



THE DOSSIER

# Children Born of War: Considerations for Policymakers

*By Ingvill Constanze Ødegaard and Emily Prey*





# Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	3
Introduction .....	4
Recent Policies and Documents on Children Born of War .....	4
Background of the CBOW research field .....	5
Evidence Through Cooperation: The Importance of Practitioners .....	6
Bosnia-Herzegovina 1992-1995 .....	7
Cameroon 2017-Present .....	8
Uganda 1986-2008 .....	8
Ukraine 2014-Present .....	9
Policy Recommendations .....	10

The views expressed in this article are those of the authors and not an official policy or position of the New Lines Institute.

COVER: Local government leaders, civil society members, and war survivors gather for inception meeting in Pabbo Town Council on March 12, 2024, for a project to document children born in captivity in northern Uganda. (Photo by Justice and Reconciliation Project)

## The New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy

**Our mission** is to provoke principled and transformative leadership based on peace and security, global communities, character, stewardship, and development.

**Our purpose** is to shape U.S. foreign policy based on a deep understanding of regional geopolitics and the value systems of those regions.





# Children Born of War: Considerations for Policymakers

*By Ingvill Constanze Ødegaard and Emily Prey*

## Executive Summary

In the past few decades, the topic of conflict-related sexual violence has been an increasing part of the agenda both in research among civil society organizations and in politics. Despite the growing awareness that wars not only take but also begin lives, policymakers have long overlooked the topic of children born of war (CBOW). The ongoing discourse for the most part addresses children born of conflict-related sexual violence, despite evidence that children are conceived during war through a variety of relationships along and across conflict lines. For many CBOW, postwar stigmatization and discrimination is not solely associated with the act of conception; what defines the child is the role the father is perceived to have had in the conflict, especially if that role was related to the aggressing armed group or military. This implies that the perception of the father as being part of an enemy military, paramilitary, or rebel group is passed along to his offspring, oftentimes with harmful consequences.

Due to the lack of voices and access to children born of war, the perspectives of those children are overwhelmingly missing in ongoing research and policy developments. To close this gap:

1. A child-centered approach needs to be at the center of CBOW research and policy.
2. Any of the 196 State Parties to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child should propose an amendment to the treaty that explicitly mentions CBOW.
3. The international humanitarian community should recognize CBOW and their mothers as special victims of armed hostilities.
4. Local education and training on the basic human rights of CBOW, in particular the right to birth registration and to obtain citizenship, should begin as early as possible in conflict situations, and cultural and political contexts must be taken into consideration.
5. CBOW must be explicitly addressed in humanitarian guidelines and documents so international mechanisms and agendas, like the Women, Peace and Security agenda, can secure the [human rights](#) of CBOW.
6. Countries affected by conflict should introduce long-term monitoring systems to communicate with and follow up on CBOW to improve the evidence base for policy developments.
7. Countries affected by conflict should begin legislating protections for CBOW as soon as possible.
8. Civil society, academia, governmental organizations, policymakers, and all other relevant stakeholders should work to break down siloes within the field of CBOW. Evidence-based policy developments that serve CBOW can be achieved when academics, practitioners, organizations, and other relevant stakeholders focus on cooperation rather than reinventing the wheel and protecting their own interests.



## Introduction

Children are too often overlooked during war. [Historically](#), the harms inflicted upon children during war are not investigated or documented as rigorously as the harms inflicted upon adults, and crimes against children are rarely prosecuted. Neither the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia nor the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda mentioned crimes against children and children's rights in a substantial way, missing [a key opportunity](#) to build jurisprudence and develop best practices and procedures regarding children's rights. Children are victims of, and affected by, every crime during conflict and yet, in international justice mechanisms, they are often ignored. However, in recent years, some positive developments highlighting the importance of child rights and protections during and after war have transpired.

While this report focuses specifically on the issue of children born of war (children of enemy soldiers, children of soldiers from occupation forces, children of child soldiers, and children of peacekeeping forces), policymakers and the international community must continue to prioritize and learn from the wide and varied experiences of all children in active conflict and post-conflict situations to create more effective and sustainable policy solutions that assist states in rebuilding after war. This includes an increased awareness and focus on marginalized groups of children, such as CBOW, who may be in particular danger of being ignored and overlooked during and after conflict. For the purposes of this report, their background as CBOW defines them into adulthood. So in this sense, the use of the term "children born of war" has a wider context.

