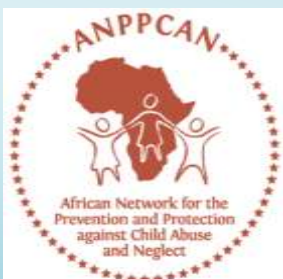


# REPORT

## **International Conference on the Impact of Armed Conflict and Terrorism on Children and Youth**

*7-10 February 2016,  
Nairobi, Kenya*



---

# *REPORT*

## **International Conference on the Impact of Armed Conflict and Terrorism on Children and Youth**

### *Authored by:*

Philista Onyango, Bernard Morara, Joan van Niekerk,  
Margaret Lynch & Kevin Lalor

### *Produced by:*

African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse  
and Neglect (ANPPCAN) Regional Office  
Komo Lane, off Wood Avenue  
P.O. Box 1768 Code 00200 City Square, Nairobi, Kenya.  
Tel: +254 20 21440010, 2140011, 2140013  
Email: [regional@anppcan.org](mailto:regional@anppcan.org) | Website: [www.anppcan.org](http://www.anppcan.org)

&

International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)  
13123 E. 16th Ave., B390, Aurora, Colorado 80045-7106, U.S.A.  
Tel: 1-303-864-5223; Fax: 1-303-864-5222  
Email: [ispcan@ispcan.org](mailto:ispcan@ispcan.org) | Website: [www.ispcan.org](http://www.ispcan.org)

© ANPPCAN & ISPCAN 2017

---

## THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

### *Organizing Committee*

#### **INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**

##### **Co-chairs:**

**Rebecca Nyonyintono** (Ph.D) President,  
ANPPCAN

**Joan van Niekerk**, President, ISPCAN

##### **Members:**

Margaret Lynch, M.D.

Philista Onyango, Ph.D.

Wambui Njuguna, ANPPCAN

Jenny Gray, OBE

Rajeev Seth, M.D.

Steve Werner, ISPCAN

Kevin Lalor, Ph.D.

#### **NATIONAL COMMITTEE (KENYA)**

##### **Chair:**

Philista Onyango (Ph.D), ANPPCAN

##### **Members:**

John Njoka, Save the Children

Anthony Njoroge, Save the Children

Violet Odala, Save the Children

Noah Ochola (Ph.D), Terre des Hommes

Irene Wali, Terre des Homes

Anne Musomba, Terre des Hommes

Jane Thuo (Ph.D), University of Nairobi

Wambui Njuguna, ANPPCAN

### *Scientific Committee*

##### **Chair:**

Margaret Lynch, M.D.

##### **Members:**

Joan van Niekerk, South Africa

Bernard Gerbaka, Lebanon

Tufail Muhammad, Pakistan

Julie Todd, South Africa

Rajeev Seth (Ph.D), India

Bernard Morara, Kenya

---

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The International Conference on the Impact of Armed Conflict and Terrorism on Children and Youth was a collaborative effort of ANPPCAN and ISPCAN with support from Save the Children International, Terre des Hommes Netherlands, Crown Paints Kenya Ltd and the African Kids in Need (AKIN). The Conference had an international and Kenya-based organizing committees, as well as, a scientific committee comprising of professionals from different parts of the world. ANPPCAN and ISPCAN express great gratitude to all for their efforts and contributions.

To the delegates, both the youth and adults, presenters from Kenya, Africa, America, Asia, Europe and those who travelled from other parts of the world and the volunteers who offered valuable support to the Conference, please accept our gratitude for your contributions and dedication. To all the special guests of the Conference, whose sincere commitment and presence contributed to the success reflected in this report, we extend our humble acknowledgements.

Special thanks go to all the speakers and presenters in plenary sessions, workshops and seminars and the delegates, some whom supported themselves to the Conference. You all demonstrated that armed conflict and terrorism is indeed an area that should be addressed with the seriousness it deserves, based on the great insights and experiences you shared at the Conference. To all, we are most grateful.

Special thanks also go the ISPCAN and ANPPCAN staff for the team spirit that resulted in the success of this Conference. Also, appreciation goes to Michelle Midigo, ANPPCAN, for her significant role in the production of this Conference report.

Finally, to the Youth from Mukuru, Nairobi, who demonstrated through drama, how armed conflict and terrorism result to violence that affect youth, children and even adults. The drama you staged touched everyone as you spoke loudly for the majority of youth and children who are caught up in conflicts and terrorism situations. It is our hope that the recommendations emerging from this Conference will help Governments, Civil Society Organisations and other stakeholders, to effectively address violent conflicts and their impact on children and youth.



**Dr Rebecca Nyonyintono**  
President, ANPPCAN



**Joan van Niekerk**  
President, ISPCAN

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements .....	iv
List of acronyms.....	vi
Foreword.....	viii
Background .....	1
Summary of the Key Issues and Recommendations from the Conference .....	3
Pre-Conference .....	5
The Conference .....	6
<b>PART I: PLENARY SESSION PRESENTATIONS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Responding to the protection needs of children in disaster and crisis situations ...	9
The European Union approach to children in armed conflicts: policies and implementation.....	12
Progress on global and regional commitments on women's peace and security rights in the great lakes .....	14
Child justice and terrorism: rule of law responses and promoting prevention ...	15
Grave violations against children in armed conflict: best practices and lessons learned .....	17
Protection of children from violence: the imperative of timely response.....	18
Trebled costs of conflicts on public investment in children in selected African States .....	20
Strategies in preventing conflicts before they occur .....	23
<b>PART II: WORKSHOP SESSION PRESENTATIONS .....</b>	<b>26</b>
Armed Conflict and its Impact on Children, Youth and their Families .....	26
Impact of Terrorism and Armed Conflict .....	28
Child Justice and Terrorism: Rule of Law Responses and Promoting Prevention .....	32
Social and Psychological Responses to Armed Conflict and Terrorism .....	34
Gender and Armed Conflicts .....	38
ECPAT Panel on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Armed Conflict – Finding Justice for the Victims .....	39
Child Protection in the Face of Armed Conflict and Terrorism .....	41
Armed Conflict and its Impact on Children, Youth and their Families .....	44
Contemporary Issues Related to Armed Conflict and Terrorism .....	44
International, Regional and National Responses for Children in Armed Conflict and Terrorism Situations .....	46
Prevention and Protection of Children from Armed Conflict and Terrorism Situations .....	47
<b>CLOSING REMARKS.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>ANNEXES .....</b>	<b>52</b>

---

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMISON	African Mission in Somalia
ANPPCAN	African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect
ISPCAN	International Society for the Prevention of Child abuse and Neglect
CAR	Central African Republic
CVE	Counter Violent Extremism
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EU CSDP	European Union - Common Security and Defence Policy
EU EIDHR	European Union - European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
HDI	Human Development Index
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
ISS	Institute for Security Studies
MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
PVE	Prevention of Violent Extremism
TCC/PCC	Troops and Police Contributing countries
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
Watchlist	Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

---

## FOREWORD

Since the Nairobi Conference on the Impact of Armed Conflict and Terrorism on Children and Youth in February 2016, violent conflicts, including violent extremism continue to affect children, youth and their families unabated. The aerial bombings and the use of explosives in war situations as witnessed in Aleppo in 2016 left many children dead and others injured. The brutal military offensive activities against opposition forces left many children killed and huge populations displaced in a significant number of countries. In Somalia, for example, record has it that there was 50% increase in the number of recorded violations against children, while some 615 children were killed in Syria. Thus, armed conflicts and terrorism unfortunately increased during this period and subjected children to untold sufferings.

According to available reports, the year 2016 seemed to be the worst year for children since the World War II. The bombings of Aleppo in 2016, in the global attempts to get rid of ISIL, left many people in the world with doubts on the strategies being used to fight wars, where according to International Humanitarian Laws, civilians and public utilities, such as, hospitals and schools are supposed to be protected. But, with modern forms of communication (the Media), it is apparent that the implementation of such laws are truly wishful thinking for those who formulated them after World War II in 1945, as it is a challenge to implement them. Thus, it is currently impossible to avoid bombing public places and utilities in search of the enemy or opposition forces. Similarly, the terrorists or the violent extremists in their efforts to make a point aim at maximum destruction and end up killing many children, while maiming and destabilizing many people.

The children, according to the 2016 Report of the UN Secretary General, still pay the highest price in war situations. During this period, some 20 countries were experiencing violent conflicts where many children have been affected. These include; Afghanistan, Central African Republic, DRC, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen, among others.

Tremendous efforts have been made by the UN, through the Security Council, to ensure that children are protected and key resolutions have been adopted to ensure the protection of children during violent conflicts. This is simply, because in many of the countries, both the state security forces and non-state armed groups violate child rights during conflicts. However, according to UNSG Report 2016, this period has witnessed grave violations in the 20 countries in situations of armed conflict even with the resolutions in place.

The grave violations children faced during this period included: recruitment and use of children as soldiers, killing and maiming children, sexual violence against children, attacks on schools and hospitals, abduction of children and denial of humanitarian access to children. All this is happening, despite the fact that the UN has resolutions to address these violations. These are Resolutions 1379 adopted in 2001, safeguarding the recruitment and use of children in war situations; Resolution 1881 adopted in 2009 to prevent killing and maiming children; Resolution 1881 adopted in 2009 to veto rape and other forms of sexual abuse; Resolution 1998 adopted in

---

2011 to veto attacks on schools and hospitals and; Resolution 2225 adopted in 2015 to prevent abduction of children (UNSG Report 2016).

However, according to the 2016 Report, some 9 Government (state) security forces and a large number of non-state armed groups (51) were listed to have violated these resolutions as the attackers still used children as soldiers, targeted civilians, schools and hospitals and abducted children. Thus, children are still subjected to brutality of wars and all forms of abuse. Civil wars are not just killing and displacing children, but denying children their families, as these wars have torn families apart, with long lasting impact on the mental health of children. Parents are rendered helpless in protecting and fending for their children.

As the report of the 2016 Conference was being written, many children were getting both internally and externally displaced. In the process, many died as they crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Europe for safety. Children suffer in refugee camps and a half of the refugees are actually children. Thus, as the UN Security Council urges UN member states to be careful in conducting aerial bombings, group operations and, above all, refrain from using explosives, this is not the case on the ground. Aerial bombings and the use of explosives is the order of the day in today's war situations, making UNICEF observe that the year 2016 was the worst year for children, especially in Syria.

During the presentation of the report of UN Secretary General to the UN Security Council representatives, a number of member states made recommendations, including the need to scale up prevention efforts, while ensuring accountability and the need to address the root causes of violent conflicts. Also, the need to enhance coordination between international, regional and national efforts to address violent conflicts was underscored. Some member states recommended for targeted global development to prevent violent conflicts. There are also those who advocate for alternative approaches to deal with violent conflicts. These include enhancing peace through entrepreneurship, the international community adopting development policies that eliminate joblessness that create unrest in affected countries, as well as, among refugees (Brookings Institute Press, August 30, 2016 and April 26, 2016). These are good recommendations that need to be actualized.

The Nairobi Conference on the Impact of Armed Conflict and Terrorism on Children and Youth attracted quality presentations from individuals working and researching in conflict situations globally. Major issues were identified, which the organizers wanted to share with all those individuals and groups interested and concerned about the effects of armed conflict and violent extremism on children. The reality is that armed conflicts and violent extremism are currently much with us and some of the recommendations coming from the Conference may expand the debate, while providing some good practices for replication.

**Dr Philista Onyango**

Regional Director

ANPPCAN Regional Office



---

## I. BACKGROUND

Since the Graca Machel's 1996 report on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children, some 20 years ago, many efforts have been made globally to address the issue. Significant to this are a range of initiatives by the United Nations in creating systems and mechanisms to prevent and respond to conflicts globally, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that children and adults are protected from violent conflicts, especially civil wars. The international community has also put in place substantial resources, according to records, to prevent and respond to conflicts.

Despite the efforts, armed conflicts continue unabated in many countries of the world, with many children being adversely affected. Other forms of violent conflicts such as terrorism have also emerged. By the time this Conference was being organized, violent conflicts were being witnessed in Syria, Burundi, Yemen, Libya, South Sudan, Somalia, Central African Republic, Mali, Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Democratic Republic of the Congo, among others. Acts of terrorism have been witnessed in a number of countries both in Africa and in the West, where children have been kidnapped, populations displaced and many people lost their lives.

Whatever the form of violent conflicts, there is evidence to demonstrate that children are the most affected. According to UNICEF, over 10,000 children had been killed in civil wars and 3 million children displaced in Syria, because of conflicts, which affect all aspects of children's lives (UNICEF, 2013). The situation has become worse in Syria where many children are being subjected to



bombardments and snipers' bullets almost on a daily basis, leading to deaths and displacement of the populations.

*Impact of conflict in Gaza; from child trauma to the reality of life under siege (Courtesy of Al Jazeera, August 2014)*

In countries such as Yemen, many children are dying from hunger and others facing malnutrition with the consequence of destruction of life. But the destruction of children's lives is not only happening in the Middle East. At the time of organizing this Conference, children and adults were being traumatized by armed conflicts in Burundi and South Sudan, which were having their second phase of civil wars. Children are not only being killed and maimed, but also face defilement and rape of their parents. Above all, children in South Sudan are being recruited to participate in violent conflicts as child soldiers.

These unfortunate situations are ably confirmed by the annual reports of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (2014 and 2016),

---

which detail the atrocities committed against children in some 20 conflict situations globally. These grave violations include killing and maiming, recruitment and use of children as child soldiers, sexual violence, abduction, denial of access to humanitarian aid by children and attacks on schools, hospitals and shelters. The violent conflicts have also led to the displacement of many children and their families, both within and outside their countries. Thus, civil wars and strife have not only made life difficult for children, but also destroyed children and their future in the countries where they occur. There is also a spill over to the international community where a lot of resources are being mobilized to respond and deal with the crisis and the aftermath of violent conflicts.

This is the context, within which, members of the African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) and the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) got concerned and decided to jointly organize this Conference whose theme was, *the Impact of Armed Conflict and Terrorism on Children and Youth*.

### **Conference objectives**

- To review and recognize the conventional and emerging forms of conflict and their impact on children and youth.
- To provide a forum to review the status of ratification and implementation of key international instruments and policies regarding children and youth affected by armed conflict.
- To provide an opportunity to share information and identify gaps on research and practice and efforts being made towards prevention and protection of children and youth in situations of armed conflict, and,
- To strengthen follow up actions on the Conference recommendations.

The Conference had anticipated broader participation of delegates. However, it became apparent that civil wars and terrorism were taking a toll on many agencies and groups that often fund such meetings. As such, many people particularly from developing countries could not attend the Conference. The agencies and groups were attending to huge population of migrants from the Middle East and some parts of Africa to places of safety in Europe. Similarly, a lot of resources were needed to deal with emergency situations that were unfolding in many countries with violent conflicts.

