



19 September 2014 - Each year, 6 million children lose their lives before their fifth birthday. That is the equivalent to the entire population of Nicaragua, Norway or New Zealand, or the estimated number of Jews killed during the Holocaust.

“A harsh reality makes a calamity of this tragedy – the reality that, in our hands, we have the ways and means to prevent at least 50 percent of these deaths and more”, [says UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein. “That we fail to take the steps necessary to protect our children from the devastating consequences of these conditions constitutes grave violations of the child’s rights to life, survival, development, and the highest attainable standard of health.”

Successor to Navi Pillay, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein has begun his mandate as the Commission for Human Rights. Hitting the ground running, Zeid has spoken recently on the state’s duties to protect children from preventable diseases. In a statement he underlined the role of the state to take measures to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, preventable mortality and morbidity of children under the age of five.