### Recent Policies and Documents on Children Born of War

Practitioners and policymakers working in the field of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) have begun to increase their focus on children conceived through CRSV. This has been documented in [United Nations reports](#), [British government initiatives](#), [civil society roundtables](#) and [reports](#), and even [legislation](#) passed in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The issue of these children is increasingly a factor in policy creation: The Office

of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court launched its "[Policy on Children](#)" in 2023 to address their historic underrepresentation in international criminal justice proceedings; Norway's latest [Women, Peace and Security \(WPS\) National Action Plan](#), released in 2023, highlights the importance of a gender perspective in humanitarian response with respect to children born of wartime rape as well as children born to parents on opposite sides of a conflict; and New Lines Institute's 2023 report "[CRSV in Ukraine: Lessons from Bosnia-Herzegovina](#)" discusses the reality that CBOW exist in Ukraine and urges policymakers to take steps to address the issue and support them. In February 2024, the German-based organization Kindernothilfe published a [study](#) on sexual violence against children in Ukraine, calling attention to the specific needs of children who have suffered such violence, including the topic of children born of war. In June 2024, the Global Survivors Fund (GSF) published a briefing addressing the [reparations to CBOW born of CRSV](#).

The inclusion of children born of wartime sexual violence in national and international policy documents is a great success for all those who have been addressing the topic for [decades](#). Children born of wartime sexual violence is not a new development. Historically, the international community has considered both CRSV and the children conceived as a result more or less as "collateral damage." CRSV was used as a weapon of war long before the United Nations defined it as such in 2008.

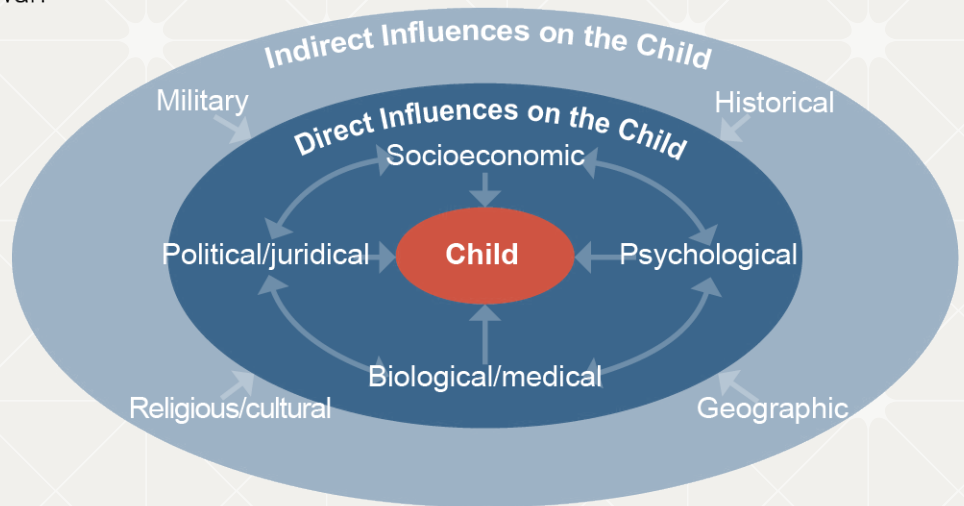
The first, and so far most comprehensive, overview of these children born in various conflicts has been provided by the [War and Children Identity Project](#), an organization based in Bergen, Norway. That country's postwar treatment of the children of civilian Norwegian mothers and fathers who were members of Germany's occupying force during World War II led to the establishment of the organization. The circumstances of those children also provided the basis for many research projects over the past two decades. Many of these so-called [krigsbarn](#) (war children) experienced discrimination and stigmatization in family, community, and society in postwar Norway due to their background as "children of the enemy." A significant difference from today's focus on children born of conflict-related sexual



# Influences on the Development of Children Born of War

Challenges faced by children born of war:

- **The socioeconomic dimension** includes factors such as stigma, social exclusion, poverty, and social deprivation.
- **The psychological dimension** is often characterized by factors such as taboo, lies, shame, and identity crises.
- **Biological/medical factors** may include infanticide, poor health, abuse, and trauma.
- **The political/juridical dimension** includes statelessness and access to personal information or to social services that are often linked to citizenship.