However, the Conference was able to attract the participation of delegates from more than 30 organizations worldwide. The delegates came from the African Union, the European Union, United Nations agencies, national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), government departments and universities (see Appendix I). This report provides an account of what took place at the Conference, including the key issues that were raised and the recommendations made.

---

## **II. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONFERENCE**

### **The Key Issues:**

- The scale and intensity of the problem of armed conflict and terrorism is escalating.
- Twenty (20) million children are refugees or internally displaced due to armed conflicts and terrorism.
- The impact of armed conflict and terrorism on children, youth and their families can be catastrophic and long lasting.
- The long term psychological impact of armed conflict and terrorism on children are barely understood.
- Armed conflict is associated with poverty, failed political institutions, low levels of education, insecurity and increasingly violent behaviour.
- Education has a fundamental role to play in conflict prevention and response.
- In conflict zones, 28.5 million children worldwide aged 4 to 12 are out of school. Of the number, 12.6 million of the children are in Sub Saharan Africa.
- Children that are associated with armed forces or armed groups are merely victims, not criminals.
- Impact of armed conflict is heightened by impunity and is worsened by weak policies, weak judicial systems, inadequate training and management of the United Nations and African Union peacekeepers.
- Girls are particularly vulnerable in armed conflict and terrorism situations.



*Dr Kevin Lalor, Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland, presenting a summary of the key issues and recommendations from the Conference*

---

## The Recommendations:

1. The protection of children should be a national priority;
2. Governments, especially in developing countries, should take charge, lead and direct the implementation of policies that target development;
3. Governments should be responsible for conflict prevention, tackling tribal and ethnic conflicts and providing a well funded and comprehensive child protection infrastructure;
4. There is need to identify, tackle and address the underlying issues that cause conflicts and terrorism;
5. The international community has a central role in conflict management and should be assertive in conflict prevention and resolution;
6. Children must be consulted and their views sought when planning and implementing interventions that concern them;
7. All programme interventions for children and persons in conflict zones should adopt an ‘all family’ approach, where possible;
8. The special status of child victims should be reconciled with national ages of criminal responsibility;
9. Sexual violence, transactional sex and exploitation by the military and humanitarian actors should be the major focus of planning and funding for interventions in emergency situations.



*A section of delegates following presentations and discussions at the Conference*

---

### **III. PRE-CONFERENCE**

#### **The Master Class**

To set the pace for the Conference, the International Society for the Prevention against Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), hosted a pre-Conference training for professionals from various disciplines on different aspects of armed conflict, ranging from improving mental health outcomes for children affected by wars and armed conflicts to assessment and management of health needs of persons affected by wars and conflicts.

The Master Class session provided the participating delegates with opportunities to listen and learn from renowned experts and actors in the field, notably Prof Panos Vostanos, professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry from Leicester University, Dr Tufail Mohammad, a Pediatrician and Counselor with ISPCAN and Ms Gloria Simoneaux from Harambee Arts.

The session attracted a pool of researchers and practitioners in the area of war and conflict and their impact on children, who rated the training highly and appreciated the knowledge and the skills offered to the participants.



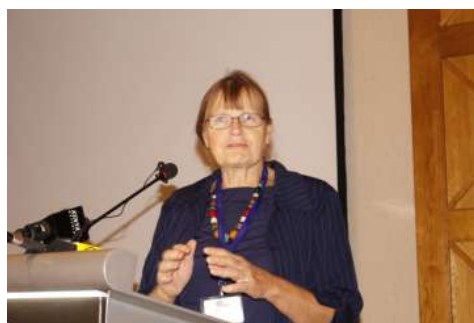
*Delegates observe a minute of silence in honour of all the persons affected by violent conflicts and terrorism around the world*

---

## IV. THE CONFERENCE

### The Opening Session

The session, which was chaired by Ms Joan van Niekerk, the President of ISPCAN, began by delegates observing a minute of silence in remembrance of all the persons, including children, affected by armed conflicts and terrorism globally. The session started on a sombre note given the reality that civil wars were very much alive in some countries, ranging from Middle East, Asia to Africa.



*Ms Joan van Niekerk, President, ISPCAN*

The Young Aspirants, a youth group from one of the non-formal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya, demonstrated through acting, the real situation children and their families go through during conflicts, sending some of the delegates to tears. Thus, the youth set the stage for the important Conference.



*Members of the Young Aspirants, a youth group from a non formal settlement in Nairobi stage a skit on 'attacks during conflicts' at the International Conference on the Impact of Armed Conflict and Terrorism on Children and Youth held in 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya*

The delegates to the Conference were warmly welcomed and appreciated by representatives of the organizers of the Conference. They expressed mutual concern about the impact armed conflict and terrorism are having on children globally, which has resulted in many children being killed, millions of them being displaced and many others being denied access to education, health care and shelter owing to the destruction facilities caused by the conflicts. The representatives included Dr Rebecca Nyonyintono, the President of ANPPCAN, Mr Ben Aliwa, the Director of Regional Programmes at Save the Children International and Mr John W. Kolff, the Regional Representative of Terre des Hommes.



*Mr John W. Kolff, the Regional Representative, Terre des Hommes*



*Mr Ben Aliwa, the Director of Regional Programmes, Save the Children International*

## Key Note Address

Professor Samuel Makinda, based at the International Relations and Security Studies, Murdoch University, Australia, gave the Key Note Address. In his presentation, Prof Makinda focused on Africa, highlighting the structures, processes and actors that make it possible for conflicts to occur and consequently impact most negatively on children and their families. He asserted that



*Prof Sam Makinda, delivering the Key Note Address during the Conference*

due to the underlying conditions, most armed conflicts in Africa since 1990s have adversely affected children and their families. The underlying conditions for civil wars were explained in terms of the following:

- ✓ political, social and economic structures that render children and women vulnerable in many African societies;
- ✓ the persistence of bad governance in most African societies; and
- ✓ the role that external actors play in fomenting armed conflicts and abetting bad governance directly or indirectly in the continent.

---

He concluded his presentation by noting that these factors would need to be addressed to mitigate the sufferings children and their families face during armed conflicts. The presentation generated many questions, especially regarding the role of governments in Africa in managing civil wars and conflicts, as well as, the role of globalization, in either enhancing the scale and intensity of conflicts or mitigating the impact of conflicts. Also, the presentation highlighted the need for a balance between prevention and reaction and addressing the underlying factors that lead to violent conflicts.



---

## V. PLENARY SESSION PRESENTATIONS

### THE IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICT ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

Chair: Dr Rebecca Nyonyintono, President, ANPPCAN

#### *Responding to the Protection Needs of Children in Disaster and Crisis Situations*

Dr Tufail Muhammad – Pakistan Pediatric Association

Dr Muhammad started his presentation by describing situations that lead to humanitarian emergencies, which include natural (climatic and geographic) and man-made disasters (technological and complex emergencies). The complex emergencies were described to include civil or armed conflicts leading to socio-economic collapse, large scale population displacement and destruction of public health infrastructure.



*Dr Tufail Muhammad*



*The protection of children in disaster and crisis situations should be a national priority*

The presentation identified vulnerable groups, mainly women and children, constituting 80% of the most vulnerable. Children under 5 suffer mortality and forms 64% of the mortality cases. The effects of disasters were identified as deaths, injuries, disabilities, displacement of population, collapse and destruction of infrastructure (shelter, hospitals, schools, roads, sanitation, electricity, water systems, increased incidences of communicable diseases, shortage of food leading to famine, psychological trauma, child abuse and exploitation, among many.

Dr Muhammad further highlighted on how disasters, and conflicts specifically, affected children. Thus, children face direct risks, such as:

- Deaths, injuries, disabilities;
- Malnutrition and infections;
- Acute and long term psychological trauma;
- Neglect and abuse;

- 
- Worst forms of child labour (combatants, bombers, informers);
  - Child marriage;
  - Defilement, rape/sexual slaves;
  - Survival sex;
  - Abduction and forced displacement.

The presentation identified vulnerable children as orphans, unaccompanied minors, ethnic minorities and child soldiers. The risks of child abuse and exploited were identified as follows:

- ✓ Disruption of normal child protection mechanisms (loss of parents/ caregivers; disruption of communities, displacement and living in temporary shelters);
- ✓ Weak child protection systems;
- ✓ Lack of resources;
- ✓ Weak monitoring systems for violation of child rights.

The presentation highlighted some of the factors that affect responses to child protection during conflicts and disasters. These are:

- Actual or perceived threats;
- Duration of life disruption;
- Familial and personal property loss;
- Parental reaction and the extent of familial disruption;
- The state of the child before disaster;
- Probability of recurrence of the disaster.

Dr Muhammad noted that child protection in conflict situations means to protect all children from any form of abuse, including; exploitation, violence and neglect. The presentation, further, noted that the International Law states that children and families should be among the first to receive relief and protection in time of disasters. The presentation noted that emergency relief measures include:

- Immediate record keeping which include the identification of children under the age 10 years;
- Rapid assessment of the emergency situation and the affected population;
- Provision of adequate shelter, food, clothing and clean water;
- Immunization against measles and provision of Vitamin A supplements;
- Establishment of a primary care medical treatment.

---

This should be done under the Guiding Principles of the International Humanitarian Law under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which include:

- ✓ Non-discrimination of the child;
- ✓ Right to life;
- ✓ Right to participation;
- ✓ Right to physical and psychological recovery and reintegration;
- ✓ UNCRC – Optional Protocol on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict;
- ✓ Respect for rules of international humanitarian law.

The presentation underscored the need to undertake rapid assessment of a disaster or conflict to determine the following:

1. The situation of violation of children’s rights before the conflict or disaster;
2. Community’s normal mechanisms to respond to and deal with psychosocial stress;
3. Existing support to families;
4. Opportunities for children to express their concerns;
5. Provision of educational and recreational activities and facilities;
6. Unaccompanied children; and
7. Child tracking and reunification.



The presentation also shared the nature and forms of child protection needed in emergency situations. This should include:

- Registration of all affected children;
- Identification of unaccompanied or separated children;
- Child tracing and family reunification;
- Creating of suitable alternative care arrangements;
- Creating of child friendly spaces;
- Provision of psychosocial support;
- Monitoring of child rights violations.

For the unaccompanied or separated children, the following were observed as key for their effective protection:

- 
- Registration;
  - Tracing;
  - Avoiding adoption or change of identity;
  - Family reunification;
  - Community based care;
  - Security ensured;
  - Siblings must always be kept together.

The strategies for psychosocial well-being were identified as:

- Reuniting and supporting the families;
- Re-establishing a sense of normalcy;
- Providing opportunity for expression;
- Creation of child friendly spaces;
- Training of care providers.

Dr Muhammad noted the importance of psychosocial well-being of all children caught up in conflict situations through reunifying and supporting families, establishing a sense of normalcy and providing opportunities for expression, for both the children and the youth. He argued for the setting up of child friendly spaces where children are involved in expressive, educational, play and recreational activities.

The presentation ended with a call for the strengthening of the capacity of children, families and communities to promote resilience and preparedness in the face of conflicts and emergency situations, pointing out the role of the media in defining emergency situations and in informing the victims of the available services.

### ***The European Union's Approach to Children in Armed Conflicts: Policies and Implementation***

*Ms Elise Thoen, Human Rights Policy Officer, European Union*

According to Elise Thoen, the European Union policy on children and armed conflict is based on international and regional human rights instruments, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). She pointed out that children and armed conflict are a human rights priority within the European Union, adding that the rights of children affected by armed conflicts has been mainstreamed in the Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan (2015-2019). The presenter noted that the European Union and member states are among the top donors of assistance to children affected by armed conflict and 1.5 million children in 26 countries have benefitted from a Peace initiative started in 2012 and funding for service delivery. For instance,

---

from 2012 to 2015, the EU had allocated €23 million to help children affected by conflicts through the EU Children Peace Initiative. The support targeted education for children in emergencies.

Ms Thoen noted that the EU's priority is to improve protection of children during conflicts through diplomatic initiatives, political dialogue, crisis management and multilateral co-operation, as well as, strengthening international child protection systems and mechanisms to fight against impunity for grave violations committed and promote justice for children.

The presenter noted implementation strategies of EU as:

- Monitoring and reporting;
- Cooperation with the United Nations;
- Prevention and protection; and
- Rehabilitation and reintegration.

The presenter identified the current EU activities in the area as comprising the following:



- Launching an EIDHR call for proposal for projects aimed at children impacted by armed violence in 2015.
- Supporting the United Nations campaign “Children not Soldiers.”
- Finalizing a pre-deployment child protection training module for civilian and military personnel in EU CSDP missions.

Despite the efforts, she expressed concern over the escalation of armed conflict and the security challenges across the world that has been worsened and made complex by the current migration crisis and the indoctrination of children with extremist ideologies that negatively sustained and exacerbated conflicts that were being experienced in many parts of the world.

Since the activities that were being discussed in the presentation were suited for conflict situations outside the European Union, the meeting recommended that given the reality of the refugee crisis in the European Union itself, policies and funding mechanisms to be adopted, should take into account the refugee crisis in the European Union.

---

## ***Progress on Global and Regional Commitments on Women's Peace and Security Rights in the Great Lakes***

*Ms Jebbeh Forster, Peace and Security Advisor, UN Women, Kenya*

Ms Forster started by noting that the Great Lakes is a well-resourced, but conflict ridden region that has had a destabilizing effect on its people (men, women, boys and girls) and on the socio-economic status of the region for a long time. According to Forster, the region is characterized by high poverty levels despite abundant natural resources. Conflict over resources and ethnic tensions have fuelled armed conflict and the justice systems have broken down leading to impunity for human rights violations, as there are safe corridors for perpetrators to evade the justice system.

Ms Forster informed the Conference that the Great Lakes region is further characterized by high levels of sexual violence and poor indicators for gender, inadequate resources for social service sectors like education and health, resulting in high maternal and infant mortality. Child abductions are common with over 60,000 children abducted in Uganda and over 20 million persons displaced in the past 20 years of the Lord's Resistance Army insurgency.



***Ms Jebbeh Forster, UN Women, Kenya***

Ms Forster noted the existence of legislations and policy frameworks and initiatives both at the regional and national levels that protect women and girls from violence, including sexual violence. These are:

- The Great Lakes Pact;
- The Goma Declaration on Eradicating Sexual Violence;
- The Kampala Declaration;
- The Kinshasa Declaration;
- The Women's Platform for Peace and Security and Cooperation Framework; and
- The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and Rights of Women in Africa.

