

## 2.ª edição do NERIMUN

Núcleo de Estudantes de Relações Internacionais da UP – NERI-UP

Participação como **Keynote Speaker** em **MUN** (Model United Nations), simulação da Assembleia Geral da ONU em que os participantes adotam o papel de delegado de um país ou Organização Internacional e têm de representar a delegação que lhes foi atribuída, em inglês.

Tema: “Women's and Children's Rights in violent Conflict Zones”

27 de abril, UP, 14 h



Mr. President,

Members of the United Nations,

Dear Sirs,

Good afternoon.

As I am here playing the role of the European Union's Special Representative, I come today to this House of the United Nations to present the report as requested on the situation of Women's and Children's Rights in violent Conflict Zones.

Almost 70 years ago the European Union presented peace as one of its founding values<sup>1</sup>. And it is not questionable that the European Union is



certainly still one of the places in the world where democracy and fundamental rights are protected in the best way<sup>2</sup>. Already more than 60 years of peace on a globe where 60 military conflicts live, but none of these wars happen in the Union's territory<sup>3</sup>.

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However, that is not the reality in the world. And in a world where conflicts do exist, there are women and children involved. Women and children who appear in a situation of extreme fragility and in the need for a special protection from international bodies such as the one we are in today. They need a wider and more real protection ensured by the implementation of international law norms and mechanisms.

In conflict zones women's and children's rights are hardly respected. If this is 'normal' in normal' circumstances, then it is exacerbated even more

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<sup>1</sup> Livro Branco da Comissão *Sobre o Futuro da Europa - Reflexões e cenários para a UE27 em 2025*. Documento COM(2017) 2025 final de 01.03.2017, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Comunicação da Comissão ao Conselho e ao Parlamento Europeu *sobre o artigo 7.º do Tratado da União Europeia. Respeito e promoção dos valores em que a União assenta*. Documento COM(2003) 606 final de 15.10.2003, p. 4.

<sup>3</sup> Conforme o discurso proferido pelo Presidente da Comissão Europeia, Jean-Claude Juncker, no Instituto de Estudos Europeus da Universidade Católica de Louvain-la-Neuve (Bélgica) intitulado «A Europa hoje e de amanhã», referência SPEECH/17/341 de 23 de fevereiro de 2017. Comemoraram-se em 25 de Março de 2017 os 60 anos dos Tratados de Roma que criaram a Comunidade Europeia da Energia Atómica (C. E. E. A. ou Euratom) (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/treaties/treaties-force.html#new-2-53>) e a Comunidade Económica Europeia (C. E. E.) (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/treaties/treaties-founding.html>).

<sup>4</sup> Livro Branco da Comissão *Sobre o Futuro da Europa - Reflexões e cenários para a UE27 em 2025*. Documento COM(2017) 2025 final de 01.03.2017, p. 6. ISBN 978-92-79-66490-8. DOI 10.2775/199912.

in situations of violent conflict. And women's and children's rights intersect at many important points<sup>5</sup>.

In 2018, when we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Union reaffirms its strong support for the work of the United Nations human rights system<sup>6</sup>. The Declaration is as a valid instrument as it was at the time of its adoption. Sadly, we are far from the full respect of these commitments all over the world. Rights and freedoms are still being challenged and the space for civil society protection is shrinking in many countries throughout the world. Therefore, the European Union will give strong priority to promoting and defending the universality of human rights and to raising the profile of human rights throughout the year. So should the UN.

The rights of women and children are not only at risk with war but they are themselves means of war. There is a need for awareness of the use of violence and sexual mutilation of women, girls and children as means of war. We are strongly condemning all forms of abuse and violence against women, girls and children, especially the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, as well as female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage, sexual slavery, marital rape, and other forms of harmful traditional practices. There is the need for women, girls and children abused in conflicts to have access to health and psychological care, in line with international law. As well there is the need to provide women with appropriate support and access to health and psychological care in case of rape in conflict situations. Also, there is the need for exchange of good practices to combat the lack of access

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At <http://pdfproc.lib.msu.edu/?file=/DMC/African%20Journals/pdfs/africa%20media%20review/vol11no3/jamr011003002.pdf>, 04/04/2018.

