

TOOL 01

Key international instruments and guidelines relating to UASC

1. Child-specific human rights instruments

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989
 - Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000
 - Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000
 - Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure, 2011
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 1998
- Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182), 1999
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Anti-Trafficking Protocol), 2000
- The Hague Conference on Private International Law
 - Convention for the Protection of Minors, 1961
 - Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, 1980
 - Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, 1993, and its Recommendation Concerning the Application to Refugee Children and Other Internationally Displaced Children, 1994
 - Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, 1996
- Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, 1990

2. Humanitarian law instruments

- Geneva Conventions I, II, III and IV of 12 August 1949
 - Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), of 8 June 1977
 - Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), of 8 June 1977

3. Instruments covering refugees and stateless persons

- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951
 - Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967
- Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954
- Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1961

4. Regional instruments and declarations

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981
- Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, 1969
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990
- African Union, African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), 22 October 2009
- American Convention on Human Rights, 1969
- European Convention on Human Rights, 1950
- Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, 1984
- Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, 2007

5. Additional general human rights instruments

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, and its Optional Protocol, 1976
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006

6. Additional international law relevant to unaccompanied and separated children

- Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
- Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention)

7. United Nations Security Council resolutions relevant to children and armed conflict

- Security Council Resolutions 1261 (1999), 1314 (2000), 1379 (2001), 1460 (2003), 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012), and 2143 (2014)

8. Relevant soft law and guidelines

- Child Protection Working Group, *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action*, 2012
- European Union, *EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict*, adopted by the European Union in 2003; updated 2008 and 2010
- International Committee of the Red Cross, *Inter-agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children*, 2004
- United Nations, *Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS)*, and *Operational Guide to the IDDRS*, 2006
- United Nations, *Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children*, 2009
- United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 6: Treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin, 2005, CRC/GC/2005/6
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, 1998, updated 2004
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *UNHCR Guidelines on Determining the Best Interests of the Child*, 2008
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Rescue Committee, *Field Handbook for the Implementation of UNHCR BID Guidelines*, 2011
- United Nations Children's Fund, *The Paris Principles: Principles and guidelines on children associated with armed forces and armed groups*, 2007
- United Nations Children's Fund, *Paris Commitments to Protect Children from Unlawful Recruitment or Use by Armed Forces or Armed Groups*, 2007