Ms Forster, however, said that the protection of women and girls in conflict zones has been limited due to inadequate implementation of legal and policy frameworks owing to lack of resources, inadequate training for security and judicial officers, as well as, impunity among security personnel, including UN peacekeepers. She said that, although, most countries have adopted affirmative action for women in decision making, there are few women in the security sector to influence decisions on the protection of women and girls both at the global and national levels. Thus, the needs of women and girls are currently not adequately articulated and addressed in conflict and post-conflict situations.

---

Given the increase of violent conflicts, the following recommendations were made in the presentation:

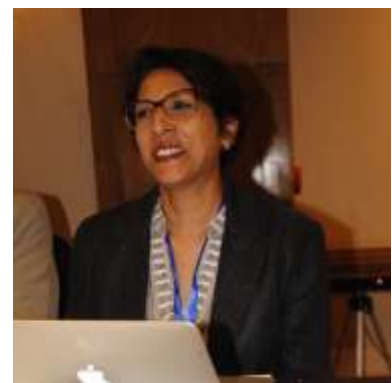
- Conflict must be addressed as it has a negative disproportionate impact on women and girls. The conflict in Burundi needed to be urgently addressed and given high priority, as her refugees were spreading across borders as the lives of women and children were being disrupted.
- The participation of women and girls in decision making in peace-building must be increased to integrate and articulate their views, while enhancing their capacity to participate in the planning processes.
- The implementation of current commitments must be effected, since there are major gaps between commitment and action.
- Data collection, monitoring and reporting on regional and country commitments should be enhanced.
- A common reporting framework for regional frameworks on women, peace and security (global, regional and national) to be developed urgently.
- Funding for women and girls' comprehensive needs must be advocated for.
- Impunity for Sexual and Gender Based Violence at global and country level must be addressed.
- Governments must support relevant training of the security forces and make provision in national budgets.
- Civil society organisations must be more vigilant and report on progress being made on regional and national commitments.

### ***Child Justice and Terrorism: Rule of Law Responses and Promoting Prevention***

*Cheryl Frank, Division Head: Transnational Threats and International Crime Division, ISS*

Ms Frank started with what the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) does. ISS works primarily to understand terrorism and to assist governments to implement human rights and the rule of law in response to terrorism and related crimes.

The presenter noted the organization's (ISS) limited understanding on how terrorism contributes to the overall burden of conflict in Africa, in terms of the definition and the contexts, in which, terrorism operates. This is because the organization focuses on two core issues, but which are closely related to the theme of the Conference i.e. child rights and security. However, there has been a rise on terrorism since 2006 taking place in remote areas, such as, the many attacks attributed to Boko Haram in Nigeria. According to the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, terrorism is described to include:



***Cheryl Frank, ISS***

- 
- ✓ criminal actions, the use of violence or force, including; kidnapping for ransom, hijacking and bombings.
  - ✓ threats of violence or force.

All these are driven by philosophical, political, religious, economic and ideological motives. The perpetrators are non-state actors, but states can be implicated as sponsors of terrorism. There is international acceptance that terrorism is a crime.

### **Patterns of Terrorism**

Ms Frank noted the influence of ISIS in the Middle East, East and the Horn of Africa, as well as, in West Africa and the Sahel. Terror attacks have led to thousands of people being killed, injured and displaced from their communities and countries. Yet actions taken are often indiscriminate and blind to the needs of children. Some terror groups target children, where they are trained as child soldiers. There have been reported incidents of women/families traveling to violent conflict situations and taking their children to join terrorist groups. Boko Haram, in particular, is known for kidnapping children and threatening their lives unless they change their religion. Whereas children are victims of terrorism, they are also implicated in carrying out terrorist activities. However, weak child protection systems prevalent in many nations are unable to provide evidence on this.

### **Responses**

The presenter identified existing policy regimes to deal with terrorism, such as, the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, the UN Security Council Resolutions and the African Union's Counter Terrorism instruments. However, the predominant response to terrorism in Africa is the use of force, an approach, which can be as indiscriminate as those used by terrorist groups. The criminality of terrorism is hardly addressed through criminal justice means in Africa. The presentation underscored the absence of children, women, victims and witnesses in efforts to counter terrorism, since emphasis is put on force as a response to terrorism.

### **Prevention**

The presenter noted that a body of empirical evidence on what drives radicalization is slowly emerging. A Plan of Action on Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) and Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) had been released by the American President, Barrack Obama, and the UN Secretary General in January 2016. The Plan focuses on preventing people from developing and acting on radical extremist views, especially paying attention to development deficits, inequality, grievances relating to injustices, extreme religious ideologies, among others.

The presenter observed that little is known about prevention of terrorism. She stated that prevention efforts should take cognizance of gender, children and young people noting that the biggest danger is the securitization of development.



---

## **INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL RESPONSES FOR CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT AND TERRORISM SITUATIONS**

*Chair: Dr Florence Muli-Musiime, Chancellor, Daystar University and Secretary, ANPPCAN*

### ***Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflict: Best Practices and Lessons Learned***

*Mr Ilan Cerna-Turoff, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, New York*

Mr Cerna-Turoff presented the process of an evaluation based on the identification of grave violations against children in two case study countries, namely Colombia and South Sudan. The study found out that there was reasonable consensus in the visions and coordination of trends in grave violations that involved children caught up in conflict and emergency situations. There were also standardized data entry procedures for affected children in the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms (MRMs) and in the management of the data in order to provide useful indications on the nature of interventions required by individual children.

In terms of verification of the data, the presenter noted that there existed some variances across the two study countries owing to the different capacities of the people involved in data entry and management. There were also variances in information sharing and dissemination amongst the different service providers on grave violations of children in emergency situations. For example, cases were shared at different levels for follow up with the reporting agencies, but the staff turnover seriously affected and defeated the purpose of the training initially conducted on monitoring and reporting mechanisms on grave violations of children in armed conflicts and emergency situations.

On advocacy, Mr Cerna-Turoff said attention was targeted at the affected children and individual response was provided for each child affected by conflict. The following are key recommendations from Mr Cerna-Turoff's presentation:

- The need to strengthen the systematic and unbiased capture of data;
- The need to create concrete local advocacy; and
- The need to define the purpose and vision of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms (MRMs) for children in conflict situations.



*The centrality of information sharing and dissemination amongst the different service providers on grave violations of children in emergency situations*

*Besides aiding in monitoring and evaluation, it helps in follow-up for future interventions with reporting agencies*

### ***Protection of Children from Violence: The Imperative of Timely Response***

*Dr Rima Salah, the Child Study Centre, Yale University*

Dr Salah's presentation focused on timely response in protecting children from violence, highlighting the widespread of violence, where millions of children in the world, especially in Africa and Middle East are caught up. The presentation noted the unprecedented displacement of 60 million people, primarily women and children, suffering as internally displaced persons or as refugees. The year 2014, according to her and quoting UNICEF, was the worst year to be a child.

According to Dr Salah, the images of abducted children by extremist groups as in Nigeria and Syria, those physically abused, sold into prostitution and exploited by the people who are supposed to protect them continue to haunt everyone. The presentation underscored the impact that armed conflict and terrorism have on children, ranging from indiscriminate killings, maiming to destroying homes, while schools become battle grounds. Children are trafficked and made child soldiers or suicide bombers, while sexual abuse, such as sexual slavery, forced prostitution remain pervasive.

The presenter shared the efforts of the international community in addressing atrocities committed against children, demonstrated by the landmark Resolution 1612 of the UN Security Council in 2005. In the Resolution, the UN Secretary General was requested to implement a comprehensive



*Dr Rima Salah, Yale University*

---

monitoring and reporting mechanism of six grave violations against children that go beyond the recruitment or using children as soldiers. The monitoring and reporting mechanism to also include:

- Killing or maiming of children;
- Attacks against schools, hospitals and other social service infrastructures;
- Rape or other sexual violence;
- Abduction of children;
- Denial of humanitarian access.

Subsequent Resolutions (1882 of 1998, 2068 and 2143) demanded for the protection of children in armed conflict and designated the role to the international peace and security arm of the UN, making protection of children the mandate of peacekeeping and political missions, under the UN Security Council. The policy on mainstreaming protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict has been adopted by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Field Services of the UN since 2009 and applies to all peacekeeping missions world over.

Dr Salah pointed out that following complaints that the UN peacekeepers were sexually exploiting and abusing the people they were supposed to protect, the then UN Secretary General Mr Koffi Annan, requested for a comprehensive report on sexual abuse and exploitation in peacekeeping missions in 2004. The report revealed that measures to deal with the problem were ad hoc and inadequate. The report, released in March 2005, recommended the establishment and implementation of a comprehensive strategy to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse in conflict situations.

In 2012 UN Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki Moon, appointed an independent Team of Experts to assess how the 4 peacekeeping missions were addressing this challenge, aimed at enhancing the programme of action to combating sexual exploitation. In 2013, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support established the Interagency Working Group to study the findings of the Team of Experts and in 2014, the UN Secretary General once more, appointed a high level Independent Panel of Peace Operations, where Dr Salah was a member. The Panel visited countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America to assess and ascertain the UN responses to sexual abuse and exploitation.

While the central role of the UN Peace efforts were underscored during consultations with stakeholders in the countries visited, many people were, however, found to be disillusioned with UN's capacity to respond to the people's needs in times of conflicts and wars. According, to the presentation, peace operations were seen to be far from the people, the communities, families and not primarily concerned with their protection. The peacekeepers were not effectively communicating with terror groups and lacked training to handle traumatized people.

---

The findings made the High Level Panel to produce a report named “Limiting our Strengths for Peace – Politics, Partnership and People.” The Panel made the following recommendations to the United Nations:

- The Secretariat and Member States implement the Secretary-General’s proposed measures to strengthen accountability for sexual exploitation and abuse, by (a) establishing Response Teams to gather and record data on sexual exploitation and abuse; (b) The investigations on sexual exploitation and abuse to be completed within 6 months.
- Member States contributing troops to countries; investigate and prosecute all credible allegations made on their troops regarding rape and sexual exploitation of women and minors.
- Member States to report to the Secretariat on the status of investigations, after which, the Secretariat should give the report to the Secretary General to form his report to Member States.
- Member States contributing troops and police for peacekeeping and the Secretariat to ensure that the recommendations made by Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel and Peacekeeping operations are implemented on time.
- Member States to support the Secretary General to create victim assistance programme to support the victims and children born as a result of sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers during conflicts.
- The Secretariat to develop a standard protocol to deal with troops and police from countries whose human records and performance present challenges. Besides, governments whose forces are listed in the annual reports of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict and on Conflict Related Sexual Violence should be barred from contributing troops to UN missions.
- Where allegations are made on human rights violations or sexual exploitation and abuse by non-UN forces, acting under a Security Council authorized mandate and reported to a parallel UN presence, the UN presence must promptly report such allegations to the regional organization and the government concerned.

***Trebled Costs of Conflicts on Public Investment in Children in Selected African States***

*Mr Bob Libert Muchabaiwa, Manager, Child Rights Governance Global Initiative, Save the Children International, Kenya*

Mr Muchabaiwa gave an overview of the costs incurred during conflicts and related emergencies and how these costs impact on service delivery to children and the society in general. The presentation provided international experiences, wherever there is conflict, with a special focus on Africa.

---

According to the presentation, three key premises associated with conflicts and their costs can be established. He said that conflicts, of whatever form, have cost implications to individuals, families, societies and nations at large. Thus, impacts of conflict are economic, social, psychological, physical and even political. However, establishing the actual impacts of conflicts, including calculating costs of conflicts is a long process.

Thus, conflicts lead to underinvestment in children, which then leads to deprivation, marginalization, violence and inequality of people in a society, children included. The ultimate result of conflicts is the denial of services to children, which can be explained as follows:

- Limited and unequal access to essential services for survival, learning and protection;
- Four of the 10 least child friendly countries in the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF)'s Child Friendly Index study have been involved in armed conflict e.g. Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic;
- Most of the countries affected by conflicts are in the bottom 20 in the Human Development Index, as reflected in United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reports;
- Many children affected by conflict are deprived, marginalized and vulnerable;
- Conflicts, basically lead to denial of children's rights.

### **Costs of conflicts: Global figures**

The presentation underscored the following:

- Africa lost around \$18bn per year due to civil wars and insurgencies between 1990 and 2005 (Oxfam, 2007)
- In 2014, the world spent 13.4% of its gross domestic product (GDP) on costs associated with violence. This is equivalent to the total economic output of Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Spain and the UK (Global Peace Index, 2015)
- The world's direct expenditure on the military, mostly associated with violence containment, is more than 12 times the world's expenditure on foreign aid, (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2015)
- If violence containment spending was reduced by 15%, the world would save \$1.4 trillion (IEP, 2015)

The presentation offered the following recommendations to states, to donors and the civil society organizations to address the costs of conflicts.

---

### **A. Recommendations to states affected by conflicts:**

- Governments to strengthen their public financial policies in order to effectively respond to early warnings;
- Attention to be paid to procurement, borrowing and lending processes which require transparency and accountability;
- Governments to put in place measures to safeguard child-focused public expenditures in times of crises, including seeking international cooperation.

### **B. Recommendations to donors:**

- Donors and international finance institutions to support well-coordinated and multi-sectoral responses that prioritize and adequately meet children's needs in all sectors, including child-sensitive social protection programmes for populations in chronically crisis-affected areas;
- Donors and international finance institutions to support the strengthening of national data and public finance systems;
- Donors to invest substantial resources and expertise in building the capacity of local humanitarian actors, including accounting and compliance issues and participation in national and/or international humanitarian coordination structures;
- Donors to respect humanitarian principles, including transparency, participation and accountability to affected populations in the disbursement of funds and the need to allocate humanitarian funding in proportion to needs and on the basis of needs assessments that include children's views.

### **C. Recommendations to civil society:**

- Advocate for the prioritization of children in humanitarian financing;
- Influencing donor and international finance institutions start up packages, recovery and stabilization plans, as well as substance and direction of public finance reforms;
- Costing losses and any reversals in the situation of children;
- Monitor potential abuse of available resources;
- Tracking of child focused donor funding;
- Audit of debts procured and implications on financing of children's rights;
- Advocate for safe guarding of key public spending, such as in health, education and social assistance.

---

## PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT AND TERRORISM

Chair: Prof Margaret Lynch, Emeritus Professor of Community Paediatrics, Kings College, London

### *Strategies in Preventing Conflicts Before They Occur*

Dr Philista Onyango and Wambui Njuguna, ANPPCAN, Kenya

In their presentation, Dr Onyango and Ms Njuguna explained the gravity of conflicts in the world between the year 2008 and 2014. They stated that, although by 2014, only 42 conflicts had been recorded, deaths emanating from such conflicts tripled to 180,000 persons. They also noted that intra-state conflicts and deaths resulting from extremist factions, urban gangs, drug traffickers and vigilante groups, outnumber state-based conflicts. In 2013 alone, some 50 million persons were displaced as efforts to counter the militant groups have yielded little despite the fact that these groups are deadly and outnumber the state based conflicts (Human Security Report, 2013).