<sup>6</sup> Says Ambassador Peter Sørensen, Head of the EU Delegation to the UN in Geneva, at [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/40333/eu-priorities-37th-session-human-rights-council\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/40333/eu-priorities-37th-session-human-rights-council_en), 23/03/2018.

to justice for victims of crimes related to sexual violence and the lack of access to justice for women in third countries, specifically when they are victims of gender-based violence. It urges to improve the support available for victims, to incorporate gender-based violence interventions into humanitarian actions and to prioritise humanitarian actions targeting gender-based violence and sexual violence in conflict<sup>7, 8</sup>

Both women and children have been disproportionately affected by conflict as casualties of violence, as internally displaced persons and as refugees. Violence against women and children in conflict harms families, impoverishes communities and reinforces other forms of inequality. In addition, women and girls suffer direct violations of their physical integrity, for example through reproductive violations and enforced pregnancy. Most recent conflicts have been rife with epidemic rates of sexual and gender-based violence, combined with high levels of gender-based human rights violations. The reality is that sexual violence has often been dismissed as an unfortunate consequence of conflict, resulting in widespread impunity for these crimes and general tolerance of gender based violence in post-conflict societies.<sup>9</sup>

Therefore orientations to the European Parliament's delegations<sup>10</sup> are given to develop relations with the parliaments of non-EU countries, regions or organisations including the promotion of human rights and democracy in their visits outside the European Union.

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<sup>7</sup> Welcoming initiatives as the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict held in London in June 2014. At <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>, 05/04/2018.

<sup>8</sup> Relatório Anual 2017/C 399/19 do Parlamento Europeu sobre os Direitos Humanos e a Democracia no Mundo (2014) e a política da União nesta matéria, JOUE C 399 de 24.11.2017, p. 169, § 99 e 100.

<sup>9</sup> At <http://www.peaceau.org/en/topic/women-and-children-in-armed-conflicts-gender-mainstreaming> , 04/04/2018.

<sup>10</sup> At <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/home>, 04/04/2018.

I'm here expressing deep concern over the sufferings of women and children belonging to the civilian population who in periods of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence are too often the victims of inhuman acts and consequently suffer serious harm.

The international law is aware of the suffering of women and children in many areas of the world, especially in those areas subject to suppression, aggression, colonialism, racism, alien domination and foreign subjugation. It is true that there are already documents with these concerns to provide special protection of women and children belonging to the civilian population<sup>11</sup> but its implementation needs the encouragement to continue mainstreaming support for women and girls within the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, and to pursue its efforts for the implementation and strengthening of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (as 1325(2000) and 1820(2008)) on women, peace and security. There is a way still to go to support at international level the recognition of the added value of women's participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as in peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance and post-conflict reconstruction and democratic transition processes leading to lasting and stable political solutions.

All efforts should continue being made by States involved in armed conflicts, military operations in foreign territories or military operations in territories still under colonial domination to spare women and children from

