.

For example, the Special Rapporteur finds out about :

Children who are sexually abused or exploited, either online or physically:

This may include when a child is used or abused for sexual purposes, whether or not the child agrees. It may also include inappropriate pictures or videos of children posted online, adults or young people touching children in sexual ways, or making children look at inappropriate pictures or videos.

1

2

Selling or trafficking children, either for sexual or non-sexual reasons:

This may include forcing children to work at a young age, adults illegally adopting children, selling or forcing children to be married, or selling children to use their organs.

Adults should NEVER have sexual activities with children. It is against the law to touch children in a sexual way or, for example, ask children to provide pictures of themselves naked, undress in front of a webcam or have sex with other people.



It is important for you to know that if this happens to you IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT.

You always have the right to say no and seek help of the police or a person you can trust so that it can stop. We encourage you to talk about these issues with someone you trust, who can help you get help if you need it.

IF YOU KNOW ABOUT A CHILD WHO MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE, OR SPOT AN ADULT BEHAVING IN AN INAPPROPRIATE WAY, YOU SHOULD TALK TO AN ADULT YOU TRUST.



The Special Rapporteur's goal is to make sure that every country in the world, including yours, protects the rights of children, and that no child experiences sexual abuse or exploitation.

So they gather information, write reports and talk to Governments, children and civil society (like non-profit organizations or volunteer groups) to help end all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation against children through recommendations to ensure concrete prevention and response actions.

Everyone has a responsibility to make sure that children are safe and protected.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE REPORTS THAT THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR HAS WRITTEN:

1

**PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL ABUSE
AND EXPLOITATION IN THE ENTERTAINMENT
INDUSTRY**

2

**MAKING SURE CHILDREN ARE PROTECTED IN THE
CONTEXT OF VOLUNTOURISM**

3

**REPARATION FOR CHILD VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS
OF SALE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

The Special Rapporteur does a lot more than just writing reports, for example :

They visit countries to see what the country is doing to protect children.

They send letters to Governments about about laws or issues of sexual abuse and exploitation affecting children across the world.

They work to make sure people know about these issues by speaking at conferences and events.

They talk to journalists and do interviews.

They can submit expert opinions at national, regional and international courts in cases relating to the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children.



THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN !

It is really important that children, like you, participate and share with the Special Rapporteur what is going on in your country and what you think is important.

All children, adolescents and teenagers have the right to freely express their views on any issue or decision that affects them or their peers.

The Special Rapporteur welcomes children to tell the mandate about whether children's rights are respected in their countries, or give their opinion on how adults can make the world a better place for children and adolescents pertaining to the sale, sexual abuse and exploitation of children.



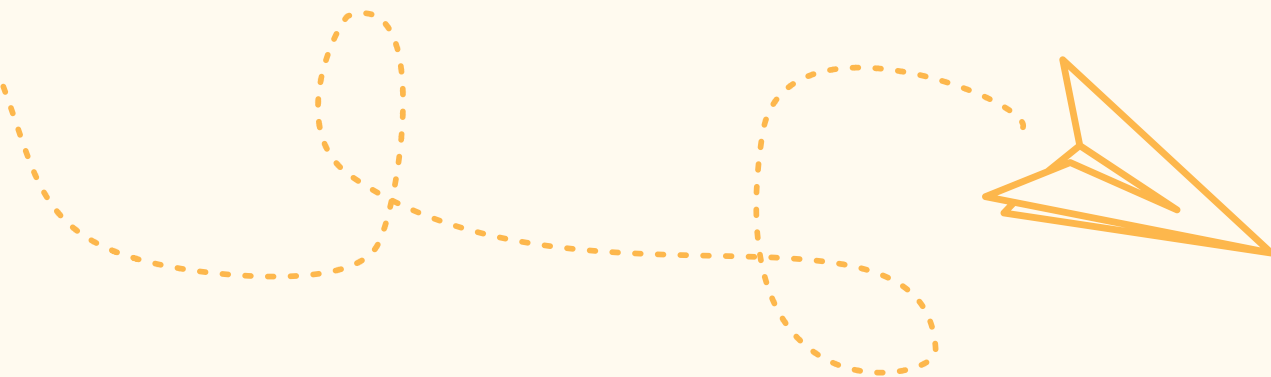
HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR TO GET THE BEST POSSIBLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SALE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN YOUR COUNTRY:

- 1 - Write a letter to the Special Rapporteur about concerns, allegations of human rights violations or law(s) in your country that does not protect children from abuse and/or exploitation. The Special Rapporteur can send communications to all Governments.**
- 2 - If the Special Rapporteur is planning to visit your country, find out if you can share information or he or she can meet with you and/or a group of young people. You can see which countries the Special Rapporteur is going to be visiting on this [webpage](#).**
- 3 - When the Special Rapporteur is working on a report, you can send information that you think he or she may not know about. You can find out which reports are coming up on his or her website [here](#).**

4 - Decide with that adult if you would like to share your personal story or message with the Special Rapporteur and any recommendations on the mandate's activities.

The Special Rapporteur prioritizes safety and confidentiality in order to protect children and their representatives from any risk of reprisal. We will not share any information you send to us with anyone else, nor your personal or contact details.

When contacting us please tell us about your first name, age, gender and country. Please do not include your last name in any communications; your first name is all we need. This helps us to protect your right to privacy.



THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR CANNOT GIVE DIRECT HELP TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN ABUSED. THEIR JOB IS TO MAKE SURE YOUR GOVERNMENT PROTECTS YOU AND YOUR RIGHTS.

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS FACED THE TYPES OF ABUSES OR EXPLOITATION TALKED ABOUT ABOVE, WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TALK TO AN ADULT YOU TRUST OR YOUR LOCAL CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATION. YOU DO NOT NEED TO FACE IT ALONE. TALKING TO SOMEONE CAN MAKE IT EASIER TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO AND DEAL WITH ITS IMPACT. THERE MAY BE A CHILD HELPLINE IN YOUR COUNTRY THAT CAN OFFER INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT. YOU CAN FIND THE LIST OF CHILD HELPLINES AROUND THE WORLD HERE:
WWW.CHILDHELPLINEINTERNATIONAL.ORG/HELPLINES/.**

IF YOU'RE READY TO SEND INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS TO THE SPECIAL RAPPOREUR, THERE ARE A FEW WAYS YOU CAN DO THAT, EITHER :

1 - WRITE A LETTER TO THIS ADDRESS:

**SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON THE SALE, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND
SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN
OHCHR-UNOG
UNITED NATIONS AT GENEVA
8-14 AVENUE DE LA PAIX
1211 GENEVE 10,
SWITZERLAND**

2- OR WRITE AN EMAIL TO THIS ADDRESS:

HRC-SR-SALEOFCHILDREN@UN.ORG

YOU CAN WRITE YOUR EMAIL OR LETTER IN ENGLISH, SPANISH OR FRENCH.

IF YOU NEED HELP WRITING YOUR LETTER, CONTACT AN ADULT YOU TRUST OR YOUR LOCAL CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATION.

TO GIVE YOU SOME IDEAS, YOU CAN START TO LOOK FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THINGS LIKE :

- WHAT IS THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND ITS
OPTIONAL PROTOCOL ON THE SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD
PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY?**
- DOES YOUR COUNTRY HAVE A CHILD HELPLINE THROUGH WHICH
CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED ABUSE CAN CALL AND ASK FOR
HELP?**
- DOES YOUR GOVERNMENT HAVE A CHILDREN'S OMBUDSPERSON
OR CHILD RIGHTS COMMISSIONER? (LOOK THEM UP IF YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN!)**
- DOES YOUR GOVERNMENT PROVIDE MEDICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL
HELP FOR CHILDREN WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN ABUSED OR
EXPLOITED?**
- DOES YOUR COUNTRY PUNISH ADULTS WHO HAVE ABUSED
CHILDREN?**

**A BOOKLET BY THE UNITED NATIONS
SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SALE,
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEXUAL
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