*Prof Margaret Lynch, Kings College, London*



*Dr Philista Onyango: 'States where conflicts occur tend to ignore and wait for the international community to intervene, often when it is too late'*

infrastructure, denying people access to services and subjecting children and families to hunger and emotional trauma, are all occurrences that can be prevented before conflicts occur. Apart from displacing huge populations (60 million persons globally according to World Bank Report, 2015), conflicts are also expensive to contain once they happen. For example, funding the African Mission in Somalia (AMISON) to bring peace in Somalia since 2007 – 2015, some 1.1 billion Euros has been provided by the EU. AMISON requires US\$ 300 million a month to keep the peace mission composed of 22,000 soldiers in Somalia.

The presenters noted the difficulties prevention and response efforts face when intra-state conflicts occur. This is much so because the states are protected by international conventions, such as the non-interference due to sovereignty e.g. the case of Burundi and South Sudan, where the states refused external intervention of sending peacekeeping personnel.

The presenters strongly argued that the destruction of human beings, reflected in deaths, injuries and displacements, as well as, the destruction of

---

The presenters gave a chronology of impacts of armed conflicts, ranging from deaths, injuries and trauma for the victims, destruction of infrastructure to increased risk behaviour and networks. They also noted that soldiers also get killed, including the peacekeepers. On whether conflicts can be prevented, they argued that states where conflicts occur have the tendency to ignore and wait for the international community to intervene, often when it is too late.

However, efforts are starting to be directed to conflict prevention, spearheaded by the UN, through her agencies, created specifically to respond to conflicts, potential and, occurring or ongoing. Dr. Onyango cited regional and national arrangements, such as the Peace and Security arm of the African Union. There are also civil society organisations such as the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts. The presentation also noted the existence of institutes in Europe, America, Asia and Africa, undertaking studies and monitoring conflicts globally, providing both historical and current data on trends of conflicts globally.

Similarly, there are various awareness raising efforts targeting affected communities for them to cope with conflicts as well as prevent them. However, given the multiple factors that cause conflicts, there is no one approach to preventing conflicts. Thus, leading to the recommendation by scholars that to prevent conflicts, proper diagnosis is needed in order to develop appropriate tools to deal with the identified problems. The scholars recommend for targeted studies and developing indicators to form the basis for actions and interventions.

However, the presentation pointed out on the glaring evidence that armed conflicts and other forms of conflicts do not just happen, as there are, often early warnings. The identified factors include structural, socio-economic, cultural, environmental, exclusion, repressive political systems and leadership. In Africa, in particular, conflicts are associated with high levels of poverty, failed political institutions, low levels of education, widespread insecurity, economic deterioration, dependence on scarce resources and ethnic affiliations. The presenters noted that these factors do not have any affinity with peace building or peace keeping.

The factors above need to be aggressively addressed by United Nations as well as regional and national groupings to contain emergence of conflicts and made the following recommendations:

- Governments, especially in developing countries, should take charge, lead and direct the implementation of policies and programmes that target development in their own countries. Globalizing development disrupts and retards developmental efforts;
- Data generated by UN agencies and universities regarding Humanitarian Development Index (HDI) should be used to develop policies and programmes to target countries ranking low in the indicators. Coming up with global solutions, such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), camouflages the reality and misdirects the scarce resources;
- Governments in developing states should invest resources in early warning signs regarding conflicts and put emphasis on education and job creation.



- 
- Vested interests in conflict and terrorism must be identified and dealt with since some key groups at the forefront of responses to contain conflicts are also the suppliers of arms for conflicts.



*The Conference in session*

---

## VI. WORKSHOP SESSION PRESENTATIONS

A total of six (6) workshops and seven (7) sessions and one (1) symposium on the 8 sub-themes of the Conference were held during the International Conference on the Impact of Armed Conflict and Terrorism on Children and Youth held in Nairobi, Kenya. The key highlights and recommendations from the workshops and sessions have been incorporated in the main highlights and recommendations section to the conference report. Below is a summary of proceedings at the workshops and sessions of the Conference.

### **Armed Conflict and its Impact on Children, Youth and their Families**

*Chair: Prof Samuel Makinda, Murdoch University, Australia*

**Mr Elijah Getanda, University of Leicester** made a presentation titled “*Feasibility of Psychosocial Intervention for Children Exposed to Ethnic Conflict in Kenya*” based on the study he did in Kenya to assess the feasibility of an adapted psychosocial intervention in a post-conflict ethnic setting. The basis of the study was the limited evidence-based studies on psychosocial interventions. The study included a needs analysis using focus groups discussions, intervention selection, which included integrating the findings from stakeholders and evaluation of the feasibility and implementation of the intervention. This was done in phases.



*A section of delegates follow proceedings at the Conference*

Phase one involved focus group sessions with community stakeholders to gain views on child mental health needs and acceptable interventions, while phase two involved the delivery of a trauma focused intervention. The study concluded that stakeholders’ views are important in planning, designing and the delivery of interventions during or post conflicts.

**Mr Michael Lumor, Save the Children International, Pan Africa and AU Liaison Office, Addis**

**Ababa-Ethiopia** made a presentation on “*Protection of Education from Attack and Military Use in Africa.*” He pointed out a worrying trend, where 28.5 million children who are out of school are to be found in conflict affected countries. Some 12.6 million of these children live in Africa, 5.3 million in South and West Asia and 15% of the children live in low and lower middle income countries. Girls make 55% of the total number of children out of school as a result of conflicts.

Mr Lumor noted that the military use of schools during conflict as a worrying issue. He pointed out that the report of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and

---

Armed Conflict and the accompanying Annual Report (2013 – 2014) found grave violation in education in 10 countries (Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and South Sudan, among others) and military use of schools have been reported in 26 schools in the past decade, according to records. The presentation noted the global response to include the following:

- International humanitarian law;
- The human rights law;
- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms at the United Nations;
- Guidelines for protecting schools;
- Endorsement of Safe Schools Guidelines by 15 Member States of the African Union;
- SRSG annual reports and advocacy;
- Advocacy at the African Union Commission.

The presentation highlighted the need for multi-level advocacy through the Ministries of Education which are the duty bearers in making schools safe in collaboration with Ministries of Defense. Some of these efforts have yielded positive results, such as states endorsing the concept of ‘Safe Schools,’ the 10 year Continental Education Strategy (2015 – 2025) being approved by the African Union Summit, Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child embracing the issue of Safe Schools for children.

The presenter recommended that stakeholders mobilize for safe schools and advocate for more member states to endorse and implement a declaration, through engaging the ministries of education, creating platforms to share and learn on military attacks and use of schools while engaging policy makers in their respective countries. Member states that had endorsed Safe Schools Declaration were listed as follows:

**East/Horn of Africa:** Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia

**South Africa:** South Africa, Mozambique, Madagascar and Zambia

**West Africa:** Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Liberia, Niger and Cote D’Ivoire

**Central Africa:** Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad

Finally, the presenter urged the delegates at the Conference to advocate for the immediate domestication of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2016 - 2025) at the national level in their respective countries.

---

## Impact of Terrorism and Armed Conflict

*Chair: Dr Tufail Muhammad, Chair, Child Rights and Abuse Committee Pakistan, Paediatric Association, Pakistan*

**Mrs Ojochide Atojoko Omovbude, S. E. Aruwa & Co., Nigeria** made a presentation on “*The Impact of Terrorism on the Girl Child in Nigeria.*” The presentation started with the incident of April 2014 when Boko Haram abducted over 200 school girls as they sat for their final secondary school examinations. The girls were yet to be found as at the time of the Conference.

Mrs Omovbude noted that terrorist attacks were quite common in Nigeria, which is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> among the most terrorized countries after Iraq and Afghanistan. She said in the year 2014, Iraq and Nigeria accounted for 53% of deaths arising from terrorism activities.

Boko Haram is classified as the deadliest terrorist group in the world. The group which re-emerged in 2010 has the aim to Islamize Nigeria with the ideological conviction that Western education is anti-Islam and that women are inferior to men and hence the attacks on schools in North Eastern Nigeria, as well as, young girls in

its agenda. This has witnessed schools closed and students and teachers being set on fire by Boko Haram in Borno and Yobe States in Nigeria. The abduction of over 200 girls from Chibok town in Borno State brought to limelight the problem faced by girls in Northern Nigeria. However, this has not stopped the terrorist group from abducting other girls.

According to the speaker, studies showed that women and young girls experienced gender based violence from the terrorist groups, which include forced pregnancies, abductions, rape, sexual slavery and forced prostitution during wars and conflicts. She stated that wherever one got military assignments, there were usually hidden coercive sexual relations and sex economies under duress. Therefore, terrorist groups, while trying to survive the difficult living conditions will find it difficult to survive without access to sex, women and social trappings of manhood.

However, in some cases, the abductions were retaliatory, for instance, in Nigeria, where Boko Haram started to retaliate for the arrests and detainment of their wives and children by the Government in 2011. Yet, the Government was using this strategy to force the insurgents to the discussion table for peace talks. Thus, the retaliatory abductions became one of the tactics for terrorists to access young girls to perform various functions in their camps. The presentation identified impact of terrorism on the girl child in Nigeria to include:



*A delegate makes a contribution: ‘the abduction of over 200 girls from Chibok town brought to limelight the problems faced by girls in Northern Nigeria’*

- Insecurity - living daily in fear of being abducted, tortured and raped;
- Forced marriage - Boko Haram makes young girls pregnant to have children for them to keep their ideologies going even after they are dead;
- Defilement/ rape - a girl who is defiled or raped may face condemnation and marginalization by the society. This may result in unwanted pregnancies, fear of reprisals from those who attacked them and rejection by their families, which may result in suicide;
- Health challenges - terrorists target hospitals and attack medical personnel, making it difficult to get help e.g. for pregnancy complications, gynaecological problems, treatment for HIV/AIDS for which they are at high risk;
- Psychological and emotional damage – due to sexual exploitation, having no hope for the future;
- Disability maiming - often seriously injured or permanently disabled and young girls living with disabilities get little support;
- Loss of education - lost schooling is difficult to regain. Girls' future opportunities are reduced, the community and the state loses from their inadequate education due to scarcity of the skilled labour that is needed for future reconstruction and development; and
- Displacement/ loss of family/ trafficking and cross-border migration - forced displacement/ migration creates immense human suffering associated with trauma, loss, uprooting, poverty, destruction of normal patterns of living. Young girls get involved in human trafficking and slavery resulting from family displacement.

## Recommendations

- A.** Access to health - given the fact that the programmes for aid to victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence are often hampered by socio-cultural barriers in Northern Nigeria and that the health system in the North is almost non-existent, there is need for education on health practices in Northern Nigeria, in order, to provide humanitarian assistance to those who have or being affected by terrorism in the region.
- B.** The humanitarian assistance - this should be inclusive of community-based psychosocial and reproductive health programmes, giving priority to the girls who have witnessed violence, with emphasis on access to reproductive health services and sexually transmitted diseases. Reintegration and rehabilitation strategies should be related to the circumstances of the abducted girls and communities of origin.
- C.** Intensify efforts to rescue victims – the Government of Nigeria to identify and rescue missing persons and young girls. There is need for a proper identity management system to keep track of people in the region and the country as a whole. Any market for the potential buyers of girls in Nigeria, Cameroun and Chad must be shut down through joint efforts by the three governments.

---

The Nigerian Government may consider dialogue with the terrorists in a bid to secure freedom of the abducted Chibok girls and with the ultimate goal of ending hostilities to enable the girl child in the affected regions to experience a hostile free, terror free and healthy environment.

- D.** Rehabilitation and reintegration - there should be preventive measures, including the construction of shelter, water and sanitation facilities in camps, carefully designed to avoid creating opportunities for gender-based aggression against displaced girl child.

The mechanisms put in place to consider community and cultural practices, in order, not to run in conflict and with the ultimate goal of saving the girl child. For example, should the girls who have been impregnated by the terrorists have abortion or the child born be sent for adoption? The two options have cultural and religious implications in the North and as such caution may be required during the process of rehabilitation and reintegration.

- E.** Rape as a war crime - classification of rape as a war crime must be clearly stated and adopted by the criminal law in Nigeria. National and international law must codify rape as a crime against the physical integrity of the individual. The Nigerian government must hold those who commit rape in internal conflicts accountable and must reform its laws to address the substantive nature of the abuse. Prevention should focus on the fight against impunity and the elimination of socio-cultural barriers that enhance the acceptability of sexual violence, perpetrated by non-combatants.

- F.** Improved education - education needs of young girls living within conflict zones must be met. Since schools are likely to be targets, one element of the planning process should be to establish alternative sites for classrooms, changing the venues regularly. Nigerian government should provide free and compulsory education to all girls in North-Eastern region of Nigeria up to university level of education as well as, the girls who have been internally displaced and living outside the Northern region.

Young girls with disabilities should all become essential participants in post-conflict planning and reconstruction. Their needs and education should be addressed foremost, because they stand at a greater disadvantage relative to other victims.

- G.** Education on basic human rights laws - in all conflicts, there is complete disregard for humanitarian law principles and the distinction between combatants and non-combatants, is completely ignored. As such, there is need to teach the basic humanitarian laws in all schools and training institutions, as well as, peace and conflict studies, to help mitigate the effects of war on children in general and girls, in particular.

**Ms Joan van Niekerk, President, ISPCAN and Ms Dumisile Nala, Childine, South Africa**, in their joint presentation titled “*2015 Xenophobic violence in South Africa and the impact on children and families*” noted that armed conflicts resulted in the movement of families and children to countries in which they believed they would be safe. The movement can be as vast as

---

the case of Syria, while in some situations it can be another part of the continent of Africa. In this case individuals and families integrated themselves informally into communities.



*Ms Joan van Niekerk speaking on xenophobic violence in South Africa*

Ms Niekerk described xenophobia as dislike or prejudice against people from other countries. South Africa, for example, witnessed widespread xenophobic attacks since 1994 in provinces, such as, Gauteng, Western Cape, Free State, Limpopo and Kwa Zulu Natal.

At the beginning of post-apartheid days, South Africa became home to many refugees and migrants, including children, fleeing armed conflicts and in some cases, poverty, with the aim of getting opportunities

for better lives and protection. The number of migrants and refugees increased as the recession also began to impact in South Africa. Unemployment increased due to the introduction of stringent labour laws, which made employers engage in employing illegal migrants willing to be paid low wages.

