

## Senior Advocacy Advisor Humanitarian Response (US based) – Job Description

Date: February 2026	Version: Final	Grade: TBD US
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### Your Job Purpose

The Senior Advocacy Advisor – Humanitarian Response will lead War Child’s humanitarian advocacy, shaping and delivering strategies that influence donors, governments, UN agencies, and humanitarian actors to better protect and support conflict-affected children. A core element of the role is to ensure War Child can respond rapidly and effectively with advocacy on emerging and escalating humanitarian crises. This includes monitoring political and humanitarian developments, identifying advocacy opportunities and risks early, coordinating timely organisational positions and messaging, and supporting country and regional teams to influence humanitarian decision-makers during acute and protracted crises.

Sitting in New York the post will lead War Child’s advocacy on humanitarian reform, analysing and responding to major system-wide developments and their implications for conflict-affected children. This includes assessing the impact of UN80 reforms, global and donor funding cuts, and shifts in humanitarian architecture on child-centred programming and protection outcomes. The role will champion a more localised, equitable, and accountable humanitarian response in complex and protracted crises

War Child’s 2026-2028 strategy prioritizes shifting power to local actors and improving efficiency to stay relevant and sustainable. To do this, War Child will sharpen its role as a thought leader and centre of expertise on the mental health and well-being of children most acutely affected by armed conflict by:

- Developing, researching, and delivering evidence-based approaches as the core of what it offers partners.
- Accelerating the transition to partner-led, locally driven programming, including investing in the capacity strengthening of local actors.
- The role will lead and support the organisation of high-impact advocacy events and engagements in international policy spaces. This includes planning and delivering advocacy events, roundtables, and briefings; coordinating partner and country team visits for donors and decision-makers; and representing War Child at major international conferences and for a. A core focus of global advocacy is ensuring local and global partners are present and amplifying the voices of children and youth at national and global levels.
- **Impact:** This role will enable War Child Alliance and Funding members to understand and engage with global humanitarian reset and UN reform. The role will support fundraising efforts and support strategic engagement with key UN and Foundation partners.
- **Communication:** *This role requires a high level of external communication expertise and the ability to represent the organisation with credibility and authority. The postholder will act as a public-facing spokesperson, confidently engaging with diverse audiences including partners, funders, policymakers, media, and the wider public.*
- **Innovation:** This role will be required to engage in complex policy discussions, diagnose complex humanitarian challenges, identifying risks, and opportunities develop innovative, context-specific solutions to policy challenges.

- **Knowledge:** The post holder will need to have strong operational humanitarian experience, knowledge of the UN system with in key UN agencies ( including UNICEF, UNOCHA or similar). Experience of working with USAID or State department is desired.

### Your Reporting Structure

<b>Reports to (Hierarchical):</b>	<i>Head of Advocacy</i>
<b>Reports to (Functional):</b>	<i>Head of Advocacy</i> <i>With dotted line to CiC Executive Director</i>
<b>Area:</b>	<i>Advocacy</i>
<b>Supervises (Function):</b>	<i>NA</i>
<b>Scope</b>	<i>Global</i>

### Your Key Responsibilities

#### **Strategy and Leadership**

- Lead the development and implementation of War Child’s humanitarian advocacy strategy, aligned with organisational priorities and country-level realities.
- Provide strategic advice to senior leadership on humanitarian policy trends, risks, and opportunities affecting children in conflict.
- Contribute to organisational positioning on major humanitarian crises, emergencies, and global policy moments.

#### **Knowledge production**

- Analyse humanitarian policies, funding mechanisms, and operational frameworks (e.g. Grand Bargain, humanitarian reform, nexus approaches) through a child rights lens.
- Produce high-quality policy briefs, position papers, talking points, and consultation submissions.
- Ensure advocacy positions are evidence-based, drawing on War Child programmes, research, and the lived experiences of children and communities.
- Work with humanitarian colleagues to engage with local partners and ensure partner and stakeholders input into policy development.

#### **Organisational Collaboration**

- Work closely with country teams, programme colleagues, and technical specialists to align advocacy with operational realities.
- Support and advise country offices on humanitarian advocacy priorities and opportunities, including crisis-specific influencing.

- Collaborate with communications colleagues to ensure coherent public and policy-facing messaging.
- Safeguarding, Ethics, and Accountability
- Ensure all advocacy is grounded in War Child’s safeguarding standards, ethical storytelling principles, and accountability to affected populations.
- Promote meaningful participation of children and young people in advocacy, where appropriate and safe.

**These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent within the grade of the role.**

### **Context / Specifics of the role in this project/programme**

- Lead War Child’s engagement with key humanitarian stakeholders, including donors, UN agencies (including UN Office on Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF) INGOs, and coordination bodies.
- Support partners and stakeholders to access global influencing fora, in particular the UN Secretariat and UN agencies.
- Represent War Child in humanitarian networks, working groups, and policy dialogues at national and international levels.
- Lead on renewal of War Child Alliance ECOSOC status.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with allies and partners to advance shared advocacy goals.

### **You Knowledge, Skills, and Experience**

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| <b>Education</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Graduate degree level education</i></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Experience</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Significant experience in humanitarian advocacy, policy, or influencing roles, ideally within an INGO, UN agency, or similar organisation.</i></li> <li>• <i>Proven ability to influence decision-makers and contribute to policy change at national or international level.</i></li> <li>• <i>Experience working on child protection, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), education in emergencies, or related sectors.</i></li> <li>• <i>Experience of work in within UN agency and multilateral system.</i></li> <li>• <i>Experience supporting or working with country teams in conflict-affected or fragile contexts.</i></li> <li>• <i>Experience engaging directly with institutional donors.</i></li> </ul> |
| <b>Languages</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>English essential, French / Arabic desirable</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Knowledge</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Strong understanding of the humanitarian system, including donors, coordination mechanisms, and current reform agendas.</i></li> <li>• <i>Familiarity with humanitarian–development–peace nexus debates and practice.</i></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Skills</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Excellent analytical and writing skills, with experience producing high-quality policy and advocacy materials.</i></li> </ul>   |

- *Strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to build trust and work collaboratively across cultures and functions.*

### **Safeguarding and Integrity**

Our work with children and at-risk adults to keep them safe is the most important thing we do. We are committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults in all areas of our work. We have **zero tolerance** for any behaviours and practices that puts children and/or vulnerable adults at risk of abuse and/or harm. All (prospective) employees will be expected to be compliant with and sign up to our Child Safeguarding policy, our Code of Conduct and PSEA: Adults at Risk Policy. You can find the Child Safeguarding and Adults at Risk policy here: [Integrity & Safeguarding - Home](#)

### **Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) and Belonging (DEIB)**

We value diversity and inclusion and are committed to ensuring that all our people and job applicants are treated fairly, irrespective of where, what or whom they were born, or of other characteristics. We want to offer a safe and inclusive workplace where all our people, especially those who are currently marginalised or underrepresented, can be themselves at work. You can read our **Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) and Belonging (DEIB)** policy on our website, and if you have any questions about our commitment to **Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) and Belonging (DEIB)** do get in touch: [DEIB.team@warchild.net](mailto:DEIB.team@warchild.net)