

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

Community resilience against the recruitment of children

In support of article 31 of the Convention

Side event at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations
Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

One 50-minute session on Thursday,

22 October 2026 at 9:00

Room MOE79 · Vienna International Centre, Austria, and online

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE · IN ENGLISH



HWPL

Heavenly Culture, World Peace,
Restoration of Light

CO-ORGANIZERS



Consulate of Mali
MEMBER STATE



Islamic Republic of
Afghanistan
MEMBER STATE



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UNODC MENA Youth
Network
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IAYSP
CIVIL SOCIETY



PYO
CIVIL SOCIETY

Consulate of Mali · Islamic Republic of Afghanistan · African Union · National Union of Nigerian Students in Austria (NUNSA) · Universal Peace Federation (UPF) · International Peace Youth Group (IPYG) · UNODC MENA Youth Network · International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) · Pakistan Youth Organization (PYO).

Dear Distinguished Guests, Colleagues, and Partners,

On behalf of Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL) and our co-organizers, we have the honour of cordially inviting you to take part in the side event **Community Resilience against the Recruitment of Children**, on **Thursday 22 October 2026, from 9:00 to 9:50, in Room MOE79** of the Vienna International Centre, during the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Organized criminal groups now recruit children through the same online platforms those children use for school and for friendship. Europol records that minors are involved in over 70 per cent of criminal markets in the European Union, reached through encrypted applications, gamified tasks and coded language. In resolution 2024/11, adopted by consensus, the Economic and Social Council recorded its deep concern at these risks and called upon Member States to counter them.

Article 31 of the Convention already provides the framework for a response that reaches beyond enforcement. What remains under-examined is the operational layer: who, in practice, reaches a child before a recruiter does. This side event puts that question to Member States, UNODC and practitioners in one room.

Programme at a Glance

- I. Opening · welcome and framing
- II. The Evidence · how recruitment works now
- III. Member State Perspectives
- IV. Prevention Approach
- V. Community Intervention · intercultural and intergenerational dialogue
- VI. Youth Voice · peer-level prevention
- VII. Close · one ask, one offer

"States Parties shall, as appropriate, collaborate with each other and relevant international and regional organizations in promoting and developing the measures referred to in this article."

CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, ARTICLE 31 (7)

Your presence and your national experience would make an invaluable contribution to this dialogue. We look forward to welcoming you in Room MOE79 on Thursday 22 October 2026 at 9:00, and kindly request your reply by email to un@hwpl.at.

With respect and warm regards,



Thomas Galler

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ABOUT HWPL

In special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2017 and registered with the UN Department of Global Communications. Peace education in 1,012 institutions, 112 countries.