These are often interrelated, and evidence indicates that these children are affected by many factors simultaneously. Additionally, the historical, geographic, religious, and ethnic context of the conflict indirectly affects their treatment in society.

Note: Actors affecting children include politicians, experts, media, society, family, and the child  
Source: Mochmann (2017, modified version)

© 2024, The New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy

violence is that for the most part, these children were mainly the result of consensual and sometimes even loving relationships. The nature of their parents' relationship, however, did not protect them in postwar Norway. After WWII, the same treatment of other children with similar parentage has been [documented](#) in other European countries, including Denmark, the Netherlands, and France. Children fathered by members of Allied forces in postwar Germany were also treated differently, although the consequences for these children with fathers who were members of the Allied forces and mothers who were German civilians were much more diverse. [Research](#) covering 75 years of conflicts since WWII has shown that CBOW, regardless of the circumstances of their conception, face distinct vulnerabilities and stigmatization that need to be addressed through policy solutions.

## Background of the CBOW research field

In [2006](#), an international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral research group agreed to apply the concept "children born of war" to all children independent of the circumstance of conception and categorize CBOW in [four categories](#) as suggested by

Mochmann: 1) children of enemy soldiers, 2) children of soldiers from occupation forces, 3) children of child soldiers, and 4) children of peacekeeping forces. This early effort to define and structure the research field of children born of war was initiated by the need to have a clear definition and understanding of which group of children are meant in comparison to other war-affected children. Furthermore, an objective, nondiscriminatory concept for children born of members of local civilian women and members of foreign forces was strongly needed as these children were often perceived and addressed as enemy children, children of shame, children of hate, and other deleterious names by their peers and adults alike.

Children born of war were originally defined as "a child that has one parent that was part of an army or peace keeping force and the other parent a local citizen." In 2016, the definition was reformulated to take into account the changing landscape of war: "those children who, in the context of an armed conflict, have a local civilian woman as a mother and are fathered by a foreign soldier, para-military officer, rebel or other person directly participating in hostilities." Due to the special situation of peacekeeping forces in conflict





# Four Categories of Children Born of War

## Children of Enemy Soldiers:

These children are fathered by foreign soldiers who are located in the country or region and are clearly defined as enemies.

## Children from Occupation Forces:

In this case the soldiers can be seen as enemies or allied, but they are soldiers occupying a certain area.

## Children of Child Soldiers:

This category includes children born of child soldiers. These child soldiers were often kidnapped and gave birth in captivity.

## Children of Peacekeeping Forces:

These children are fathered by members of peacekeeping forces, who are stationed in areas of conflict and disaster, and local women. Depending on the view of the local population, these children may be perceived as enemies.



Mothers and other caretakers of children born in captivity gather under a mango tree in the Amuru district on April 11, 2024, to document their children. (Photo by The Justice and Reconciliation Project)

Source: Mochmann 2008

© 2024, The New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy

settings, children fathered by peacekeepers are now defined as CBOW as well. For the purposes of this report, the authors use the 2016 definition, which includes children born to parents from across conflict lines and considers various types of relationships and how they may be blurred during times of war.

## Evidence Through Cooperation: The Importance of Practitioners

CBOW are [often not registered at birth](#), leading to issues of statelessness, and do not know their biological origins. A statistical estimate of their numbers is thus not possible. In this respect, working closely with humanitarian practitioners and organizations on the ground is imperative for both collecting data and information on CBOW and their mothers as well as understanding the needs of CBOW who are often still too young to speak for themselves.