Many of the migrants (foreigners) also built successful businesses. This was the onset of xenophobia as the citizens turned against the illegal migrants. The year 2008 witnessed massive displacement of some 180,000 – 200,000 persons and 62 deaths. Homes were burnt and property looted while people were chased away from their communities. While all this was happening, there was little reporting on the impact xenophobia had on children. Many small businesses were destroyed and torched and many families were left with nothing and chased from their homes with just the clothes they were wearing. Families were moved to refugee camps for their protection and shelter.

The presenter noted the impacts of xenophobia on children, such as, the trauma of having to flee, the loss of parents and other family members, the loss of possessions (that contribute to a sense of security), the loss of community health care system, the loss of educational opportunity, hardship in the camps and accommodations to which they fled (flats often accommodated up to 10 families with lack of privacy and congestion), and children left with no space to play. The children were found to be in need of;

- ✓ Safe environment.
- ✓ Reunification with their parents and family members.
- ✓ Post trauma care to both parents and children.

- 
- ✓ Provision of basic needs (food, clothes, shelter and basic documents).
  - ✓ Relief from the anger of parents.
  - ✓ A place to play.

Although, post-trauma care was needed, the places were overcrowded and it was difficult to get trauma counselors, who could speak the language of the victims. While there was good response from the government and civil society organizations in the provision of basic services, some challenges were faced, including proper targeting of caregivers, identifying those who did not participate in causing violence and those hosting victims, leading to loss of friendship. Schools for children were closed and the needs of children who were not direct victims were not attended to, despite the reality that many children in these communities witnessed extreme acts of violence. Some of the children were also involved in criminal behaviour, such as, looting and stealing.

## **Child Justice and Terrorism: Rule of Law Responses and Promoting Prevention**

*Chair: Ms Irene Ndungu, Researcher, Transnational Threats and International Crime Division, Institute for Security Studies, Nairobi*

**Ms Uyo Salif, ISS, Pretoria, South Africa** in her presentation titled “*The International Counter-Terrorism Policy Regime and Implications for Children*” noted that terrorism had repeatedly demonstrated its potential for grave damage and the International Counter Terrorism Policy Regime voiced its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, agitating for counter terrorism as a global priority.

While looking at the implications of terrorism, the presentation noted that terrorism strikes the core of humanity, threatens the good order of international community, violates peace, security, development and the world’s public order. No continent is spared from its dreaded effects and impact and there is no universal agreement on its definition.

Ms Uyo explained that the international law response to counter terrorism has three facets namely, international human rights law, international criminal law and international humanitarian law. She pointed out the United Nations approach to Counter Terrorism (CT) including United Nations Security Council Resolutions; International CT Conventions and Protocols and Universal CT Legal Regime.

The presenter highlighted the Global CT Strategy, which includes; conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, prevention and combating terrorism, building state capacity, as well as, ensuring respect for human rights. The UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (January 2016) was also shared out. The African Union Counter Terrorism Policy was also shared out which started from 1999 and ended with the African Union Model Law on Counter



---

Terrorism (2011). Key CT implications for children both in Africa and at the international level were presented. The International implications for children were outlined as follows:

- UN Counter Terrorism regime should be applied in agreement with existing human and child rights legislations e.g. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- The rights of the child embodied in the UN Convention must be protected even at the times of emergency;
- Prohibition of imposing death/life sentences for crimes committed by persons below 18 years of age;
- 2002 UN study (Graca Machel study) on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children remains widely used as a foundation for child protection;
- The study recommended the creation of an office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict;
- Recognition of the challenges of integrating child victims and perpetrators of terrorism into society;
- Obligation on member states to prevent the radicalization and recruitment of children and to ensure that the laws under which the children are tried are aligned with international law; and
- The new emphasis on prevention of terrorism can prevent children from experiencing terrorism, instead of addressing issues arising after the fact.

The implications for children in Africa included:

- ☞ Africa Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child builds on the same principles as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It encourages state parties to ensure respect for international humanitarian law in armed conflict affecting children;
- ☞ However, the response to children in terrorism should represent the nature of damage caused on children in these situations in Africa;
- ☞ Calls on states to protect children in armed conflict;
- ☞ To avoid radicalisation in prisons, states should invest in rehabilitation and reintegration of children;
- ☞ Not enough is being done to protect children's rights in terrorism situations, especially in Africa.

The presentation ended with the following conclusion and recommendations:

- Attention is being paid to children in terrorism;
- Late recognition of the need to protect children;
- Global terrorism policy to reflect the realities of today's world in preventing and countering children's issues in terrorism;
- Strategies for protection of children involved or affected in terrorism must be applied

- 
- more consistently;
  - Needs of child victims and child perpetrators of terrorism require urgent and increased global attention;
  - Resources of implementing strategies on children involved in terrorism must be prioritized.

**Mr Clifford Osagie Esq., Prosecutor, Nigeria** in his presentation titled “*Practical Challenges in Working with Child Suspects in Terrorism Cases*” examined terrorism in Nigeria and the emergence of Boko Haram with an upsurge of forcible conscription of children resulting in involvement of children in acts of terrorism, for which the penalty on conviction would be death.

He noted that Nigeria’s legislation relating to children in conflict with the law is in line with international law, though some domestic laws appeared to conflict. He noted some of the challenges faced in dealing with such children, which are legal and administrative in nature as follows:

- It is difficult for prosecutors to remain detached;
- Often the parents are themselves involved in terrorism and investigators have no one to contact about the antecedents of the child;
- There is no special court for criminal cases involving the child;
- The 48 hours allowed for investigation is insufficient;
- Courts are averse to remanding a child in prison and bail is usually inappropriate and the holding facilities of the investigating agency are also inappropriate;
- The child suspect might be on hard drugs and skilled medical help is usually lacking;
- Defining the age of a child can be difficult;
- If convicted cannot serve sentence in prison because this would defeat requirement to reform and rehabilitate but alternatives to prison are inadequate;
- Those handling the child are lacking in training.

Mr Osagie concluded the presentation by recommending for the development of adequate facilities for the handling of suspected child terrorists through trial to post-sentencing, including; special training and separate facilities for suspected child terrorists, adequate alternatives to prison and the development of expertise in de-radicalization of child terrorists.

## **Social and Psychological Responses to Armed Conflict and Terrorism**

*Chair: Ms Sharon Ahumuza, Chief Executive Officer, ANPPCAN Uganda*

**Ms Hannah Graham, Save the Children International, and Charlie Goldsmith Associates, South Sudan** in their project titled “*Hear it from the Children, South Sudan: We Want to Learn – Even During War*” focused on internally displaced children in South Sudan, a country affected by conflict since 2013. Despite the conflict, education remains highly prized by parents, teachers

---

and communities. Education helps in protecting children, adds value to other humanitarian interventions, and builds resilience, supports peace-building and community transformation.

The research was conducted in conflict-affected areas in South Sudan in both government and opposition areas. Discussions were held with 367 persons through focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs). The research used the methodology as that used in child safeguarding practices described in the Save the Children's original version of 'Hear it from the Children' study. The research consulted parents, teachers, community leaders, children (both girls and boys), national and international humanitarian workers, UN staff, cluster coordinators and camp management staff. The findings of the study led to the conclusion that education in emergency situations is a priority for conflict affected communities because schools:

- Act as safe places for children to prevent their recruitment into armed forces, being kidnapped and trafficked;
- Teachers regularly monitor the well-being of children;
- Provide opportunity to teach children safety and survival skills while teaching them their rights;
- Provide opportunity for children to access health services, food and other amenities;
- Provide avenues for children, parents and other professionals to meet address their concerns;
- Provide children with the opportunity to report their challenges and concerns;
- Education builds resilience and opportunity for peace building.

The presentation made the following recommendations:

- Donors should increase funding for education in emergency situations in South Sudan;
- Humanitarian actors should improve accountability to communities through identifying the priority needs and where possible, plan and deliver a multi-sector and integrated programming;
- Governments and non-state actors should ensure access to enable humanitarian agencies support displaced and conflict-affected children and their families, including provision of education and other services;
- Schools and universities should be protected from military use during armed conflict, ensuring that schools, teachers and children are protected from armed occupation and/or attack;
- Non-state armed groups must commit to the protection of children's education in their territories, and sign-up to the 2010 Deed of Commitment for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict;
- The wishes of children and communities regarding education must be respected;
- Education is vital in protecting children in conflict prone zones, by providing a safe place with supervision from a teacher who monitors their (children) wellbeing; and

- 
- Schools should be seen and endorsed as safe places where teachers can effectively supervise and monitor the well-being of children.

**Dr David Kani Olema, Busitema University, Uganda** made a presentation based on a research titled *“Dynamics of Traumatic Stress, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Family Violence among Families Displaced by War in Gulu, Northern Uganda”* focusing on internally displaced families in camps in Gulu, Northern Uganda (a collaboration between a Ugandan and a German university). Nearly 20 years of war in Uganda displaced 80% of the population with close to 20,000-30,000 children being abducted, numerous atrocities committed and the destruction of social fabric.

The research aimed to examine association between war trauma, family violence and psychological distress, compare the level and psychological consequences of war trauma and family violence between abducted and non-abducted adolescents and determine the risk factors for family violence in the aftermath of mass trauma. The assumptions for the study were:

- Strong associations exist between war trauma, family violence and psychological distress;
- Abducted adolescents experienced high levels of war trauma and family violence and suffered more psychopathology than adolescents not abducted;
- War trauma and family violence predict psychopathology child maltreatment;
- Both communal and personal factor perpetuate violence.



*Children drinking porridge during break time at a playing centre for Early Childhood Development for displaced children in Gulu, Northern Uganda (Courtesy: Daily Monitor, September 2016)*

Gulu in Uganda was selected for the study, because for nearly 20 years the region experienced armed conflict. In this region, nearly 80% of the population had been displaced into internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps (IAC, UG, 2008).

Besides, many people had been abducted e.g. 20,000 – 30,000 children had been abducted (Annan et al, 2006; Erth et al, 2011; Human Rights Watch, (2005). Reports have it that numerous atrocities and human right abuses were committed against families, children, individuals and communities (de Termmerman, 2009) and the entire social fabric destroyed.

- 
1. Abducted adolescents experienced higher levels of traumatic events and family violence compared with non- abducted counterparts.
  2. Abducted adolescents exhibit higher rates of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
  3. The traumatic experiences of the adolescents, experience of family violence and the degree of PTSD shown by the mother were significantly associated with PTSD among the adolescents.
  4. Traumatic experience of adolescents and traumatic experience of the father, predicted family violence against the adolescent.
  5. There are strong associations between amount of war-trauma, PTSD and family violence
  6. The association of mental health of parents and that of the adolescents points to the need to consider the interaction of experiences within the family.
  7. The detrimental effect of organized violence can no longer be viewed from individualistic point of view.

### **Observations and conclusions**

The following observations and conclusion were made in the presentation:

1. Interventions in the aftermath of organized violence must take a whole family approach for the displaced families;
2. Responses to family violence must take into consideration the socio-cultural backgrounds of the victims;
3. Due consideration to be given to the prevention of child-maltreatment in displaced families and to boost resilience.

**Mr George Warari, Safeguarding Children Programme, East Africa** in his presentation titled “*Children and armed conflict-social and psychological responses to armed conflict and terrorism*” notes that the deepest wounds of armed conflict and terrorism are borne by the children. Children internalize this by blaming themselves, their families, the society, the government and the international agencies for the conflict.

Mr Warari said that the social response should be primarily preventive, at the family and community level, where children discuss their contacts and relationships with adults and peers. During the conflict, parents and caretakers need to listen to their children’s anxiety and reassure them of safety and peace. The military, peacekeeping forces and the international community do have a pivotal role to play to help children cope with armed conflict and terrorism.

Mr Warari proposed for the maintenance of the family unit and peer bonds amidst armed conflict and terrorism. Other stakeholders such as the government, civil society organisations and international bodies need to be proactive in giving children a helping hand, providing opportunities, including peace education programmes.

---

## Gender and Armed Conflicts

*Chair: Ms Jebbeh Forster, Peace and Security Advisor, UN Women, Kenya*

**Ms Irene Wali, Child Protection Advisor, Terre des Hommes – Netherlands, East Africa Region** in her presentation titled, “*Gender specific effects of armed conflict in Africa*” noted that the lives of children are jeopardized when women are not protected and their contribution to peace-building is undermined and marginalized (Graça Machel; 2001). She challenged a number of myths relating to the gender dimensions in armed conflict. For example, although it is thought that child soldiers were boys, in fact about 40 per cent were girls. Girl soldiers, especially, those with children, were often the group least served by formal disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes, since many of these programmes are designed with boy soldiers in mind and are not tailored to the needs of girls.

As a result of armed conflict, women are taking up new roles; working outside the home, being the income earners, main decision-makers and heads of households, organizing themselves with other women and going into the public sphere, which is often, the role of men. Women are particularly, susceptible to the marginalization, poverty and suffering engendered by armed conflict, especially when they are already victims of discrimination in peacetime.



*Ms Irene Wali, Terre des Hommes,  
Netherlands*

Ms Wali noted that women are at risk, by virtue of the fact that, they are often portrayed as symbolic bearers of their cultural or ethnic identity. Addressing gender-based violence against women and girls in conflict situations, is inseparable from addressing the forms of violence to which, civilian men are specifically vulnerable (Carpenter, R.: 2016). Besides, while gender-based violence occurred amongst men and boys as well, this was seldom recognized. Ms Wali argued the importance of recognizing gender-based violence against men and boys in conflict situations.

Ms Wali said that although gender-based violence has emerged as a salient topic in human security, it has been wrongly framed with respect to violence against women and girls, particularly regarding sexual violence. Although both genders are affected by gender based violence, women and girls face a particular risk of sexual violence as often they are used as weapons of war. The presentation pointed out that the stigmatization of persons who experienced sexual gender-based violence in the community, ends up with loss of confidence, leading to isolation from the same community. This leads to girls, in particular, to drop out of school. Wars also impact negatively on formal education, as schools get destroyed, teachers and students get abducted and killed, thus making accessibility of education limited.

---

Ms Wali argued that preventing gender based violence in conflict situations, calls for efforts to reduce the incidence of violence, as well as, interventions that enhance knowledge of gender based violence issues, which assist in changing attitudes and behaviour. She also called for improving access to services for survivors, ranging from medical care to psychosocial support to deal with the trauma, as well as, the legal services and security.

The following recommendations were made during the presentation:

- Children who suffer from effects of conflicts should be able to seek justice for the violations of their rights, including their participation in judicial and non-judicial processes;
- Children who have committed violations themselves should be made to understand their acts by truth-telling, traditional ceremonies and restorative justice measures, which strengthen their reintegration into society;
- Awareness-raising initiatives, whether stand-alone interventions, primarily aimed at changing attitudes and behaviour towards gender-based violence, or as part of a broader programme, should be used to change community attitudes and perceptions, leading to increased attention to women’s rights and gender equality.

