

Read through the passage about child soldiers and highlight

1. Why children choose to fight
2. What we should be doing instead of just stopping under 18's fighting

### Child Soldiers

Some people think that the way charities like Comic Relief have shown child soldiers is wrong. They argue that charities disrespect and *disempower* children who have fought in wars by only showing them to be victims.

They do not say it is right for children to be fighting in wars. However, they argue that for some children joining an army is a sensible decision, because it helps them to escape poverty or to get protection from adult soldiers.

They also say that children can have an opinion about the world they live in, and might choose to fight for political reasons. For example, the fight against *apartheid* in South Africa was often led by teenagers.

These people think that we should be tackling the causes of conflict around the world, rather than just saying that only under 18s shouldn't fight. Saying only 18 means that it is fine for adults to be killing each other in war, but not for children.

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