The following case studies cover Bosnia, Uganda, Cameroon, and Ukraine, four countries where conflict is either ongoing or has ended relatively recently and where the issue of CBOW must be addressed. Both Bosnia and Uganda are dealing with the consequences of children born of war following a regional or civil conflict. Both countries and their civil society have been active in addressing CBOW rights and interests. In Bosnia, Ajna Jusić, a CBOW herself, leads the Forgotten Children of War Association, which has helped pass legislation giving children born of wartime sexual violence the status of “war victims.” Meanwhile, Cameroon and Ukraine are in the midst of active conflicts. In Ukraine, [for the first time, reparations](#) are now being paid to survivors of CRSV in an ongoing conflict. This outcome is due to the widespread global attention that the war has received by policymakers and the media. But it also demonstrates how unevenly attention to CRSV is distributed and, as an extension, to CBOW. Public awareness and acceptance and



policy changes are often dependent on the visibility and recognition of a conflict.

*In the following section, we summarize the responses of individuals working on behalf of CBOW in Bosnia, Cameroon, Uganda, and Ukraine. We would like to thank Ajna Jusić, Jamils Richard Achunji Anguaseh, Dr. Ojok Boniface and Capri Isabel Gutiérrez, and Oksana Drozdovska for sharing their thoughts and reflections.*

### Bosnia-Herzegovina 1992-1995

In Bosnia-Herzegovina alone, it is estimated that 30,000 to 50,000 women and girls were raped by Serb forces during war in the Balkans, resulting in 2,000 to 4,000 births. Even decades later, these children born of wartime sexual violence continue to face societal rejection and stigma and are often referred to as a “hidden population.” One of the key challenges advocates on behalf of CBOW in Bosnia face is the lack of recognition and protection for these children – now adults – on national and international levels. Despite extensive research on the consequences of wartime rape and a growing understanding among the policy community that conflict-related sexual violence is not a byproduct of war but in fact a method of war in and of itself, states have not established mechanisms specifically addressing the needs of children born of wartime rape. The lack of legal and policy frameworks perpetuates the marginalization and vulnerability of these children, leaving them at risk of physical and emotional abuse, limiting their access

to education, and increasing their risk of involvement in criminal activities.

The intergenerational impacts of conflict-related sexual violence on children born of wartime sexual violence and their mothers further compounds the physical, psychological, social, and economic challenges these populations face. Their mothers face the further stigma of single motherhood and being a survivor of sexual violence. Without adequate support and access to rights, both mothers and children struggle with trauma, poverty, and social exclusion.

The global reluctance to address reproductive violence and the issue of CBOW undermines the principles of transitional justice, hindering efforts toward truth, reconciliation, accountability, and reparations in post-conflict societies. However, change is possible through awareness, policy reforms, and international collaboration. Targeted interventions such as education, psychosocial support, and economic empowerment can help these families to overcome barriers and build brighter futures, with collective action key to ensuring their rights and well-being. Ultimately, addressing the complex issues surrounding children born of wartime sexual violence requires a multifaceted approach that involves governments, civil society organizations, international agencies, and affected communities.

Bosnia stands as an example of this approach. In 2022, the [Forgotten Children of War Association](#) helped to pass legislation in the Brčko district that

## Featured Civil Society Organizations



Forgotten Children of War Association  
(Bosnia)



Children Born of War Project  
(Norway)



Global Welfare Association  
(Cameroon)



Unity for the Future  
(Ukraine)



Justice and Reconciliation Project  
(Uganda)

© 2024, The New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy





legally recognized children born of war. In 2023, the Federation Parliament went a step further with the Law on the Protection of Civilian Victims of War, which recognizes children born of wartime rape as victims of war and grants them new rights and protections under the law.

### Cameroon 2017-Present

In the armed conflict in Cameroon, the number of children being born as a result of wartime sexual violence is steadily increasing. According to the Global Welfare Association ([GLOWA](#)), a local NGO that conducts research and documents cases of CBOW, both the armed forces and armed nonstate actors in northwest and southwest Cameroon are responsible. GLOWA President Jamils Richard Achunji Anguaseh has said CBOW and their mothers must be recognized as special victims of armed hostilities and that the international community should provide them with an independent status within international humanitarian response mechanisms. Presently, the U.N.'s humanitarian cluster system groups victims of CRSV and the resulting CBOW into the larger cluster of gender-based violence. Yet, survivors of CRSV rarely seek humanitarian aid for fear of retribution by the perpetrators, with the result that victims often do not receive justice.