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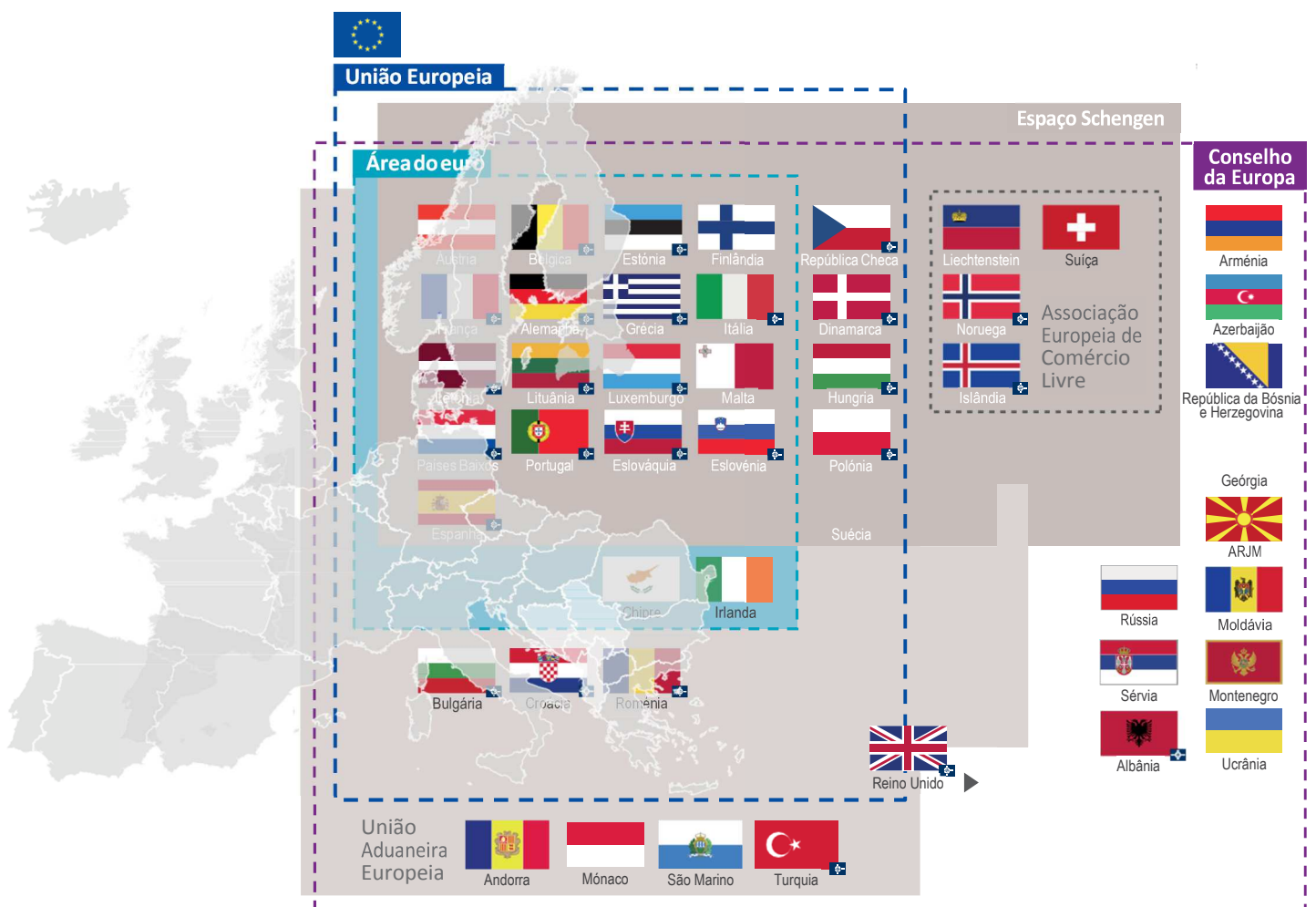
<sup>11</sup> As Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict Proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 3318 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974. At [http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.19\\_declaration%20protection%20women%20armed%20conflict.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.19_declaration%20protection%20women%20armed%20conflict.pdf) , 04/04/2018.

More recently the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security . At [http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/cdrom/documents/Background\\_Paper\\_Africa.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/cdrom/documents/Background_Paper_Africa.pdf), 05/04/2018. Or the Resolution 1820 (2008) adopted by the Security Council at its 5916th meeting, on 19 June 2008. At <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/CAC%20S%20RES%201820.pdf> , 05/04/2018.

the ravages of war. All the necessary steps should be taken to ensure the prohibition of measures such as persecution, torture, punitive measures, degrading treatment and violence, particularly against that part of the civilian population that consists of women and children.

