



## Taking Stock of the Protection of Civilians

Friday, 24 June, 10:00 – 11:30 EDT | 16:00 – 17:30 CEST

[Register to join the event here](#)

This is one of the virtual side events to be convened on the margins of the 2022 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), which builds on this year's HAS theme: *“Strengthening humanitarian assistance: good practices and mobilizing action in the application of international humanitarian law, the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and in response to the climate crisis.”*

**Sponsors and Organizers:** The Center for Civilians in Conflict, Geneva Call, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and PAX.

**Background and objectives of event:**

The Protection of Civilians (PoC) in Armed Conflict has featured on the Security Council's agenda since 1999. Since that time, mandates to protect civilians against the imminent threat of physical violence have become a defining feature of United Nations peacekeeping operations, while the contributions of special political missions, including through political engagement to prevent and resolve conflict, promoting and protecting human rights, and advancing the rule of law, have been increasingly recognized. The Security Council has also passed numerous thematic resolutions on issues as diverse as attacks on civilian infrastructure in conflict, on protection of persons with disabilities in conflict, on persons reported missing during armed conflict and the link between armed conflict and food insecurity.

Since 2018 the release of the Secretary-General's annual report on PoC and the Security Council's open debate on PoC have been accompanied by 'PoC Week' – a series of side events organized by Member States, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations focusing on a range of issues falling under the Security Council's PoC agenda: compliance; accountability; urban warfare and the impact of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA); humanitarian access; the protection of medical care in conflict; conflict and hunger; the role of peace operations in protecting civilians, protection of civilians and the environment; the protection of children; sexual violence in conflict; the inclusion of persons with disabilities; etc. PoC Week has grown over the years, in terms of the number of events, the number of sponsors and organizers and the number and seniority of participants.

As part of the 2022 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, the Center for Civilians in Conflict, Geneva Call, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and PAX will host a virtual side event to take stock of progress on the PoC agenda in the aftermath PoC Week. The panel will examine this through the lens of different thematic issues, such as:

- Protection of medical care in conflict and implementation of SC resolution 2286
- Urban warfare and the use of explosive weapons in populated areas
- The role of peace operations
- Conflict and hunger and SC resolution 2417
- Engagement with parties to conflict for PoC

The panel will also examine the role and further potential of PoC Week to garner attention, foster discussion, exchange good practice and encourage progress on key issues.



**Discussion points or guiding questions:**

1. What progress has been observed around specific PoC issues?
2. What are the challenges to progress and where do opportunities lie?
3. How has PoC Week been helpful? How can PoC Week better contribute to taking issues forward?
4. How can Member States and/or parties to conflict be supported or encouraged to take action?

**Format of the side event:**

The event will take place virtually and consist of a panel discussion, followed by Q & A. Panelists will assess progress on the Protection of Civilians through the lens of different thematic issues from practitioner and Member State perspectives and reflect on the role and further potential of PoC Week.

**Chair and moderator:** Mr. Aurelien Buffler, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

**Panel composition:**

**Panelists:**

Mr. Vincent Conus, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

Ms. Wendy MacClinchy, Director, United Nations program, Center for Civilians in Conflict

Mr. Maciej Polkowski, Head, Health Care in Danger Initiative, International Committee of the Red Cross

Mr. Ezequiel Heffes, Senior Policy and Legal Advisor, Geneva Call

Ms. Brittany Roser, UN Advocacy Advisor, PAX

**Background Material:**

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2022/381)

**Connection details to join the event:**

*The event will be held virtually on MS Teams. Please register [here](#) by 23 June 2022. Connection details will be provided upon registration. For further information please contact [Marlies Bull](#) at OCHA.*

