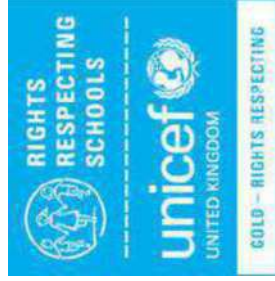


Friday 16th February 2024

Welcome to your Family Group 😊



Red Hand Day for Child Soldiers



Objectives:



To know that all children have a right to be safe and should be protected from things that could harm them.



To know that all children have a right not to be in armed conflict.



To use our pupil voice.

CRC Article 19:

All children have the right to be safe.

CRC Article 36:

All children should be protected from doing things that harm them.

CRC Article 38:

All children have the right to be protected from war and conflict.



There are 250,000 children used in wars as soldiers!

What do you think about that?

Is it moral to ask
children to be soldiers?



Quiz

How old are child soldiers?

- a) Under the age of 11**
- b) Under the age of 16**
- c) Under the age of 18**

Answer

c) Under the age of 18

- A child is anyone below the age of 18.
- It is against the law to use anyone under 18 in war.
- Most child soldiers are between 14 and 17 years old, but children as young as 7 have been used in places, like Syria.



Quiz

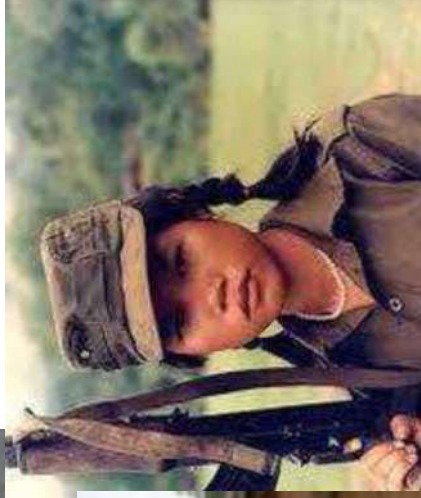
True or false?

Only boys can be child soldiers.

**Answer
FALSE**

Many child soldiers are **girls**. They are often hidden away and not seen.

Is this moral?



Quiz

True or false?

Child soldiers always have guns and fight.

**Many child soldiers
don't even have a
uniform, let alone a
gun.
But they still suffer
danger and live a hard
life, away from home.**

**Answer
FALSE**



Children are involved in numerous armed conflicts all over the world.

Recent examples are Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Iraq, Israel / Palestine, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.



Armed groups and even regular government forces, recruit and use child soldiers. Many of them have been recruited by force and cannot leave the armed unit anymore. While most child soldiers are between 15 and 18 years old, in some wars even 9 year olds have been forced to fight. Other children grow up in war zones and have little chance of survival if they do not join one of the armed groups "voluntarily".



The suffering of the child soldiers

Young soldiers' lives are often full of dangers and they have to work very hard, with little food and clean water. There is no health care but constant fear of being hurt or killed.

The soldiers in charge are cruel and the children have to do what they say. Many children die and others are handicapped, blinded or traumatized for the rest of their lives. However, boys are not the only ones at risk. Approximately one third of child soldiers are girls.

Their suffering is not over once these young people return home. Some discover that their families have been killed or their homes are destroyed. There is very little chance of finding a job or returning to school.

What else do you think they do?

- Cooking and cleaning for commanders
- Guarding checkpoints
- Carrying firewood and equipment
- Cleaning and repairing guns
- Carrying messages and spying

What's life like as a child soldier?

- Danger of fighting and injuries
- Not enough food
- Strict punishment and threats
- Often there are no doctors and medicines
- Living apart from their family
- No school

How do we stop the use of child soldiers?

There are laws
which ban the use
of child soldiers.

Make sure that children
can go to school, where
they are safe.

Make sure people who
recruit child soldiers
are punished.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**Help to stop this abuse of children.
Show your Red Hand to the world!**



Your Family Group Activity:

Write messages on strips of paper or red hands to our Government, asking them to help stop children being forced into becoming child soldiers.

Sign your Family Group petition to show your support.

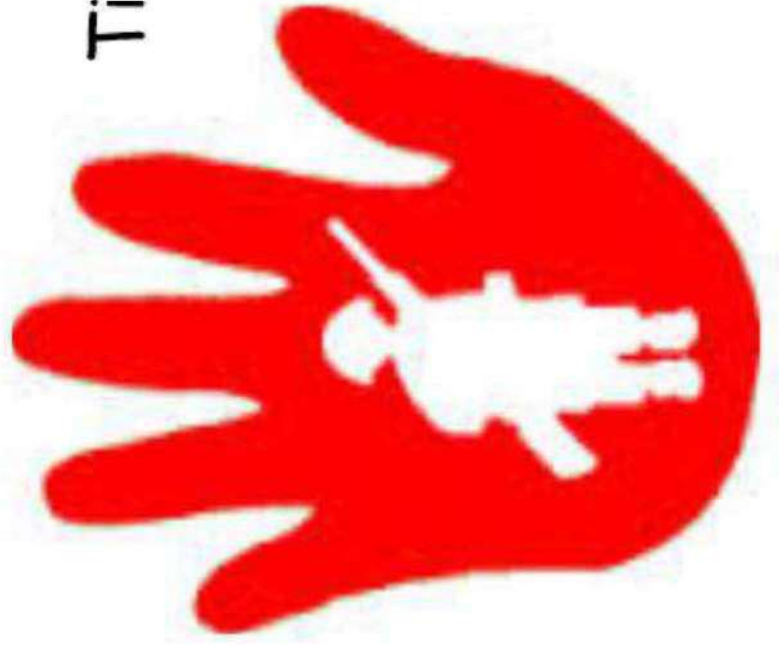
Use your pupil voice to help change our world!



We will send all our hands to
Dehenna Davison, our local MP,
who will deliver them to our
Government!



Your pupil voice will be heard and
you will make a difference!



Timothy Hackworth Primary
says

NO

to child soldiers!