GLOWA estimates that over the last seven years of the conflict, thousands of children have been conceived through wartime rape. Most of the children with whom GLOWA has worked were fathered by nonstate armed group (NSAG) fighters, and more than 70% do not know the identities of their biological fathers. As in Bosnia, this puts these children at risk of social stigma and exclusion. It also affects their inheritance rights. The most sustainable solution is to educate conflict-affected communities on the importance of birth registration and to increase options for legal adoption so that CBOW can grow up within a legal framework of protection in their communities.

Local education plays an important role, especially during an active conflict as in Cameroon, where the public education system is paralyzed. While Cameroonian politicians have promoted the idea that NSAGs are terrorists, NSAGs claim they are fighting for self-determination. Due to the nature of

their births, CBOW are seen as having “bloodstained hands” based on the activities of their fathers, who are overwhelmingly members of NSAGs. GLOWA believes there is a potential future risk of radicalization of CBOW given their societal ostracization and the public pronouncements from domestic policymakers regarding their biological fathers. While the work of GLOWA in documenting cases of CBOW is critical to highlighting the issue, more needs to be done by the international community for them and their mothers.

### Uganda 1986-2008

During the civil war in Uganda, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) pursued a brutal two-decade campaign of violence against women and girls. This included abducting and forcibly marrying thousands of women and girls who then gave birth to thousands of children. In northern Uganda, children born of wartime sexual violence continue to face a number of unaddressed challenges. Among the most salient issues includes the stigma and shame they face as a result of their identity as children of the enemies, or children who were born from the bush (*olum olum*). The [Justice and Reconciliation Project](#) (JRP), an NGO based in northern Uganda that has empowered war victims to participate in processes of healing, redress, and reconciliation since 2005, has found the familial and social rejection of CBOW difficult to overcome in many communities. According to Dr. Ojok Boniface and Capri Isabel Gutiérrez of JRP, due to the stigma surrounding their births, CBOW are often rejected by their immediate natal relatives who view them as illegitimate and “of the enemy.” CBOW struggle to access rights, education, health care, ancestral land, and more.

Many of them have become young adults without land, skills, or education; they have few livelihood prospects, and many struggle to meet their basic needs. Nearly 20 years since the war ended, the majority of Uganda's CBOW have reported to JRP that they received no support from either the government or civil society. To effectively and holistically address the needs of CBOW in Uganda, the first step is to take a census of the CBOW and determine their specific needs. This data can help inform NGO programs, local government interventions, and national government policies addressing them. According to the Ugandan National





An enumerator talks with the mother of a child born in captivity with support from a survivor mobilizer on Aug. 14, 2024, in the Amuru district of northern Uganda. (Photo by Justice and Reconciliation Project)

Transitional Justice Policy, the lack of data on CBOW and other war victims is one of the foremost barriers to implementing a national reparations policy. CBOW in northern Uganda continue to lack identification documents, which hinders their ability to access services and excludes them from governmental development programs.

Moving forward, CBOW must be prioritized within the ongoing transitional justice processes. While the recent conviction of the LRA's Dominic Ongwen by the International Criminal Court on war crimes charges will result in reparations paid to CBOW within four case locations, all other CBOW not living in these areas will be left out. The Ugandan government should pass a national reparations bill specifically highlighting the vulnerabilities of CBOW and their mothers. The Ugandan justice sector and local civil society partnered to take a small but positive step toward recognition and justice for CBOW by implementing a program to ensure they receive national ID cards to assist them in overcoming registration challenges connected with place of birth and fathers' names.

Lastly, as this program highlighted, civil society must increase collaboration and coalition-building efforts on behalf of CBOW. JRP recognizes the complex challenges facing children born of war and has implemented several programs to address them. Most critically, JRP began a family tracing program to help reintegrate CBOW with their families and

explore possibilities to promote dialogue between the children (and their mothers) and paternal clans and Acholi traditional cultural institutions (*Ker Kwar Acholi*). The JRP also provides advocacy training, referrals, and livelihood support to CBOW and their mothers through the Women's Advocacy Network, a forum of 21 groups of formerly abducted women created by the JRP. Currently, the JRP is piloting an initiative aimed at filling the data gap by engaging the different parishes in Amuru district to contribute information on numbers, needs, and challenges of documentation in northern Uganda. More funding is still required to undertake a comprehensive survey of the extent of the problem in northern Uganda.

