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## CHILDREN IN THE CONDITIONS OF MILITARY CONFLICTS

*Paper discusses the advisability of introducing a system of responsibility for the children directly and purposefully involved in armed conflict, the adequacy of military behavior at the sight of armed children, the reasons for using children as soldiers during armed conflicts. During modern conflicts, the number of children voluntarily joining armed groups or being forcibly engaged into them gradually increases. The fulfillment of provisions of international humanitarian law that provide special protection for children is a moral obligation of all States parties to the Geneva Conventions that must comply with international humanitarian law and ensure their observance. In the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols, much attention is paid to the protection of children, which is granted to them by provisions relating both to the civilian population as a whole and to this particular category. The law protects as much as it is respected and applied. Widely disseminating knowledge on international humanitarian law and taking measures to prevent its violations, States support to ensure proper treatment for children. The promotion of an accession to treaties on humanitarian law is also an integral part of this collective task.*

**Keywords:** protection of children, armed conflicts, humanitarian law, international mechanisms, international cooperation, universal security.

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