

Welcome everybody

I am Nada, and I am 14 years old. I am the vice-president of the Palestinian National Children's Council in the Gaza Strip.

I'm so happy and pleased to participate with you in this important event

And I hope I would be able to deliver the voice of Gazan children to the whole world.

Like all children, we are innocent, beautiful, pure, and full of hope. We are like the birds that love to fly in the sky freely.

However, we need protection, love, safety, freedom, caring, good education, and a safe place to play like all children around the world.

Sadly, this is not the case for me and all Palestinian children. Our schools and homes are attacked in every round of violence. We experience the fear and get scared when we hear the sounds of explosions everywhere. Many children are killed and injured, and we saw all of this on TV.

We continue to suffer mentally from these experiences. I still see nightmares most of the nights; my best friend lost her father in a recent conflict. She was one of the best students in our class, but after these tragic events, she is not the same anymore.

We still suffer from the blockade on Gaza. Most families in Gaza cannot cover the needs of their children, including food, clothing, and healthcare. This high level of poverty and unemployment resulted in many children being exposed to neglect and domestic violence. We always hear about sad stories of children who are beaten or even killed by a family member.

If you visit any school in Gaza, you will immediately notice many students who come to school without school uniform and with torn shoes, especially in the winter. And how can a child study when there is no electricity?

We want to live in peace without fear and nightmares. That is why I decided to become active and learned to speak up and raise the voice of children. I participated in many initiatives supporting children's rights, including several accountability sessions with decision makers. I spoke in many events and recorded videos that support human rights and advocate for children's issues.

In the end, we want someone to protect and save our souls, smiles and rights. That is why I call the international community to support, help and protect us from everyday challenges we face. We ask you all to work together to fulfill respect to child rights, and end all kinds of violations against children. We need to feel safe and protected, we need proper education, we need safe places to play, and we need to live a decent life with a bright future.

Thank you