

Child soldiers- for or against

Charities like Comic Relief 'baby' and disrespect children who have fought in wars by presenting them only as victims.

Joining an army can help children in Africa to escape poverty.

Joining an army in Africa can mean that children get protection from older soldiers.

Children do understand the world they live in, and might to choose to fight for political reasons.

War and violence are the real problems – we need to tackle the causes of conflict rather than only focusing on child soldiers.

Joining the army in England can give young people a secure income.

Joining the army in England means that you can learn a trade.

Young people want to join the army because it gives them a chance to travel and to make friends.

An 18 year old isn't necessarily more sensible or more prepared to joining the army than a 16 or 17 year old.

Saying that 16 year olds are too young to make their own decisions isn't fair.

Child soldiers have usually been kidnapped and forced to fight.

Children are too young to understand politics and so must have been brainwashed into joining the army.

Children are physically weak and so they are more likely to get hurt in wars.

Children are emotionally fragile compared to adults, and are more likely to be disturbed by the horrible things they see.

People make silly decisions when they are young – a 16-year-old who joins the army might regret it when they grow up.

If a child joins the army they won't have time to do the things that children should do, like going to school and playing.

Child soldiers in Africa have usually been drugged.

Adults manipulate children into fighting for them.

Children are innocent and so they shouldn't be exposed to the horrors of war.

Children should be protected from violence, not involved in it.