### **ECPAT Panel on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Armed Conflict - Finding Justice for the Victims**

*Chair: Ms Catherine Mbengue, ECPAT*

**Ms Mbengue, ECPAT Coordinator, International Coordinator Africa** in her presentation titled “*Sexual Exploitation of Children in Armed Conflict - Finding Justice for the Victims*” said there is universal consensus that sexual violence against children in situations of armed conflict is a grave crime. This presents itself, in terms of rape, defilement and the commoditization of bodies of the victims in exchange for protection, shelter or supplies. The perpetrators of sexual exploitation in situations of armed conflict are mainly the parties in conflicts i.e. states and non state actors, aid workers as well as peace keeping troops.

Ms Mbengue said that sexual abuse and exploitation experienced by women and children does not arise solely because of the conditions of war, but as a form of gender-based violence, which is deeply rooted in male and female roles in the society that violate the rights of women and children, in time of peace. She explained the emergence of sexual exploitation and abuse in recent years, which is characterized by deficit response, impunity, weaknesses in access to justice and remedial mechanisms.



*Ms Catherine Mbengue,  
ECPAT International*

---

Ms Mbengue encouraged states to use opportunities in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end sexual exploitation and abuse of children. Notable SDG include Goal 5 on *achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls*, in particular 5.2 and 5.3 and Goal 16 on *promoting just, peaceful and equitable societies*. The presentation noted significant progress towards enhancing the protection of children by African governments, which include the adoption and domestication of international relevant child rights treaties; the 25 year old African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Agenda 2063. She said these opportunities provide immense potential for Africa to play a leading role in spearheading progress in protecting children and ending violence against children in general and in armed conflict zones, in particular.

The presenter gave the following recommendations:

#### **Prevention**

- Continue to improve training tools and methodologies for aid workers and peacekeepers;
- Continue with community awareness-raising efforts to negate the perception that sexual exploitation and abuse is acceptable and educate the public about available reporting mechanisms.

#### **Enforce standards and increase accountability**

- Strengthen the partnership approach between the United Nations and the Troop and Police contributing countries (TCC/PCC);
- Enhance the vetting capabilities of the Misconduct Tracking System (MTS) to include all categories of personnel, including UN staff and military personnel.

#### **Enhance Access to justice and remedial measure for victims**

- Improve victims' assistance mechanisms through stronger in-country partnerships among the agencies that provide coordinated support to victims.

**Dr George Nyakora, President Africanwide Movement for Children** made a presentation on *“The role of Civilians and Military in prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Conflict Situations.”* The presentation discussed the role of civilians and military in the prevention of sexual exploitation of children in conflict situations. He acknowledged the 25 year anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, noting that despite advances that have been made, many children will not have an equal chance to grow up healthy, educated and able to fulfill their potential and become fully participating citizens. He said the situation is even more catastrophic for children affected by armed conflict.

Dr Nyakora referred to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and noted its recognition of the gravity of the situation facing children. He suggested the development of a Pan-African Response, especially on violence against children and bolder approaches and solutions to



---

accelerate progress towards a future in which all children can enjoy their rights. He noted that many regions of Africa over the past decades have been involved in war and internal or external conflicts.

Mr Nyakora said opportunistic, militant extremist groups and militias have been added to the civil wars, insurgences, internal and external aggressions that plague the continent to the detriment of the children. He noted that armed conflicts in Africa have been attributed to ethnicity, traditional rivalries, cultural tensions and the struggle for power and property, in which social order is maintained by domination.

In particular, Mr Nyakora voiced concern over the many confirmed cases of sexual abuse and commercial exploitation of the civilian population by military forces, including, those serving in United Nations and African Union peacekeeping missions in Somalia, Central African Republic, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The role and function of the UN Civil-Military Coordination task force was explained as being one of coordination.

However, Dr Nyakora noted that, one of the glaring gaps in this coordination and co-operation was the prevention of sexual exploitation of children. In conflict situations, children were seduced and manipulated, not only by armed forces, but also by community members in exchange for goods and services. He noted that children's rights and welfare continued to be violated with impunity, especially, in conflict situations. The need to train peacekeeping military forces on the rights of children was stressed on the presentation.

## **Child Protection in the Face of Armed Conflict and Terrorism**

*Chair: Prof Margaret Lynch, Kings College, London*

**Mrs Ojochide Atojoko Omovbude, S. E. Aruwa & Co., Nigeria** in her presentation titled "*Waging the War on Terror: in Search of the Fundamental Rights of a Boko Haram Child-Soldier and the Need for an Independent Human Rights Institution for Children in Nigeria*" discussed how being associated with an armed group and the experience of being a child soldier, impacted on a child's development and impeded on his/her fundamental rights. She discussed the rights of a child soldier rescued from *Boko Haram* terrorists by the Nigerian government, which is a signatory to various international treaties and conventions, which protect children in armed conflict situations.

Mrs Omovbude concluded by underscoring the need to salvage the lives of child soldiers and proposed that child soldiers should be rehabilitated and reintegrated into the society, stating the need to increase all positive efforts to prevent and eradicate the recruitment and use of child soldiers in armed conflict.

**Dr Ajwang' Warri, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa** in her presentation titled "*The Crucial Role of Parents in Supporting Children after a Terror Attack*" gave an overview of terrorist attacks in Kenya and explained the impact of terrorist acts on children. He said children exhibited mild stress reactions to severe prolonged and complicated traumatic grief. she said

---

children responses were influenced by gender, social support, inherent resilience and the level of exposure to the terrorist attack.

Dr Warriia said that parents can help children cope with the aftermath of terrorist attack by speaking to the children about fears exhibited by other members, listening to and reassuring children about what has occurred. Other way of assisting children include giving tangible signs of love and support, modeling how to manage emotions, celebrating survival and referral to psychosocial services.

Dr Warriia gave the following recommendations on the role of parents in supporting children affected by armed conflicts and terrorism:

- The crucial role parents play in supporting children to recover from the effects of terror attacks ought to be acknowledged;
- Parents should be supported to assist children based on the child's age and developmental level;
- Social workers ought to be available should parents require debriefing and other support to heal from the effects of terrors attacks.

**Ms Jennifer Kaberi, Institute of Child Development, Daystar University, Kenya** in her presentation titled *“Terrorism, Church and Child Protection; A Case of Evangelical Churches in Nairobi”* noted that terrorism in churches has gone up 309%, with 15 attacks in 2014, where 204 people were killed and hundreds injured, with 5 children killed and thousands traumatized. The

possible reasons for targeting churches are complex and multiple.



***Ms Jennifer Kaberi speaking on terrorism, the church and child protection, a case of Evangelical churches in Nairobi***

Ms Kaberi shared findings of a descriptive study exploring the church, as a child protection system in Africa, using a mixed methodology of questionnaires, key informants and focus group discussions. The study interviewed 140 adult members of the church, 60 children and 20 church leaders in Kenya. The study findings were as follows:

- Respondents viewed the church as safe places for children;
- All church leaders believed that terrorism is a major challenge in protecting children;
- Children feared terrorist attacks on the church;
- Most church workers did not know what to do in case of an attack;
- All churches had only one exit and entrance;
- All churches had security guards;
- All people entering the church go through security checks;
- The churches have CCTV cameras.

Ms Kaberi concluded by saying that most respondents in the study thought that terrorism was a major challenge in protecting children and that the church was taking various measures to protect her congregation and the children against terror attacks. However, more needs to be done. She made recommendations for advocacy, the enactment of stronger laws and policies, as well as, training of church leaders, security guards and church members on terrorism.

**Ms Roseline Olumbe, Daystar University Kenya and Dr Ciriaka Gitonga, Pan African Christian University, Kenya** in their study titled *“The Psychological Well-being of Children after Terror Attacks in Nairobi County, Kenya,”* examined psychological effects and psychosocial support services available to child victims of terrorist attacks in selected schools in Nairobi, Kenya.

According to the study, children confirmed that they experienced intrusive memories, nightmares and excessive fear from terror attacks. They were also physically distressed when reminded of the same, tended to avoid conversations about terror attacks and avoided things and places that reminded them of terror. They also experienced difficulties in sleeping, concentrating on their learning and were overly alert for bad things.

The presenters said that though majority of the children reported having never had these experiences, some of the children, often or sometimes experienced them. This implies that although majority of the children recovered from the attacks, some of them were still psychologically affected. The study yielded the following conclusions and recommendations;

- These findings indicate that children who (whether directly or indirectly) witnessed terror attacks were psychologically affected by the terror events,
- There is limited support for traumatized children, except for a few who mentioned that teachers supported them,
- The children, who reported to have witnessed terror attacks through media, were not significantly affected psychologically,
- There is need for a comprehensive study to establish the extent to which children have been traumatized after terror attack,
- The need to establish and implement effective support structures for children both at family and community level is emphasized,
- There is need to train and psycho-educate child caregivers on ways to support psychologically traumatized children.

---

## **Armed Conflict and its Impact on Children, Youth and their families**

*Chair: Dr Rajeev Seth, Indian Child Abuse and Neglect and Child Labour Group, India*

**Ms Sharon Ahumuza, Executive Director, ANPPCAN Uganda** made a presentation titled “*Violence against children in six primary schools in Northern Uganda: Status, Opportunities and Lessons to Enhance Violence Free Environment*” which was based on a baseline survey on the status of violence faced by children. The baseline survey explored opportunities for prevention and lessons to enhance a violence free environment for children in Arua District, Northern Uganda.

A major finding of the survey was that child neglect constituted majority of cases reported on violence against children at ANPPCAN Uganda. At school, the use of physical punishment was common and this involved digging / compound cleaning (41%), caning (31%) and cleaning latrines without protective gears (18%). Psychological, including, sexual abuse were also reported to occur in homes and in the surrounding communities.



Ms Ahumuza said that many cases of violence against children were not reported due to fear of harm by the perpetrators, stigma and uncertainty that action would be taken. The perpetrators of violence mentioned included fellow children, teachers, relatives and neighbours.

Major opportunities for the prevention of violence against children exist including availability of teachers, development partners, Arua Education Ordinance (which has clauses prohibiting violence against children) and increased knowledge among children as well as adults on children’s rights and responsibilities.

## **Contemporary Issues Related to Armed Conflict and Terrorism**

*Chair: Dr Jane Thuo, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Nairobi*

**Ms Rosemary Nakijoba, Ndejje University, Uganda** in her presentation titled “*Disability and Child Labour among War Affected Children in Acet Sub County, Northern Uganda,*” which was based on a research study, sought to establish the link between the impact of war and disability and child labour.

---

Ms Nakijoba said the study indicated that children attributed their involvement in child labour to poverty brought about by war and the death of their parents during war. There was consensus that child labour is a serious social and educational concern in the aftermath of war and also among scarce resource communities. It was also evident that the education of children, is seriously affected and eventual recovery of the communities cannot be realized. The following recommendations emerged from the presentations:

- To realize sustainable recovery for all children who have been affected by conflicts and disasters;
- Sustained awareness creation programmes need to be undertaken;
- Families should be psychologically helped to create an enabling environment for children to realize their potential;
- Empowerment of teachers to identify and assist children affected by child labour;
- General recovery programmes should include advocacy against child labour;
- Children, including disabled ones, who have been exploited in child labour should be given opportunity to continue with their studies;
- The talents and abilities of the vulnerable children should be identified, appreciated and nurtured;
- Local and international institutions should collaborate and coordinate extensively in order to meet the needs of such children.

**Mr Aggrey Otieno, ANPPCAN Regional Office** in his presentation titled “*Tweeting Westgate Mall Terrorist Attack in Nairobi, Kenya: Lessons for Child Protection Emergency Responses*” noted that social media has revolutionalized communication in Kenya in the recent past. He said that during terrorist attacks, Kenyans’ appetite to access and share real time news increased. Widespread access to social media platforms has been made possible by the increased availability of mobile phones throughout the country. According to Digital Rand (2015), over 74% of online adults use social media regularly. At the moment, approximately 4 million Kenyans actively use social media (Hubspot, 2015).

Mr Otieno examined social media coverage of Westgate Mall terrorist attack in 2013 and noted the important role of social media in reporting during terrorist attacks. He concluded by saying that social media platforms give an opportunity to galvanize support to victims of terrorism and their families.

**Mr Bernard Morara, ANPPCAN Regional Office** in his presentation titled “*Positive Media Reporting and Trauma Healing in Conflict Zones*” noted that mass media play a key role in conflict. Basically, their role can take two different and opposed forms, such as, taking an active part in the conflict and, therefore, has responsibility for increased violence or staying independent and out of the conflict, thereby contributing to the resolution of conflict and alleviation of violence (Puddephatt, 2006).

---

Mr Morara said that media comprises of radio, television, internet, films, newspapers, magazines, and newsletters and social media. He noted that the role the media takes in a given conflict, in the phases before and after, depends on a complex set of factors, including the relationship the media has to actors in the conflict and the independence the media has to the power holders in society, as well as, the editorial policy.



*Workshop session*

Mr Morara said that literature review revealed that the way media reports on victims of violence can either harm or help the healing process of the victims and family members of the victims. Moreover, ignoring the voices in the mass media and their personal testimony, prevents the wider society from acknowledging the atrocities committed, and the extent to which conflict has affected people's collective identity.

He concluded by noting that writing about violence and trauma, involves a dialectic interaction, where the final story will not only have an impact on society, but also on the victim of violence. Equally, the victim is affecting the news story and therefore, the society.

## **International, Regional and National Responses for Children in Armed Conflict and Terrorism Situations**

*Chair: Ms Jenny Gray, OBE, Dip Higher Education*

**Nelly Kamunde-Aquino, Kenyatta University, Kenya** in her presentation titled, "*Children and Terror: Assessing the Extent to which International Humanitarian Law offers Protective*



*Ms Kamunde-Aquino speaking on protection measures offered by IHL for children in terror situations*

*Mechanisms and Remedies,*" noted that terror had become a tool for oppression and politics of compulsion, where combatants resorted to the use of ambush, surprise attacks, fright and disruption of people's normal lives. She said terror attacks and the counter retaliation often exposed a large number of the population to suffering and harm, especially the children owing to their vulnerability.

Ms Kamunde-Aquino cited the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention of 1949 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict situations. She noted the Convention had specific rules that protect children when they are in the hands of a party to the

---

conflict of whom they are not nationals. In this instance, she observed that IHL then applies only when such children are in the hands of an occupying power.

Subsequently, the presentation observed a shortcoming in the application of International Humanitarian Law especially in situations where children were in the hands of a neutral state or when it is a situation of terror. She said it was not clear whether such children should receive IHL protection. She also noted that protection measures in IHL could only be applied where the situation was of international armed conflict in nature. She noted that terrorism is not under the known categories of IHL but observed that terrorism acts could be addressed in IHL if they fall within the definition of armed conflict.

