

Supporting Awareness, Facilitating  
Enforcement of Children's Rights  
in the Yemeni Conflict (SAFE)



مشروع تعزيز الوعي وضمان  
حقوق الأطفال خلال النزاع  
في اليمن (SAFE)



التحالف اليمني لرصد  
انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان  
Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring  
Human Rights Violations



# Concept Note

Online Panel Discussion

## The Six Grave Human Rights Violations Perpetrated Against Children in Yemen: Local and International Accountability and Protection Mechanisms



Thursday,  
September 28, 2023



3:00-5:00 pm  
Yemen Time

ZOOM



## Background

This panel discussion is hosted by Watch for Human Rights (Watch4HR) and the Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations in Yemen (YCMHRV). Both organizations are supported by technical and financial assistance by DT Institute as part of the Supporting Awareness, Facilitating Enforcement of Children’s Rights in the Yemeni Conflict (SAFE) project. SAFE aims to unite efforts in safeguarding Yemeni children from severe human rights violations during the armed conflict. Under SAFE, Watch4HR and YCMHRV collaborate with local stakeholders to enhance the recognition of children’s rights both locally and internationally and facilitate accountability for those responsible for violating children’s rights.

Pursuant these goals, the SAFE project consortium partners use the following strategies :

- 01** Conduct community-based and victim-centered civic education campaigns to empower human rights defenders to safely report violations.
- 02** Document and investigate human rights violations, compiling reports that can be used as credible evidence of serious violations against Yemeni children. These reports will serve as a basis for initiating dialogues on justice and accountability with international stakeholders.
- 03** Foster dialogue among various actors within the Yemeni justice sector to protect children from gross human rights violations during and after the conflict.

SAFE’s interventions aim to amplify the voices of victims, survivors, and their families who have been underrepresented in both local and international advocacy dialogues. Additionally, the project seeks to broaden the base of international allies advocating for an end to impunity regarding severe human rights violations against Yemeni children.

### Consortium Partners:

DT Institute is a nonprofit organization that is both a funder and implementer. As a funder, DT Institute supports research activities and program implementation globally. As an implementer, DT Institute focuses on strengthening communities and leaders, as well as developing new approaches through action-oriented research.

Watch for Human Rights (Watch4HR) is a non-profit human rights organization that contributes to the preservation and defense of victims’ rights, accountability, and achieving justice and peace. It documents human rights violations in Yemen and mobilizes support for efforts to curb violations, expose perpetrators and hold them accountable, educate the Yemeni society and victims about their rights and protection mechanisms, and improve the Yemeni human rights situation.

Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV), also known as “Rasd Coalition,” is an alliance of specialized Yemeni CSOs working on human rights in Yemen. YCMHRV monitors, documents, and reports on human rights violations in Yemen and participates in submitting reports to the relevant Yemeni authorities and international organizations.



## Panel Objectives

The panel discussion aims to introduce the six grave violations against children, shed light on violations committed by all parties to the conflict, and facilitate dialogue between key stakeholders on protecting children from the six grave violations during armed conflict and holding perpetrators accountable. The discussion will cover ways to involve families of child victims in accountability discussions, direct pressure on the violating parties, strengthen the relationship between accountability and peace consultations in Yemen, and advocate for access to justice both during and after the conflict.



## Expected outcomes

01

Five short substantive presentations:

- a. The six gross violations of children's rights during the conflict in Yemen.
- b. Local accountability mechanisms for child protection in Yemen.
- c. International accountability mechanisms for protecting children in Yemen.
- d. Rehabilitation of children and their reintegration into society.
- e. Violations of children's rights in Yemen: a case study

02

A list of recommendations to various stakeholders regarding violations against children and the need to activate accountability at the local and international levels.

03

A one- or two-page statement will be shared based on the panel discussion outcomes.



## Structure and Format

### ▶ Participants

A list of 50 male and female participants was developed and includes representatives of relevant local and international civil society organizations, government institutions, political parties, journalists, academic institutions, jurists, and parties concerned with children's issues (see Appendix 1: List of participants).

### ▶ Moderation

The online panel discussion will be moderated by Ms. Marta Mendes, senior international human rights advisor.

### ▶ Moderation

Five experts developed two- to four-page presentations, share facts, provide opinions, and answer participants' questions. The panelists are:



**Ms. Marta Mendes**

senior international human rights advisor



**Mr. Yasser Almoliki**

activist, and lawyer, will discuss the six grave violations of children's rights during the conflict in Yemen.



**Judge Shaif Al-Shaibani**

Head of the Training and Rehabilitation Department of the Attorney General's Office, will present a review of local accountability mechanisms for protecting children in Yemen.



**Ms. Niku Jafarnia**

representative of Human Rights Watch, will present a review of international accountability mechanisms for child protection.



**Dr. Anjila Sultan**

Executive Founder Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children .



**Mr. Dan Wilkofsky**

A researcher from the DT Institute will present a review of a case study of child abuse in Yemen.



## Agenda

Speaker	Suggested Speaking Time
<b>Opening Remarks:</b>	<b>15 minutes</b>
▶ Mr. Feras Hamdouni, SAFE Senior Program Manager	5 minutes
▶ Mr. Akram Al-Shawafi, Chairperson of Watch4HR	5 minutes
▶ Mr. Mutahar Al-Bathiji, Chairperson of YCMHRV	5 minutes
Brief Remarks and Introduction of Panelists: Moderator: Ms. Marta Mendes	5 minutes
<b>Presentations:</b>	<b>60 minutes</b>
▶ Panelist: Mr. Yasser Almoliki	12 minutes
▶ Panelist: Judge Shaif Al-Shaibani	12 minutes
▶ Panelist: Ms. Niku Jafarnia	12 minutes
▶ Dr. Anjila Sultan	12 minutes
▶ Panelist: Mr. Dan Wilkofsky	12 minutes
<b>Interactive Dialogue:</b> Facilitator: Ms. Marta Mendes	<b>30 minutes</b>
▶ Interventions from attendees and key speakers	10 minutes
▶ Q&A Session.	20 minutes
<b>Concluding Remarks and Closing</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>



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