



Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
**Socialists & Democrats**  
in the European Parliament



**European  
Bureau for  
Conscientious  
Objection**

**NO MORE CHILD SOLDIERS! Round Table Conference  
with Testimony & Exposition of pictures from a former African child soldier**

**MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2012, 12.00 - 14.00  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, ROOM A5G315**

***hosted by MEP Katarína NEVEĎALOVÁ (S&D)***

**PRESS RELEASE**

A round table conference on the use of child soldiers will be hosted by MEP Katarína NEVEĎALOVÁ (S&D) in the European Parliament in Brussels on Monday, the 26th of November 2012. During this conference the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection will present a testimony and an exposition of pictures from a former African child soldier who has recently fled to Europe. Reflections by MEPs and civil society organisations will follow, as well as a Q&A session, and the closing session with the conclusions and next steps.

This round table conference is organised with the opportunity of the Universal Children's Day (November 20<sup>th</sup>) and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

**Background information**

Status of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict: [United Nations Treaty Collection](#)

Among the 47 Council of Europe member states:

- 2, Albania and Georgia, have not yet signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and 1, Estonia, has not yet ratified it.
- 5 can or do, in certain circumstances, take recruits aged under 18 into compulsory military service, or training: Austria (option to enrol for military service from the age of 17, with parental approval), Belgium (compulsory recruitment age is 17 in wartime), Estonia (17-year-olds could be liable for call-up), Russian Federation (compulsory recruitment age is 18 with basic military training at 15 or 16) and San Marino (compulsory recruitment age is 16 in time of war or emergency).
- 15 have a voluntary recruitment age under 18: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation and United Kingdom.

More info: [EBCO's CoE report 2011](#) & [Child Soldiers International report 2012](#)

With the support of  
the Youth in Action  
programme of the  
European Union



This project has been funded with support  
from the European Commission.  
This publication reflects the views only of the  
author, and the Commission cannot be held  
responsible for any use which may be made  
of the information contained therein.



Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
**Socialists & Democrats**  
in the European Parliament



**European  
Bureau for  
Conscientious  
Objection**

**NO MORE CHILD SOLDIERS! Round Table Conference  
with Testimony & Exposition of pictures from a former African child soldier**

**MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2012, 12.00 - 14.00  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, ROOM A5G315**

*hosted by MEP Katarína NEVEĎALOVÁ (S&D)*

**PROGRAMME**

**Moderator: Sam BIESEMANS**, EBCO Vice-President

<b>12.00 - 12.10</b>	Opening speech by MEP <b>Katarína NEVEĎALOVÁ</b> , S&D
<b>12.10 - 12.40</b>	Testimony from a <b>former African child soldier</b> (video)
<b>12.40 - 12.55</b>	Speech by <b>Alexia TSOUNI</b> , EBCO Coordinator
<b>12.55 - 13.10</b>	Reflections by <b>MEPs</b>
<b>13.10 - 13.20</b>	Comments by <b>Lloyd RUSSELL-MOYLE</b> , European Youth Forum Board Member
<b>13.20 - 13.30</b>	Comments by <b>Luis Alvarado MARTINEZ</b> , AEGEE-Europe / European Students' Forum President
<b>13.30 - 13.40</b>	Comments by <b>Francesco CANDELARI</b> , International Fellowship Of Reconciliation Coordinator
<b>13.40 - 14.00</b>	Questions & answers, conclusions and next steps

**PRESS CONTACT PERSONS**

Ivana Kmecova  
Office of MEP Katarína NEVEĎALOVÁ (S&D)  
Tel.: +32(0)2 28 45486  
katarina.nevedalova@europarl.europa.eu  
www.europoslankyna.sk

Alexia Tsouni  
EBCO Coordinator  
Tel.: +32 485313436  
ebco@ebco-beoc.org  
www.ebco-beoc.org

With the support of  
the Youth in Action  
programme of the  
European Union



This project has been funded with support  
from the European Commission.  
This publication reflects the views only of the  
author, and the Commission cannot be held  
responsible for any use which may be made  
of the information contained therein.