### Ukraine 2014-Present

Russian-affiliated forces have used sexual violence as a method of war in Ukraine since Russia seized Crimea in 2014. Historically, CRSV often takes place among other forms of violence like the destruction of property or captivity and comprises multiple levels of victimization. Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, only a few children have been formally reported as being born as a result of wartime sexual violence. However, NGO and aid workers in Ukraine have unofficially documented several cases.

Civil society in Ukraine understands that if CRSV is taking place, inevitably children will be born. And we know from other wars that during protracted conflict and occupation, children can be born from consensual relationships that occur across conflict lines. Local authorities and organizations working with survivors of CRSV in the eastern territories of Ukraine have been receiving [training](#) in CRSV and CBOW to prepare to support these children and their mothers. [Unity for the Future of Ukraine](#) is one of the organizations dedicating time and resources to this issue. Communications and Partnerships Manager Oksana Drozdovska emphasizes that while the scale of CBOW in Ukraine is not yet known, the country would benefit greatly from [learning lessons](#) from past conflicts in Bosnia and Uganda, where laws now guarantee the rights and status of CBOW and where civil society is actively engaged in providing the most holistic and inclusive support to them and their mothers. If Ukrainian policymakers and civil society organizations can lay the foundations now for societal



acceptance of CBOW and their mothers, Ukraine will be better positioned during any post-conflict transitional justice period.

## Policy Recommendations

These four case studies show similarities and differences in how the interests and rights of CBOW can and need to be addressed in different contexts around the world.

1. CBOW must be included in policy discussions at all levels. As more conflicts occur around the world, this is an issue that must be looked at in the context of the social reconstruction of a country during and after conflict. There is a noticeable difference in the attention given to CBOW depending on the visibility and international interest in the conflict in general, but all policies on CBOW should primarily take the child's perspectives and needs into account, not only those of their mothers.
2. Any one of the 196 State Parties to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child should propose an amendment to the Convention to explicitly mention CBOW within the treaty.
3. The international humanitarian community should recognize CBOW and their mothers as special victims of armed hostilities. Rather than grouping them within the larger sexual and gender-based violence cluster, the U.N. should provide them with an independent status within international humanitarian response mechanisms.
4. Local education and training on CBOW in conflict situations is crucial, and cultural and political contexts must be taken into consideration. Policymakers in some situations should first prioritize birth registration and legal adoption mechanisms, while in others they should prioritize legislation or civil society support.
5. CBOW must be explicitly addressed in humanitarian guidelines for international mechanisms and agendas to secure their human rights. For example, in May 2024 the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs published its fifth [National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security](#) (WPS NAP), which states that Norway expects "recipients of Norwegian humanitarian funding to carry out intersectional needs analyses, which should form the basis for how humanitarian efforts are implemented. We should be particularly aware of the needs of: ... Children born of war." Norway's WPS NAP defines CBOW as children conceived through rape during armed conflict and other children of war who have parents from opposite sides of a conflict. This offers a broader definition of CBOW that takes into account that consensual relationships may be blurred in times of conflict. In this context, it is important to note that the discourse among academics, practitioners, and policymakers mainly focuses on children born specifically of rape. The dominating narrative seems to be that women who voluntarily engage in a relationship with the perceived "enemy" are responsible for any consequences. This overlooks the many more or less voluntary relationships in war and how these relationships may exist in a gray zone due to the compounding vulnerabilities women face during war; it can be difficult to distinguish between consensual, coercive, and forced sexual relations. The "consensual" relationships women have with humanitarian actors and peacekeeping forces during and post-conflict, and any children conceived during these relationships, are also overlooked in most policy conversations.
6. Countries affected by conflict should introduce long-term monitoring systems to communicate with and follow up on CBOW to improve the evidence base for policy developments, similar to measures the CBOW Project has [implemented](#). Setting up proper research [data infrastructures](#) that can collect and share relevant information from all stakeholders with interested parties in a sensitive and anonymized way is an important technique to reduce over-researching vulnerable populations. To make the most out of existing sources, it is imperative that those sources are shared widely among stakeholders, taking into consideration privacy and sensitivity recommendations. Existing guidelines such as the [MURAD code](#) and the [FAIR](#) and [CARE](#) principles are well developed for documenting and collecting relevant data and sources. Sharing sources in emergency situations is also important. Conflict zones may require





special procedures for timely sharing of knowledge on CBOW to secure lives. The UNESCO-CODATA guidelines for “[Data Policy in Time of Crises Facilitated by Open Science](#)” addresses specific challenges to real-time emergencies and provides recommendations for action of relevance also to front-line workers.