She concluded by described the rules of IHL that are applicable to the protection of children in terrorism situations. In situations where terror attack did not amount to or coincide with armed conflict, she highlighted a number of human rights standards and options for legal applications that have been provided for in the law and that could be invoked.

The presentation made the following recommendations:

- Privileges of being in a position to lobby;
- Strengthening of special rules developed for the protection of children affected by terrorism;
- Enhancement of criminal sanctions when terror affects children at the national level;
- Special Convention relating to children who are affected by terror;
- Strengthening efforts to end all forms of violence against children;
- Special rules advocating the end of violence against children.

## **Prevention and Protection of Children from Armed Conflict and Terrorism Situations**

*Chair: Ms Pragathi Tummala, Executive Director, ISPCAN*

**Mr Cornel Ogutu, ANPPCAN Regional Office** in his presentation titled, “*Community conversation as a Strategy to Prevent Recruitment of Children in Armed Groups*” strongly argued for the use of community conversation method, adopted by ANPPCAN, as a way of involving communities in preventing armed conflict and recruitment of children into armed groups.

Mr Ogutu said community conversation leads to increased understanding of the dynamics used to recruit children and provides an opportunity for the community to meaningfully participate in improving the well-being of all children, increasing commitment to child protection and taking action to make communities safer.

---

Mr Ogutu advocated for the involvement of families and communities, through community conversations in the prevention of armed conflict. This includes; addressing the indoctrination of young people by militia groups. He said through conversations, the communities acknowledge the factors that make children, women and youth vulnerable and identify both local challenges, protection and safety mechanisms, within the community to address their vulnerabilities.



***Mr Cornel Ogutu, ANPPCAN***

Mr Ogutu recommended for the strengthening of both the formal and informal community based child protection systems, improvement of standards of child protection by working with existing structures, such as, religious, educational and health networks, local authorities and traditional leaders and most importantly the use of community conversations to unravel issues affecting children in communities.

**Ms Sophie Omutanyi, ANPPCAN Regional Office** in her presentation titled, *“The Role of Education in Preventing Children from being Enlisted in Armed Conflict,”* described an education model implemented by ANPPCAN with the support of the African Kids in Need, that offers children with educational opportunities, thus preventing them from vulnerabilities, including being recruited into militia and other illegal groups.

Ms Omutanyi said children, who are identified as being vulnerable in the communities, include orphans, children from single parents, children from dysfunctional families and children from violent marriages i.e. father comes home drunk and starts beating children and the mother.



***Ms Sophie Omutanyi, ANPPCAN***

She said the African Kids in Need (AKIN) in partnership with ANPPCAN initiated an education sponsorship programme, which has empowered over 200 children with education that has rescued them from being enlisted in armed conflict, entering child prostitution, child labour and child marriage. AKIN has gone beyond educating children to empowering the families of these children with finances and skills on entrepreneurship to be the advocates for their own



---

children's needs. When families are empowered, they are able to support education of their children and also ensure the children are protected from abuse.

Ms Omutanyi enumerated some of the projects AKIN had implemented towards providing children with educational opportunities, vocational training, business entrepreneurship, thus playing a role in preventing and protecting them from the prey of abuse or joining conflicts as child soldiers or perpetrating terrorism through radicalization.

---

## VII. THE CLOSING SESSION

Ms Susan Mochache, the Principal Secretary, Social Security and Services, Ministry of East African Affairs, Commerce and Tourism expressed great delight to close the Conference whose agenda was to discuss issues around the impact of armed conflict and terrorism on children and youth. She observed that the forum had attracted participants from all over the world, including regional bodies, international organisations, academia, civil society organisations and experts from various countries.

Ms Mochache noted that the theme of the Conference mirrored that of the 2016 Day of the African Child, which was ‘conflict and crisis in Africa: protecting all children’s rights.’ This, she observed, was an indication that activities of the Day had already begun in earnest.



*Ms Susan Mochache (left), the Principal Secretary, Social Security and Services, Ministry of East African Affairs, Commerce and Tourism during the Closure of the Conference*

Ms Mochache observed that armed conflict affecting children and youth was a global phenomenon evident in many countries of the world, such as, Burundi, South Sudan, Syria, and the war against terrorism in Somalia, Nigeria and other parts of Africa. She said all these have compromised the livelihoods of children by disposing them to orphanhood and subsequent lack of parental care.

Ms Mochache said Kenya was not immune from the issue of the impact of conflict on children. For instance, a study on violence against children conducted by Government of Kenya in 2010, indicated that many children were being subjected to all manner of violence, including; sexual exploitation, physical abuse and recruitment to militia groups.

Despite this, Mrs Mochache said Kenya had put in place the necessary legislations, policies, guidelines and institutions as mechanisms to protect children against any form of violence. Also Kenya has ratified various international treaties related to children’s rights and their protection.

Ms Mochache was hopeful that participants held productive discussions and shared experiences, knowledge and practices and came up with recommendations that, when implemented, will help in preventing and responding to issues affecting children.

Ms Mochache hoped that the outcome of the Conference will be shared out and urged the organizers to disseminate the information and outcome arising out of the Conference widely and share it with all stakeholders beyond those who participated in the Conference. The sharing would greatly assist various actors in preventing and responding conflicts. She noted that due to

---

lack of sharing of information from such forums, a lot of time and resources were spent reinventing the wheel which would be eliminated if the information is shared.

Ms Mochache paid tribute to ANPPCAN Regional Office, ISPCAN, Terre des Hommes and Save the Children international for overwhelming support in hosting the Conference. She appreciated all the delegates and the presenters for their valuable contributions during the Conference.

She concluded by reiterating the commitment of the Government of Kenya in the protection of children and safeguarding of their rights, adding that the Government of Kenya will continue to offer unwavering dedication and support in providing a roadmap towards ensuring that the rights of children are upheld.



***Dr Rebecca Nyonyintono, chaired the Closing Session***

---

## VIII. ANNEXES

### Annex I: Programme of events:-

SUNDAY, 7 FEBRUARY, 2016

9.00 – 4:00pm **Master Class**

DAY ONE: MONDAY, 8 FEBRUARY, 2016

7.00 - 9.00am **Registration**

9.00 – 10.30am **Official Opening**

*Chair: Ms Joan van Niekerk, President, ISPCAN*

10.30 – 11.00am *Coffee / Tea Break*

11.00 – 1.00pm **Plenary Session**

### **The Impact of Armed Conflict on Children, Youth and their Families**

*Chair: Dr Rebecca Nyonyintono, President, ANPPCAN*

- 1. Child protection at the time of armed conflicts and natural disasters - some key issues**  
*Dr Tufail Muhammad, Chairman of Child Rights & Abuse Committee, Pakistan Pediatric Association*
- 2. European Union approach to children and armed conflict**  
*Ms Elise Thoen, Human Rights Policy Officer, Human Rights Strategy and Policy Implementation Division, Belgium*
- 3. Progress on global and regional commitments on women's peace and security rights in the Great Lakes**  
*Ms Jebbeh Forster, Peace and Security Advisor, UN Women, Kenya*
- 4. Child justice and terrorism: rule of law responses and promoting prevention**  
*Cheryl Frank, Division Head, Transnational Threats and International Crime Division, Institute for Security Studies*

1.00 – 2.00pm *Lunch Break*

2.00 – 3.30pm **Concurrent Sessions**

#### **Symposium 1: Refugee Children**

**Measuring impact through a child protection index**

*Ms Janis Ridsdel, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

---

*Dr Sarah Meyer, Program on Forced Migration and Health, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University*

**Protecting at-risk refugee children and families in urban contexts**

*Ms Janis Ridsdel, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

*Ms Kate Mahoney, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

**The leadership education and empowerment programme for refugee young people**

*Ms Janis Ridsdel, United National High Commissioner for Refugees*

*Mr Matthew Vincent, Scotties Place*

**A regional approach to the protection of refugee children in the South Sudan crisis**

*Ms Janis Ridsdel, United National High Commissioner for Refugees*

**Discussions**

**Session 1a: Armed Conflict and its Impact on Children, Youth and their Families**

**Chair: Professor Samuel M Makinda, PhD, EBS, Murdoch University, Australia**

**Social and religious connections in forced conscription of child soldiers**

*Mr Bernard Okpokwasili, ANPPCAN, Sierra Leone*

**Feasibility of psychosocial intervention for children exposed to ethnic conflict in Kenya**

*Mr Elijah Getanda, University of Leicester, United Kingdom*

**Attacks and military use of schools in Africa**

*Mr Michael Lumor, Save the Children International, Pan Africa and AU Liaison Office, Addis Ababa-Ethiopia*

**Relations of care in international research and aid in the aftermath of conflict – Lessons from the Centre for Children in Vulnerable Situations (CCVS) practice centre in Lira, Northern Uganda**

*Team CCVS-Lira, Northern Uganda*

**Discussions**

**Session 1b: Impact of Terrorism and Armed Conflict**

**Chair: Dr Tufail Muhammad, Chair, Child Rights & Abuse Committee, Pakistan Paediatric Association, Pakistan**

**The emergence of terrorism and its impact on children and their families**

*Mrs Ntsang Sharon Forbanjong, University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon*

**The impact of terrorism on the girl child in Nigeria**

*Mrs Ojochide Atojoko Omovbude, S E Aruwa & Co, Nigeria*

**2015 Xenophobic violence in South Africa and the impact on children and families**

*Ms Dumisile Nala, Childline, South Africa*

**Discussions**

**3.30 – 4.00pm**

**Coffee Break**

---

**4.00 – 5.30pm Concurrent Sessions**

**Workshop 1: Child Justice and Terrorism: Rule of Law Responses and Promoting Prevention**

*Chair: Ms Irene Ndungu, Researcher, Transnational Threats and International Crime Division  
Institute for Security Studies, Nairobi*

**The international Counter-Terrorism policy regime and implications for children**

*Ms Uyo Salifu, Researcher, Institute for Security Studies*

**Counter-Terrorism and Juvenile Justice Good Practices (draft recommendations)**

*Ms Celine Glutz, Programme Manager, International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law*

**Practical Challenges in working with child suspects in terrorism cases**

*Clifford Osagie, Prosecutor, Nigeria*

**Session 2: Social and Psychological Responses to Armed Conflict and Terrorism**

*Chair: Ms Sharon Ahumuza, Chief Executive Officer, ANPPCAN Uganda*

**Hear it from the children, South Sudan: 'We want to learn - even during war'**

*Ms Hannah Graham, Save the Children International & Charlie Goldsmith Associates, South Sudan*

**Dynamics of traumatic stress, PTSD, and family violence among families displaced by war in Gulu, Northern Uganda**

*Dr David Olema (Busitema University), Dr Claudia Catani (Bielefeld University), Dr Verena Ertl (Bielefeld University), Dr Regina Saile (Bielefeld University), Prof Thomas Lbert (University of Konstanz/Vivo International) and Prof Frank Neuner*

**Children and armed conflict- social and psychological responses to armed conflict and terrorism**

*Mr George Warari, Safeguarding Children Programme - East Africa*

*Discussions*

**Workshop 2: Gender and Armed Conflicts**

*Chair: Ms Jebbeh Forster, Peace and Security Advisor, UN Women, Kenya*

**Gender specific effects of armed conflict in Africa**

*Ms Irene Wali, Terre des Hommes-Netherlands, East Africa*

*Discussions*

**DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY, 2016**

7.00 - 8.30am **Registration**

9.00 – 10.30am **Plenary Session**

**International, Regional and National Responses for Children in Armed Conflict and Terrorism Situations**

*Chair: Dr Florence Muli-Musiime, Chancellor, Daystar University and Secretary, ANPPCAN*

- 
- 5 **Grave violations against children in armed conflict: best practices and lessons learned**  
*Mr Ilan Cerna-Turoff, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, New York*
- 6 **Sexual exploitation of children in armed conflict: justice for the victims (led by ECPAT International)**  
Protection of Children from Violence: The imperative of timely response  
*Dr Rima Salah, the Child Study Centre at Yale University School of Medicine and member of the UN High Level Panel on Peace Operations, United States of America*  
United Nations Response to Allegations of Sexual Abuse by Foreign Military Forces in the Central African Republic  
*Mrs Yasmin Sooka, Executive Director, Foundation for Human Rights, South Africa; member of the Independent Review Panel on the United Nations Response to Allegations of Sexual Abuse by Foreign Military Forces in the Central African Republic (CAR Panel)*
- 7 **Trebled costs of conflicts on public investment in children in selected African states**  
*Mr Bob Libert Muchabaiwa, Manager Child Rights Governance Global Initiative, Save the Children, Kenya*

10.30 – 11.00am *Coffee / Tea Break*

11.00 – 1.00pm **Concurrent Sessions**

**Workshop 3 (part a): Sexual Exploitation of Children in Armed Conflict: Finding Justice for the Child**

- *Dr Rimah Salah, the Child Study Centre at Yale University School of Medicine and Member of the UN High level Panel on Peace Operations United States of America*
  - *Mrs Yasmin Sooka, Executive Director, Foundation for Human Rights South Africa, Member of the "CAR Panel"*
  - *Mr George Nyakora, President, Africa Wide Movement for Children*
  - *Mrs Catherine Mbengue, ECPAT International Coordinator for Africa*
- Discussions**

**Session 3a: Child Protection in the Face of Armed Conflict and Terrorism**

**Chair:** *Prof Margaret Lynch, Emeritus Professor of Community Paediatrics, Kings College, London*

**Waging the war on terror: in search of the fundamental rights of a Boko Haram child-soldier and the need for an independent human rights institution for children in Nigeria**

*Mrs Ojochide Atojoko Omovbude, S. E. Aruwa & Co, Nigeria*

**Protecting our children from terrorism: the crucial role of parents**

*Dr Ajwag Warri, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg*

**Terrorism, church and child protection; a case of evangelical churches in Nairobi**

*Ms Jennifer Kaberi, Daystar University, Kenya*

**The psychological well-being of children after terror attacks in Nairobi County, Kenya**

*Mrs Roseline Olumbe, Institute of Child Development, Daystar University & Prof Ciriaka Gitonga, Pan Africa Christian University, Kenya*

**Discussions**

---

## Session 3b: Armed Conflict and its impact on Children, Youth and their families

*Chair: Dr Rajeev Seth, Chair, Indian Child Abuse, Neglect & Child Labour Group, India*

**Violence against children in six primary schools in Northern Uganda: status, opportunities and lessons to enhance violence free environment**

*Ms Sharon Ahumuza, ANPPCAN, Uganda*

**The recruitment of Congolese children**

*Mr Tony Tate, the Fund for Global Human Rights, Dr Murhabazi Namegabe, BVES, Bukavu & Mr Germain Lufungula, EADEV, Congo*

