

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Protecting children in conflict

At Inter-Faith Prayers for International Day of Peace

Monday, 21 September 2009 • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ADDRESS BY

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UNICEF is the UN agency tasked with responding to the needs of children. Since 1954, we have been working with the Government, civil society and young people in Malaysia to give children the best start in life.

We are guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which considers the child in his/her totality, as human beings and subjects of his/her own rights.

UNICEF upholds every child's right to live in a peaceful society, so that they can have all their other rights fulfilled. Only when there is peace, can children have access to education, healthcare and an adequate standard of living, and be protected from violence.

Protecting children in conflict

During and after conflicts, crises and emergencies, UNICEF focuses on meeting the basic needs of women and children, and protecting their fundamental rights.

UNICEF's mission is to provide special protection for the most disadvantaged children – those who are victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities.

In all places of conflict, UNICEF is committed to working with partners on the ground to provide children and families with essential water and sanitation, nutrition, maternal and child health care, education and protection.

We must protect children's rights in order to achieve peace. A world without war can only be possible if today's children, all around the world, are given the opportunity to realise all their rights – to education, health, protection and equality.

Thank you.