
Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, Cross Heading: Article 3. (See end of Document for details)

SCHEDULE **W**

THE CONVENTION, PROTOCOLS, DECLARATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

PART 2 **W**

PROTOCOLS

OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

Article 3

- 1 States Parties shall raise the minimum age for the voluntary recruitment of persons into their national armed forces from that set out in article 38, paragraph 3, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, taking account of the principles contained in that article and recognizing that under the Convention persons under the age of 18 years are entitled to special protection.
- 2 Each State Party shall deposit a binding declaration upon ratification of or accession to this Protocol that sets forth the minimum age at which it will permit voluntary recruitment into its national armed forces and a description of the safeguards that it has adopted to ensure that such recruitment is not forced or coerced.
- 3 States Parties that permit voluntary recruitment into their national armed forces under the age of 18 years shall maintain safeguards to ensure, as a minimum, that:
 - (a) such recruitment is genuinely voluntary;
 - (b) such recruitment is done with the informed consent of the person's parents or legal guardians;
 - (c) such persons are fully informed of the duties involved in such military service;
 - (d) such persons provide reliable proof of age prior to acceptance into national military service.
- 4 Each State Party may strengthen its declaration at any time by notification to that effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall inform all States Parties. Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received by the Secretary-General.
- 5 The requirement to raise the age in paragraph 1 of the present article does not apply to schools operated by or under the control of the armed forces of the States Parties, in keeping with articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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