

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Reality of Child Rights in Times of War and Crisis

REVIVING THE "CONVENTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD" IN CRISIS

The Rights of Children of Palestine and the World: A Universal Imperative for Global Justice

April 29-30, 2025

An-Najah University, Palestine

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY ONE | TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 2025

09:00-10:00 (Jerusalem time)

Registration & Welcome Reception

10:00-11:30

OPENING CEREMONY: Children in Crisis

Chair: Dr. Ali Shaar

- National Anthem
- Conference Introduction Film
- *Inaugural Addresses:*
 - H.E. Prof. Rami Hamdallah
Former Prime Minister of Palestine and Vice Chairperson, Board of Trustees, An-Najah University
 - H.E. Mark Durkan (Virtual)
Former Deputy First Minister, Northern Ireland
 - Dr. Najat Maalla (Invited)
UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
 - Dr. Ghassan Issa (Virtual)
Chairperson, Arab Network for Early Childhood

- Ms. Rihab Sandouka (Virtual)
Chairperson, Palestinian Network of Early Childhood
- Dr. Rima Salah (Virtual)
Chairperson, Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC); Former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations; Yale Child Study Center

11:30-11:45 | *Refreshment Break*

11:45-12:30

SESSION I: Impact of Armed Conflict, Occupation, and Systemic Violence on Child's Rights and Early Childhood Development

Chair: Dr. Hana Rabadi

11:50-12:05

Global and Regional Perspectives

Dr. Ghassan Issa | *Arab Network for Early Childhood (ANECD)*

12:05-12:50

Psychological and Social Effects of Armed Conflict on Children

Panel Discussion:

- Prof. James Leckman | *Yale Child Study Center*
- Prof. Sasha Hein | *Free University, Berlin*
- Prof. Josh Feder | *Child & Family Psychiatry, CA*

12:50-13:00 | *Exhibition Viewing*

13:00-14:00 | *Luncheon*

14:00-14:45

SESSION II: The Concept of "Un-childing" in War and Crisis, Revising Mechanisms for Child Rights Protection in Crisis and War Zones"

Chair: Dr. Mohammad Mattar

Panel on Revising Mechanisms for Child Rights Protection in Crisis and War Zones:

- Analysis of Political and Social Dimensions of Systemic Dehumanization
- Impact of Genocide and Prolonged Trauma on Childhood in Gaza
- Comparative Analysis of Violations Against Palestinian Children in Global Contexts

Distinguished Panelists:

- Prof. Nadira
- Shalhoub Jehan Helo
- Nabila Espanioly

Closing Media: Oxford University address by Suzan Abu Al Hawa (3 min)

14:50-15:30

SESSION III: Legal Frameworks, Accountability, and Justice for Violations Against Children"

Chair: Dr. Noor Adas

Expert Panel on Un-childing in Conflict Zones:

- Dr. Noor Adas
- Ashraf Abu Hayyeh | *Al-Haq Human Rights Organization*
- Mr. Isam Aruri | *Human Rights Commissioner and CEO JILAC*
- Rami Saleh
- Khaled Quzmar | *Director, Palestine DCI*

Focus Areas:

- Legal Tools to Combat "Un-childing" in Conflict Zones
- Child Rights Violations as International Crimes: Palestine Case Study

DAY TWO | WEDNESDAY, 30 APRIL 2025

09:00-09:30 (Jerusalem time)

Registration & Morning Refreshments

09:30-10:15

SESSION IV: Restrictions on the UN's Role in Child Protection: The Impact of the Boycott of UNRWA on Palestinian Children's Rights"

Chair: Asad Taffal

Dialogue on the Impact of the Boycott of UNRWA on Palestinian Children's Rights:

- Dr. Umayyah Khammash
- Sami Mshaasha
- Dr. Seita
- Dr. Saleem Vally

Key Discussion Points:

- Impact of the UNRWA Boycott on Palestinian Children's Rights
- Undermining Humanitarian Efforts in Palestine and Gaza
- Legal and Humanitarian Implications of Service Disruption
- International Response and Reform Opportunities

10:45-11:00 | Refreshment Break

11:00-13:00

**SESSION V: Advocacy and Partnerships for Child Protection from Un-childing and Genocide"
Strengthening Global and Regional Partnerships in Child Protection and Crises Recovery**

Chair: Mr. Ahmad Sarghali

11:40-13:00

Strengthening Global and Regional Partnerships in Child Protection and Crises Recovery

Panel Discussion:

- Dr. Rima Salah - ECPC
- Dr. Ghassan Issa - AECND
- Dr. Siobhan Fitzpatrick - INPB
- Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe - Arigatou

13:00-14:00 | *Networking Luncheon*

14:00-14:30

SESSION VI: The Northern Ireland Experience: Child-Centered Approaches in Reconciliation

Chair: Ms. Pauline Walmsley

Child-Centered Approaches in Reconciliation

- H.E. Mark Durkan
- H.E. Alex Atwood
- Dr. Siobhan Fitzpatrick
- Prof. Paul Connolly
- Prof. Laura Dunne

14:30-15:30

SESSION VII: Celebrating Local Initiatives for Protecting Children's Rights

Chair: Farah Darwazeh

Grassroots Innovations in Child Rights Protection:

- Dr. Yahia Abed
- Dr. Hana Rabadi
- Ms. Vivian Tannous
- Nader Whbeh
- Mr. Mahmoud Mowafi
- Dr. Suheil Maqadma

15:30-16:00

CLOSING PLENARY & CALL FOR ACTION

Chair: Dr. Ali Shaar

- Conference Summary and Key Outcomes
- Reading and Endorsement of the Call for Action
- Closing Remarks by H.E. Prof. Rami Hamdallah and Dr. Umaiye Khammash

This conference is dedicated to advancing the rights of children in conflict zones and crisis situations, with particular focus on the Palestinian context and global implications for child rights protection and policy development.