7. Countries affected by conflict should begin legislating protections for CBOW as soon as possible. While Bosnia is a positive example of this, it took years of advocacy by CBOW themselves regarding their rights and victim status. By putting in place protections for CBOW under the law early on, this can reduce some of the barriers CBOW face to access services and societal integration.
8. Civil society, academia, governmental organizations, policymakers, and all other relevant stakeholders should work to break down siloes within the field of CBOW. The success of CBOW activism is two-sided. In the last decade, the number of stakeholders engaging in the topic of CBOW has increased significantly. Often, previous work is not known or recognized, new narratives are being implemented, specific agenda settings are being promoted, and selected voices are dominating the field. Evidence-based policy development that serves CBOW can be achieved when academics, practitioners, organizations, and other relevant stakeholders focus on cooperation rather than reinventing the wheel and protecting their own interests.

### The Children Born of War Project (CBOW Project)

The Children Born of War Project (CBOW Project) is a Norway-based foundation. It was established in 2020 and builds upon previous work of the International Network for Interdisciplinary Research on Children Born of War which was established by Ingvill Constanze Ødegaard (formerly Mochmann) in 2008. The mission of the CBOW Project is to improve the situation for children born of war all over the world. To achieve this, the foundation works to promote and safeguard the needs and rights of CBOW as a means of alleviating the personal, social, economic, legal, and political challenges they face. The CBOW Project works toward developing evidence-based solutions that adequately address the needs and rights of CBOW

and to do so by engaging in information-gathering, training, research, and advocacy.

[www.cbowproject.org](http://www.cbowproject.org)



### Dr. Ingvill Constanze Ødegaard

is a Norwegian political scientist and professor. She is an expert on children born of war (CBOW) and is the founder of the International Network of Interdisciplinary Research on Children Born of War (INIRC-CBOW) and chairwoman

and managing director of the foundation Children Born of War Project (CBOW Project). She has published widely on the topic of children born of war for more than 20 years and has, among others, advised the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Global Survivors Fund, Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation, Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative, Kindernothilfe, Society for Threatened Peoples, UNICEF, ICC, and the BAFTA-winning mobile game “My Child Lebensborn.” Ødegaard graduated in comparative politics at the University of Bergen, Norway, and holds a doctorate in political science from the University of Giessen, Germany, and a postdoctoral habilitation in the social sciences at the University of Cologne, Germany. She is presently a partner in the ERC consolidator grant EuroWARCHILD at the Center for Gender Research at the University of Oslo and a member of the UNESCO-CODATA DPTC working group.



**Emily Prey** is New Lines’ Director of Gender Policy. Prior to joining the New Lines Institute, she served as Project Manager of the Financial Integration in Displacement Initiative of the International Rescue Committee at Tufts University. She has also

worked with the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and multiple global NGOs. She has several years of experience living and working in international development settings in Southeast Asia, East Africa, and the Middle East. She obtained her Master’s degree in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and her Bachelor’s in History from Williams College. She tweets at @eepreylove.

## Contact



For media inquiries, email [media@newlinesinstitute.org](mailto:media@newlinesinstitute.org)



To submit a piece to the New Lines Institute, email [submissions@newlinesinstitute.org](mailto:submissions@newlinesinstitute.org)



For other inquiries, send an email to [info@newlinesinstitute.org](mailto:info@newlinesinstitute.org)



1660 L St. NW, Suite 450  
Washington, D.C., 20036



(202) 800-7302

## Connect With Us



@newlinesinst



@New Lines Institute  
for Strategy and Policy



Subscribe



Sign up