



## **Introducing Watchlist's new Director, Ezequiel Heffes**

Dear Watchlist friends and colleagues,

We are delighted to announce that Ezequiel Heffes will be joining Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict as its new director, effective February 13, 2023.

Ezequiel brings more than 10 years of experience working on various humanitarian issues, including the protection of children and education in armed conflict. He has spent the last six years working with Geneva Call, a humanitarian NGO that promotes respect of humanitarian norms by armed groups and de facto authorities, first as a thematic advisor, and more recently, as one of the organization's senior policy and legal advisors. In his various roles, he was directly involved in humanitarian discussions with armed actors from Colombia, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Mali, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Previously, he worked for the ICRC in Colombia, Afghanistan, and the DRC, where he directly intervened in child protection cases. In the DRC, he served as head of the ICRC's Uvira office.

In addition to a law degree from the University of Buenos Aires School of Law, Ezequiel also has an LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights from the Geneva Academy, and a PhD from the University of Leiden (Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies). He has published widely and authored or edited three books related to international law and armed conflict.

Ezequiel brings to Watchlist a deep commitment to the children and armed conflict agenda and exceptional experience engaging with armed groups, states, NGOs, UN and other stakeholders at both the field and international level. We are excited to have his leadership as Watchlist continues its work to protect and advance the rights of children in armed conflict.

Ezequiel is already known to many in the Watchlist network and looks forward to meeting many more of you in the coming weeks and months.

Sincerely,  
Jo Becker and Lyndsay Hockin  
Co-Chairs, Watchlist Advisory Board