

PUBLIC CONFERENCE

Thursday 26 April 2012

18 :30

Lecture hall R070, Uni Mail

Protecting the right to education during armed conflict

Following UNESCO's 2011 report "The hidden crisis: armed conflict and education", which called into question elements of the aid sector, CERAH, with the help of an outstanding selection of experts, decided to look again at the challenge to protect the right to education in times of war.

According to the UNESCO report, twenty-eight million children worldwide cannot pursue their education due to armed conflict. These children are exposed to a number of risks, such as attacks on their schools, rape and other sexual violence. The children are thus victims twice over. Their need for specific physical protection must be matched by greater protection of the right to education itself under all circumstances.

A panel of three experts will identify and analyse the complex and numerous obstacles that stand in the way of providing such protection, and will identify possible future avenues of action.

The conference panel members are:

Kishore Singh, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education

Katrien Beeckman, IFRC, author of a doctoral thesis on the protection of the right to education in Africa

Valérie Liechti, education matters, SDC

Programme :

Chair:

Christophe Golay, lecturer, CERAH and Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (ADH)

Speaker:

K. Singh, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education

Discussants:

K. Beeckman, Head, Principles & Values Department, IFRC

V.Liechti, Education Policy Adviser / SDC Education Focal Point, FDFA

The panel discussion will be followed by a Q & A session with the audience.