



THE Awards 2019 – Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

Institution/Nominee	University of Reading
Title	Safeguarding children in conflict and crisis zones
Key personnel	Professor Rosa Freedman Sarah Blakemore, CEO, Keeping Children Safe
URL	https://research.reading.ac.uk/safeguarding-children/
Submission	<p>While most UN peacekeepers perform their jobs with courage, dedication and professionalism, those that commit sexual offences against some of the most vulnerable people in the world bring shame on the entire UN system. Until now, reform has been difficult to conceive and implement, with laws, policies and practices across peacekeeping institutions operating on different scales, making effective implementation near impossible.</p> <p>In 2018, following years of field-based research, Professor Rosa Freedman at the University of Reading, in partnership with the NGO Keeping Children safe, launched a safeguarding toolkit. It has been trialed and tested in UN entities, is being applied by armed forces in some of the largest troop-contributing countries in the world, and large NGOs working in conflict and crisis zones.</p> <p>Professor Freedman’s expertise is now widely sought and she was recently appointed to the UN Secretary General’s Civil Society Advisory Board on Sexual Exploitation.</p>