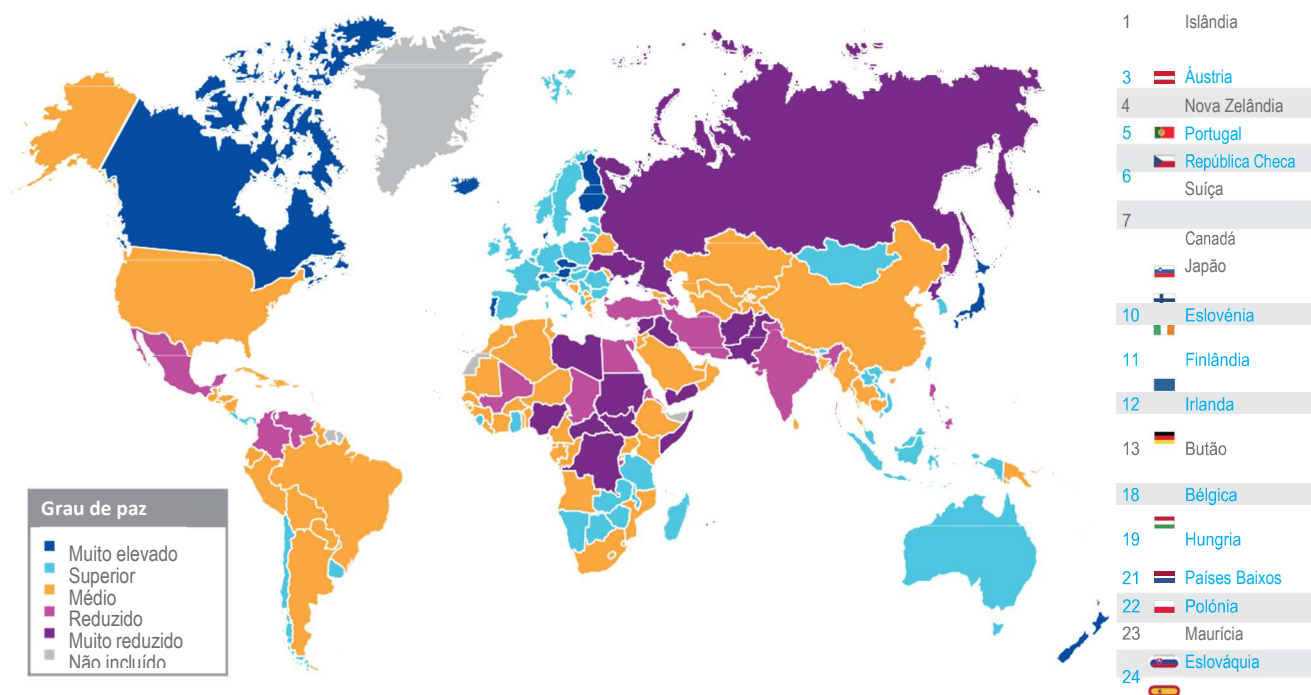
Still, from what was said, there is all yet to be done. And most of it is in your hands; the hands of young representatives of our international community here assembled today.

Thank you for your attention.



A Europa hoje<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Livro Branco da Comissão *Sobre o Futuro da Europa - Reflexões e cenários para a UE27 em 2025*. Documento COM(2017) 2025 final de 01.03.2017, p. 7. ISBN 978-92-79-66490-8. DOI 10.2775/199912.



Os 25 países mais pacíficos no mundo<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Livro Branco da Comissão *Sobre o Futuro da Europa - Reflexões e cenários para a UE27 em 2025*. Documento COM(2017) 2025 final de 01.03.2017, p. 12. ISBN 978-92-79-66490-8. DOI 10.2775/199912.