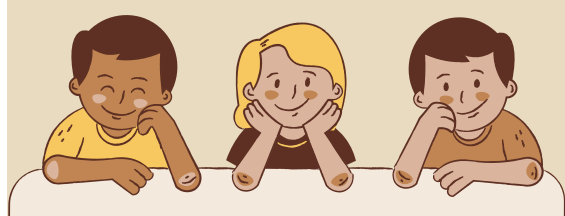
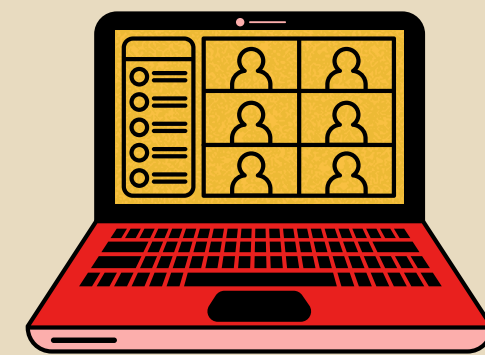


Event celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale and sexual exploitation of children

When ?	23 March 2022
At what time ?	8:00 (NYC), 13:00 (Geneva), 21:00 (Tokyo)
How ?	Online (via Zoom)
For how long ?	90 minutes



**WE WANT CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ONLINE
DISCUSSION ON HOW COUNTRIES CAN PREVENT AND
PROTECT CHILDREN FROM BEING SOLD OR SEXUALLY
ABUSED.**



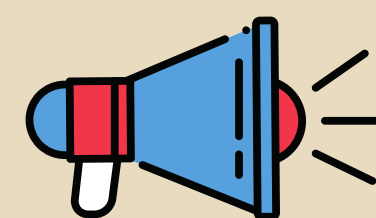
WHY ARE WE HOLDING THIS EVENT ?

- We want adults and children to know that children have a right to be protected from being sold and from being sexually abused.
- Our world is constantly changing, with more adults and children spending time online, more people on the move, and the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting our daily lives. These changes can make it easier for people to sell or sexually abuse children, and harder for children to protect themselves from these crimes.
- By signing the Optional Protocol, 177 countries around the world have agreed to take specific steps to prevent this abuse and keep children safe.
- The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child wants to hear the views of children and adults on how governments can protect children from being sold or from being sexually abused.



WHO WILL BE SPEAKING ?

- 5 Child advocates from: Bolivia, Canada, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Trinidad and Tobago
- UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Ms. Mama Fatima Singhateh
- Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, Ms. Najat Maala M'jid
- Board member of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Mr. Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman
- Grantee of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Mr. Emmanuel Drewery, Executive Director of PREDA
- Head of Security, Hotel Santa Clara, Cartagena (Colombia), Mr. Joaquín Sabach
- Global Head of Safety, Meta, Ms. Antigone Davis
- H.E. Kozo Honsei, Deputy Permanent Representative, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN in Geneva



DID YOU KNOW ?

- That countries must ask children for their views on how to better prevent the sale and abuse of children and how to protect victims ?
- That countries must find out which children are particularly at risk of becoming victims to such crimes and take specific steps to protect them such as protecting their identity and informing them on their rights ?
- That investing in children and protecting their right to be free from violence helps countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?



The SDGs

THE SPEAKERS WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS SUCH AS :

- How are children being informed about their rights to be protected from sale and sexual abuse? In school, books and brochures, TV, radio, the internet, social media, theatre, animated films? Is this information reaching the children who are most at risk and hard to reach?
- Are these materials effective in empowering children to stop these crimes and to also help parents and carers to prevent, identify and appropriately respond to the abuse and to report offenders?
- Do children have a space where they have the opportunity to make their voices heard on the issue, including in children's clubs, youth groups, associations, student councils, youth forums, children's parliaments and blogs ?
- Are adults asking children for their views on how to improve programmes that are designed to protect children and on how to make recommendations for policy improvements, and to identify issues and areas that might lead to risks of abuse, as well as on ways to protect themselves from abuse?
- Are children treated fairly by the police, lawyers, and judges in criminal cases against offenders?

WHAT ARE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ?

- Children's rights are the human rights of anyone under 18: they help to make sure all children are treated fairly and looked after properly, so that every child can grow up in a happy, healthy, fair and safe environment. Children's rights include the right to go to school, the right to share their views, the right to live without violence, and many others. They are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Read the articles and get to know your rights here



WHO IS ORGANIZING THIS EVENT?

- The Committee on the Rights of the Child, a group of 18 experts on children's rights who come from all over the world. The Committee meets three times per year to discuss how children's rights are being promoted and respected in each country that has signed the Convention. Find out more on each Committee member here: <https://www.ohchr.org>



- For further information on the event, please contact: sulini.sarugaser@un.org
- On child safeguarding issues for the event, please contact: chanmi.kim@un.org
- Simultaneous interpretation available into English, French and Spanish, generously financed by the Government of Japan