



MAS

Master of Advanced Studies  
Maîtrise universitaire d'études avancées

# Children's Rights

The Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights of the University of Geneva's Centre for Children's Rights Studies is pleased to invite you to a

## MASTER CLASS

# Saving Some, Killing Others: The Politics of Child Protection in Armed Conflict & Displacement

**Professor Jason Hart**

University of Bath, UK

**Friday 30th November 2018**

**2pm – 3.30pm**

Room "Loro" (Ground Floor)  
Centre for Children's Rights Studies  
Ch. de l'Institut 18 – CH 1967 Bramois

**Free attendance**

Please announce your participation to the MCR Secretariat  
[mcr-secretariat@unige.ch](mailto:mcr-secretariat@unige.ch)

*A cocktail will be served after the Master Class*

## Abstract

In popular imagination humanitarian organisations with a mandate for child protection act on our behalf to ensure that children are kept safe from harm in settings of armed conflict and mass displacement. With the wish to support such efforts, ordinary citizens regularly donate to *UNICEF*, *Save the Children*, *Terre des Hommes* and the many other child-focussed agencies that emerged in the 20th Century. And yet, for all the support from citizens and their governments, the reality on the ground is that protection efforts often fail. The tragic consequences of such failure are conveyed through news reports with depressing regularity.

The Master Class will consider the common reasons that children in many settings of armed conflict and mass displacement are left chronically exposed to severe violence, exploitation and abuse. Beyond the immediate, practical obstacles around inadequate funding, lack of capacity amongst humanitarian agencies and the poor design of interventions, we shall consider deeper causes within the domains of culture and political-economy. Arguably the protection efforts of humanitarian organisations have yet to take seriously the agency of children, remaining wedded to a vision of vulnerability and innocence articulated a century ago. Meanwhile, elites are gaining ever greater influence upon the work of child-focussed humanitarians both on the ground and at headquarters level where policy is formulated. The Master Class will conclude by considering what the frequent failure of humanitarians to undertake adequate protection efforts might tell us about the efficacy of an approach based upon children's rights.

## Professor Jason Hart

Jason Hart is a social anthropologist by training (BA, MA, Ph.D University of London). He joined the University of Bath in September 2009 after seven years as a researcher and lecturer at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford. He is also Visiting Lecturer at the Centre for Children's Rights Studies, University of Geneva.

Much of Jason's work has explored the experience of and institutional response to young people on the margins of society and the global economy. Themes such as protection, child rights, peace building, home, militarisation and asylum have been central to this research. Much of his research has been undertaken in situations of political violence and displacement. Jason has worked in South Asia (Sri Lanka, Nepal, India and Bhutan) and, increasingly, in the UK. However, his principal area of interest is the Middle East, particularly Israel / occupied Palestinian territories and Jordan. At present he is working on a four-country study of refugee shelter funded by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. This is his first opportunity to work with a team of engineers and architects in order to identify ways of improving shelter in refugee camps that enhances the physical, social and cultural conditions for residents.

He has been employed as a consultant author, researcher, evaluator and trainer by various UN, governmental and non-governmental organisations. These include UNICEF, Save the Children, PLAN, Care International, and the Canadian International Development Agency. He has also served as an advisor to the UN in the formulation of studies, guidelines and policies.

Jason is currently writing a book about the politics of child protection in settings of armed conflict and displacement. His lecture draws upon ideas being developed as part of this writing project.