International humanitarian law gives children general protection as civilian persons [1] taking no part in hostilities and special protection as particularly vulnerable beings. That special protection is conferred by numerous rules, inter alia on:

(a) the treatment of new-born babies on the same footing as the wounded [2];

(b) a child’s right to care [3] and aid;

(c) the reception of children under the age of fifteen years in hospital and safety zones and localities [4];

(d) the reunion of families dispersed [5] by an international [6] or internal armed conflict [7];

(e) the temporary evacuation [8] of children for imperative reasons of their safety, especially from a besieged or encircled area;

(f) the prohibition, in case of occupation [9], of compelling protected persons [10] under the age of eighteen years to work;

(g) the protection of the child’s cultural environment and of their education [11];
(h) the protection of the rights of children arrested, detained or interned;

(i) the prohibition of applying the death penalty to children under the age of eighteen years at the time the offence was committed;

(j) the protection of the family and the inviolability of the status of child;

(k) the prohibition of recruiting children under the age of fifteen years into the armed forces;

(l) the protection of orphans or children separated from their parents.

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Colombia Peace Agreement [29]

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Eastern Ukraine, Attacks Against and Military Use of Schools [31]


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OUTLINE

Chapter 8, Special protection of children

DOCUMENT

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

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Suggested readings:


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Links
[8] https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/evacuation
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