

# Life in limbo: adolescent girls in crisis and conflict



**A joint briefing by Plan International UK, ActionAid UK, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Gender Action for Peace and Security network (GAPS) for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women, Peace and Security's panel discussion on adolescent girls.**

The world is currently experiencing the largest movement of refugees and displaced people in history. Conflict, fragility and climate disasters have left more than 200 million people in need humanitarian assistance and protection.<sup>1</sup>

In protracted crises, where humanitarian interventions, development and peacebuilding overlap, adolescent girls are in particular danger. Due to both their age and gender they are marginalised in specific ways and constrained by intersecting barriers and gendered power imbalances:

- ▶ They are at increased risk of gender-based violence such as forced marriage and trafficking.
- ▶ All too often adolescent girls have their right to sexual and reproductive health denied.
- ▶ Lack of provision, and fears for their personal safety, prevents adolescent girls from accessing their right to education.

The Women, Peace and Security agenda has not always recognised and mobilised resources to meet the needs of adolescent girls affected by crises. As more emergencies evolve into protracted crises, there is a pressing need to develop interventions to meet commitments made in the SDGs and prioritise the needs, voices and rights of adolescent girls across integrated humanitarian, development and peace-building programming.

At this meeting of the APPG for Women, Peace and Security, Plan International UK, ActionAidUK, IRC and GAPS recommend that the UK Government:

- 1. Increase resources for programmes targeting adolescent girls.** Programming across all contexts should be comprehensive, including tackling gender-based violence (GBV), enabling sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) and ensuring 12-years of quality education.
- 2. Provide funding on a multi-year, multi-disciplinary, flexible model allowing for co-ordinated programme approaches in protracted crises settings.** Programmes should ensure the needs of adolescent girls are met and delivered on by organisations who understand local contexts and have expertise in working with adolescent girls.
- 3. Ensure safe spaces and targeted services are available and accessible for adolescent girls in fragile and conflict affected settings (FCAS).** These initiatives should recognise that adolescent girls' vulnerabilities and marginalisation is driven by both their gender and age, therefore 'child friendly' services are not sufficient on their own.
- 4. Develop a comprehensive plan led by DFID to implement the Strategic Vision for Gender Equality in FCAS.** This should be undertaken through consultation with civil society, local women's groups and adolescent girls.
- 5. Promote, establish and fully resource the systematic and sustainable participation of adolescent girls in all decisions that affect their lives.** Adolescent girls must be meaningfully included in peacebuilding interventions and in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of humanitarian programmes.

<sup>1</sup> Global Humanitarian Assistance Report (2018): <http://devinit.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/06/GHA-Report-2018.pdf>



Yakaba, 13, Ethiopia  
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## Social media kit

### Suggested Tweets:

Around the world adolescent girls caught up in humanitarian crises are living in limbo. Today in Parliament [@Nowomennopeace](#) [@IRCEurope](#) [@PlanUK](#) and [@ActionAidUK](#) joined together to shine a light on the rights and needs of adolescent girls. [#GirlsInCrisis](#)

Adolescence is a defining stage in a girl's life. Yet in humanitarian crises girls are at increased risk of violence, forced marriage and trafficking. Great discussion today in [@UKParliament](#) at the APPG for Women, Peace and Security about what more the UK can do to ensure [#GirlsInCrisis](#) don't live in limbo.

### Event hashtag:

[#GirlsInCrisis](#)

### Twitter handles:

[@HodgsonFiona](#) (Baroness Hodgson, Co-Chair of the APPG for Women, Peace and Security)

[@Nowomennopeace](#) (GAPS)

[@PlanUK](#)

[@IRCEurope](#)

[@ActionAidUK](#)