**Armed conflict and its impact on children and families**

*Mr Leonard Romanus, Nigeria*

**Armed conflict and its impact on children, youth and their families**

*Mr Arok Garang Thuch, Seeds of South Sudan*

*Discussions*

**1.00 – 2.00pm**    **Lunch Break**

### **2.00-3.30 pm**    **Concurrent Sessions**

#### **Workshop 3 (part b): Sexual Exploitation of Children in Armed Conflict: Finding Justice for the Child**

**The Work of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child: the Case of Sexual Abuse of Children in Armed Conflict**

*Mr Ayalew Gatachew Asseffa, Child Rights Legal Researcher, Secretariat of the Africa Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

**The role of Civilians and Military in prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Conflict Situations**

*Mr George Nyakora, President, Africa Wide Movement for Children*

*Discussions*

#### **Session 4: Contemporary Issues Related to Armed Conflict and Terrorism**

*Chair: Dr Jane Thuo, Lecturer, School of Journalism, University of Nairobi*

**Disability and child labour among war affected children in Acet Sub-County, Northern Uganda**

*Ms Rosemary Nakijoba, Ndejje University, Uganda*

**Tweeting Westgate Mall terrorist attack in Nairobi, Kenya: lessons for child protection emergency responders**

*Mr Aggrey Willis Otieno, ANPPCAN, Kenya*

**Positive media reporting and healing of trauma in children in conflict zones**

*Mr Bernard Morara, ANPPCAN, Kenya*

*Discussions*

#### **Workshop 4: Developing Psychosocial Interventions for Children Victims of War Trauma**

*Prof Panos Vostanis, University of Leicester, United Kingdom*



---

3.30 – 4.00pm *Coffee / Tea Break*

4.00 – 5.30pm **Concurrent Sessions**

**Session 5: International, Regional and National Responses for Children in Armed Conflict and Terrorism Situations**

*Chair: Ms Jenny Gray, OBE, Dip Higher Education and Training, United Kingdom*

**Children and terror: assessing the extent to which International Humanitarian Law offers protective mechanisms and remedies**

*Nelly Kamunde-Aquino, Kenyatta University, Kenya*

**Recruitment and deployment of children by armed factions in Somalia: a study of its effects on their well-being**

*Ms Elizabeth Manyala, Kenya*

**Protective factors and resilience of war affected children in Kakuma Refugee Camp**

*Ms Gloria Kaberia, United Nations, Amman Jordan*

**Exploring international relations and peace as a key strategy in situations of armed conflict globally- Uganda as a case study**

*Mr Dinya John Buga, ANPPCAN, Uganda*

**Discussions**

**Workshop 5: Sunshine Circles: a Teacher-Led Classroom Intervention to Help Young Children Develop a Sense of Safety at School**

*Dr Catherine Tucker, Indiana State University, & Ms. Kay Schieffer, Grant Wood Area Education Association, United States of America*

**Workshop 6: Child Protection Systems Strengthening in Settings of Armed Conflict**

*Dr Mark Canavera, Columbia University, United States of America & Ms Pia Vraalsen, Child Frontiers, Norway*

**DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY, 2016**

7.00 - 8.30am **Registration**

**9.00 – 10.00am Plenary Session**

**Prevention and Protection of Children and Youth in Armed Conflict and Terrorism Situations**

*Chair: Prof Margaret Lynch, Emeritus Professor of Community Paediatrics, Kings College, London*

**8 Strategies in preventing conflicts before they occur**

*Dr Philista Onyango & Mrs Wambui Njuguna,  
African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), Kenya*

---

10.00 – 10.30am *Coffee / Tea Break*

## 10.30 -12.00pm **Concurrent Sessions**

### **Session 6: Prevention and Protection of Children from Armed Conflict and Terrorism Situations**

*Chair: Ms Pragathi Tummala, Executive Director, ISPCAN*

**Social norms and the prevention of violence against refugee children in Tanzania**

*Mr Kedir Ahmed, International Rescue Committee, New York*

**Community conversation as a strategy to prevent recruitment of children to armed groups**

*Mr Cornel Ogutu, ANPPCAN, Kenya*

**Role of Education in preventing children from being enlisted in armed conflict**

*Ms Sophie Omutanyi, ANPPCAN, Kenya*

**Discussions**

### **Workshop 7: Healing Trauma with Expressive Arts Therapy/Practical Applications**

*Gloria Simoneaux at Harambee Arts, Kenya*

**Discussions**

## 12.00 – 2.30pm **Lunch and Official Closure**

*Chair: Dr Rebecca Nyonyintono, President, ANPPCAN*

**A summary of issues emerging from the Conference**

*Dr Kevin Lalor, Head of School of Languages, Law and Social Sciences, Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland*

**Vote of Thanks**

*ISPCAN and ANPPCAN*

**Official Closure**

*The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services, Kenya*

## Annex II. List of participants:-

No.	Name	Organization	Email Address
1.	Aggrey Willis Otieno	ANPPCAN	aggreywillis@anppcan.org
2.	Ajwang' Warri	University of Witwatersrand	ajwang.warria@mts.ac.za
3.	Ali Sagal	CISP	sagal@cisp-nairobi.org
4.	Anthony Njoroge	Save the Children	anthony.njoroge@savethechildren.org
5.	Anthony Ombara	Save the Children	anthony.ombara@savethechildren.org
6.	Arok Garang	Seeds of South Sudan	arok@seedsofsouthsudan.org
7.	Ayalew Getachew Assefa	AU/ECPAT	Ayalewg@africa-union.org / ayalewgtchw@gmail.com
8.	Bangirana Clare Ahabwe	AfriChild	cbangirana@africhild.or.ug
9.	Barnvevo Ramon		ramonbarnvevo@gmail.com
10.	Basse Jean Francois	African Union, Department of Peace & Security	bassejf@africa-union.org
11.	Bernard Gachanja	Cerebral Palsy Society	bernardkahuku@yahoo.com
12.	Bernard Morara	ANPPCAN	info@anppcan.org
13.	Bertini Schuldt Angela	ICRC	abertinischuldt@icrc.org
14.	Betty Chepngeno	AVSI Foundation	betty.chepngeno@avsi.org
15.	Bob Libert Muchabaiwa	Save the Children	blm@redbarnet.dk
16.	Canavera Mark	CPC Learning Network, Columbia University, USA	mc3718@cumc.columbia.edu
17.	Catherine Mbengue	ECPAT International - Bangkok	catherinem@ecpat.net
18.	Cerna-Turoff Ilan	Watchlist, USA	it2208@caa.columbia.edu
19.	Clifford Osagie	Ibekaka & Osagie Adv.	cliffosagie@gmail.com
20.	Cornel Ogutu	ANPPCAN Regional Office	cornelogyutu@gmail.com
21.	David Kani Olema	Busitema University	davidolema@yahoo.co.uk
22.	David Oketch	ANPPCAN	davyoketch@gmail.com
23.	Divina James Kabalo	REPPSI	divina.james@repssi.org
24.	Dorcas Kiplagat	Arigatou International	d.kiplagat@arigatouinternational.org
25.	Duncan Rachuonyo	MEDIA	rachuonyo.duncan@gmail.com
26.	Elijah Getanda	Leicester University	emgis@leicester.ac.uk
27.	Elizabeth Manyala	Nairobi County Assembly	kalliz2005@yahoo.com
28.	Elizabeth Ogembo	ANPPCAN	regional@anppcan.org

29.	Eric Abuga	MEDIA	eric.abugah@yahoo.com
30.	Evelyn Namvua	Save the Children	evelyn.namvua@savethechildren.org
31.	Florence Muli-Musiime	ANPPCAN Regional Board	florencem@africaonline.co.ke
32.	Forster Jebbeh	UN WOMEN - Nairobi	jebbeh.forster@unwomen.org
33.	Francisco Kabumu	CISP	kabumu@cisp-nairobi.org
34.	Frank Cheryl	Institute for Security Studies South Africa	cfrank@issafrica.org
35.	George Warari Kimingiri	St. Patrick's	wararigeorge@yahoo.com
36.	Gerald Ngaruiya	Transformative Global Solutions	sirgeraldn@gmail.com
37.	Germain Lufungula	EADDEV - DRC	germainlufungula@gmail.com
38.	Hannah Graham	Charlie Goldsmith Assoc./Save the Children	hannahgraham@charliegoldsmithasso ciates.co.uk
39.	Hilda Nyatete	IMLU	hnyatete@imlu.org
40.	Irene Ndungu	Institute for Security Studies Kenya	indungu@issafrica.org
41.	Irene Wali	Terre des Hommes	i.wali@tdh.nl
42.	Jack Ombaka	National Counter Terrorism Centre	j.ombaka@counterterrorism.go.ke
43.	Jackie Guma Bukaayi	Legal Counsel Parliament of Uganda	jbguma@gmail.com
44.	Jane Thuo	University of Nairobi	wambui.thuo@gmail.com
45.	Jenny Gray	ISPCAN	jennyagray@ntlworld.com
46.	Joan Van Niekerk	ISPCAN	joanvn@iafrica.com
47.	Joash Diemo Sigu	Edmund Rice Advocacy Network	jdiemo@gmail.com
48.	John Kolff	Terre des Hommes Netherlands, East Africa Regional Office	eastafrica@tdh.nl
49.	Kay Schieffer	Iowa – Grantwood Area Edu. Agency	kschieffer@gwaea
50.	Kedir Ahmed Yimam	IRC	kedir.ahmed@rescue.org
51.	Kevin Lalor	ISPCAN	kevin.lalor@dit.ie
52.	Leah Obaggah	ANPPCAN	leahgichana@yahoo.com
53.	Lilian Obonyo	Harambee Arts	lil2obonyo@yahoo.com
54.	Lonah Lagat	Refugepoint International	lonah@refugepoint.org
55.	Magdalene Muoki	CISP	muoki@cisp-nairobi.org
56.	Makiba Yamano	World Vision International	makiba.yamano@wvi.org
57.	Malinousyi Radoslac	HAART	rm@haartkenya.org
58.	Margaret Lynch	ISPCAN	CandMLynch@aol.com

59.	Marion Prats	Terre des Hommes	mpr@tdh.ch
60.	Mary Gatama	Railway Children	m.gatama@railwaychildren.org
61.	Maryam Kashefi	ICRC	mkashefi@icrc.org
62.	Maurice Gathua	ANPPCAN	maurice@anppcan.org
63.	Melhiku Tiruneh		melhiku@gmail.com
64.	Mercy Otieno	ANPPCAN	mercyotieno86@gmail.com
65.	Michael Lumar	Save the Children	michael.lumar@savethechildren.org
66.	Michelle Midigo	ANPPCAN	regional@anppcan.org
67.	Milcah Mutanu	ANPPCAN	shantelmilcah@gmail.com
68.	Moses Kiyeng	ANPPCAN	accounts@anppcan.org
69.	Muhamud Javed Iqbal	Pakistan Padm.	javed.awan174@gmail.com
70.	Namegabe Murhabazi	BVES/DRC	murhabazinamegabe@yahoo.fr
71.	Naomi Mbugua	Children's Department - Kenya	nmbugua@gmail.com
72.	Nelly Kamunde Aquino	Kenyatta University	neely.kamunde@gmail.com
73.	Nighat T. Muhammad		tufailm@brain.net.pk
74.	Ntampaka Clarisse	UNHCR	ntampaka@unhcr.org
75.	Peter Deng Kuany	Seeds of South Sudan	peterdengkuany@yahoo.com
76.	Peter Emmanuel Eriaku	Parliament of Uganda	eriakupedro@gmail.com
77.	Philista Onyango	ANPPCAN Regional Office	ponyango@anppcan.org
78.	Pia Vraalsen	Child Frontiers	pvraalsen@childfrontiers.com
79.	Pragathi Tummala	ISPCAN	execdirector@ispcan.org
80.	Rebecca Nyonyintono	President - ANPPCAN Regional Board	rmirembenyo@hotmail.com
81.	Roseline Olumbe	Daystar University	rolumbe@daystar.ac.ke
82.	Rosemary Nakijoba	Ndejje University	rosemaryandmember@yahoo.ca
83.	Ruben Quijada	Taller de Vida	ruben.umanzor@gmail.com
84.	Ruth Njuguna Nyagah		nyakiowambui@gmail.com
85.	Saenz Soriz	Association Taller de Vida	sorizsaenz@gmail.com
86.	Salah Rima	ECPAT International	rimasalah@gmail.com
87.	Salifu Uyo	Institute for Security Studies South Africa	usalifu@issafrica.org
88.	Samuel Makinda	Murdoch University – Western Australia	s.makinda@murdoch.edu.au
89.	Seth Rajeev	ISPCAN	sethrajeev@gmail.com
90.	Shadrack Muthama	ANPPCAN	muthama.alwaysblessed@gmail.com
91.	Sharon Ahumuza	ANPPCAN Uganda Chapter	tashaahumuza@gmail.com
92.	Sophie Omutanyi	ANPPCAN	sophie.omutanyi@gmail.com
93.	Susan Wambui Kahinga	PARS Research	susan.kahinga_chege@pars.co.ke
94.	Tate Tony	Fund for Global Human Rights	ttate@globalhumanrights.org
95.	Thoen Elise	EEAS	elise.thoen@eeas.europa.eu

<b>96.</b>	Thomas Sian	University of Birmingham	tishthomas@hotmail.com
<b>97.</b>	Tobias Onyango	Children's Department - Kenya	tobioniodera@yahoo.com
<b>98.</b>	Tufail Muhammad	ISPCAN	tufailm@brain.net.pk
<b>99.</b>	Valerie Costa	CISP	costa@cisp-nairobi.org
<b>100.</b>	Violet Odala	Save the Children	violet.odala@savethechildren.org
<b>101.</b>	Vostanis Panos	Leicester University	pv11@le.ac.uk
<b>102.</b>	Walter Lambert	University of Miami	wlambert@med.miami.edu
<b>103.</b>	Wambui Njuguna	ANPPCAN	wnjuguna@anppcan.org
<b>104.</b>	Wambui Terry	Feed the Children	twambui@feedthechildren.co.ke
<b>105.</b>	Yasmin Sooka	Foundation for Human Rights, SA	
<b>106.</b>	Yvonne Agengo	UNCHR	agengo@unhr.org
<b>107.</b>	Zipporah Mwaura	All Africa Conference of Churches	zipporawamaitha@gmail.com



**terre des hommes**   
stops child exploitation

 **Save the Children**

**African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect  
(ANPPCAN) Regional Office**

Komo Lane (Off Wood Avenue) P.O. Box 1768 Code 00200 City Square,  
Nairobi, Kenya,

Tel: +254 20 21440010, 2140011, 2140013,

Email: [regional@anppcan.org](mailto:regional@anppcan.org) | Website: [www.anppcan.org](http://www.anppcan.org)