

2021 WORLD CONGRESS ON JUSTICE WITH CHILDREN

15-20 November 2021

“Ensuring access to justice for all children: towards non-discriminatory and inclusive child justice systems”

Workshop Programme

Effective Child and Youth Participation in Peacebuilding Processes in Sub-Saharan Africa

Date	Wednesday, 17th November 2021		
Timing	15:00 - 16:30 Geneva	13:00-15:30 Dakar	17:00-18:30 Nairobi
Organiser(s)	Lucy Opoka and Joanna Desmarquest		
Institution	Terre des hommes and Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC).		
Type of Workshop	Panel Discussion		
Topics	Ensuring that the voice of the child is heard in child justice. Access to Justice for Children in the context of Peacebuilding.		
Region	Sub-Saharan Africa		
Language	English		

Abstract

A discussion focused on the extent to which children and youth affected by armed conflict as child soldiers, victims and witnesses of atrocities, refugees, IDPs etc are included in the post-conflict peacebuilding and transitional justice process. It touches on the themes of effective and meaningful **child participation** in peacebuilding as well as the equal access to justice in post-conflict/ transitional societies.

The question will be: How can children’s meaningful and effective participation be incorporated in peacebuilding and transitional justice processes in order to advocate and enhance the protection of their fundamental rights and ensure their access to justice in post-conflict societies?

Objectives

Explore and share best practices and draw lessons on how to incorporate the effective and meaningful participation of children in the peacebuilding and transitional justice processes in order to advance their fundamental rights.

Expected outcome

Develop recommendations and best practices on how to include the effective and meaningful participation of children and youth in peacebuilding.

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Opening Speakers:

- **Joanna Desmarquest**

Joanna Desmarquest is an Associate Political Advisor in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC). Within the Analysis and Outreach Unit she mainly develops the reintegration portfolio and cooperation with academia. She is also the focal point for children and youth engagement and supporting person for issues related to combatting human trafficking. Graduated from Law and International Relations, she previously worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, including for the missions abroad.

- **Godfrey Lado (Speaker and Panellist)**

Godfrey Lado is a project officer for the ASKV Steunpunt Vluchtelingen, an Amsterdam based NGO that has for the last 33 yrs dedicated its efforts to catering for undocumented migrants and offers them legal, medical and social support to the target group. He is also a creative undertaker, initiator, project developer, program maker, host and a camera man amongst many other things. Godfrey was born into the war malice of Sudan in the then southern Sudan city of Juba where he spent his early years until he was 12. Due to the war, Godfrey's family was displaced and fled to the north in Khartoum, the then and still capital city of Sudan. Until then Godfrey considered himself as a war child. While in Khartoum Godfrey began understanding the dynamics of the Sudanese conflict thus shaping his activist mindset that developed into the love for protest music and poetry writing. Putting the two together plus the gift of a sound voice the singer emerged, the singer in turn inspired the poet to perform and the poet inspired a speaker, and the speaker inspired the storyteller. Today, Godfrey is known as a speaker, storyteller, writer, poet, singer and the performer he is.

Session Moderators

- **Lucy Ataro Opoka - Session Moderator**

Lucy holds a Bachelor's in Law and an LLM in International Children's Rights. She has working experience in the field of children's rights, human rights and international justice. She is currently a PhD Researcher at Leiden University carrying out research on *“International Law as a Shield for Children in Armed Conflict and a Tool for their Inclusion in South Sudan's Peacebuilding Processes.”*

- **Eunice Odongo - Chat Moderator**

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Eunice is an international Child Rights Lawyer with a particular interest in child justice, child protection and migration. She has experience working with children in conflict and in contact with the law and as a lawyer she works to ensure compliance with international child rights standards. Eunice Strongly believes that children's rights are human rights and safeguarding these rights protects not just the future of children but that of their nations.

Panellists:

1. Divina Maloum

Divina Maloum is the winner of the 2019 International Children's Peace Prize awarded by KidsRights and is the founder of Children for Peace, a girl-led movement working in Cameroon and some countries in Central Africa. The organization teaches over 5,000 children a year about violent extremism and building lasting peace.

2. Macholi Chris Bernard

Macholi is a member of the World Congress on Justice With Children's, Child and Youth Advisory Group with great passion for Advocacy of Child and Youth Rights. These passions are influenced by Macholi's encounters with these issues. He aspires to be a global voice for the voiceless in justice.

3. Boubacar Keita

Specialist in Human Rights and strongly committed to the prevention and management of conflicts in the central Sahel. His diverse experiences include more than five years in the peace process in Mali and in the ECOWAS region through the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP). He has coordinated several large-scale programs, which led him to build a network of partners within civil society in Mali and the Sahel.

4. Christine Kide

Christine is the National coordinator for South Sudan Youth Organisation Coalition (SSYOC) which was formed to support youth representatives in presenting youth concerns and contributions during the High-level Forum on the revitalization peace process of South Sudan in 2018. Christine advocates for the representation of youth and women in decision-making at all levels of government as stipulated in the signed peace agreement. She is a programme assistant at Community Empowerment for Rehabilitation and Development (CEFoRD) a youth led organisation aimed at creating space for active citizenship to empower young people and enlighten them with information and practices on democracy, governance and accountability. She is also a youth delegate at the permanent constitution making process of South Sudan that was formally initiated by the president.

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5. Gilbert Mwanza

Gilbert is A trained and active Child Rights and Dispute Resolution Advocate as well as a Governance Specialist. He has vast expertise in the formulation and reform of laws and policies, policy lobbying and advocacy, and the monitoring of the implementation of children’s rights, anti-trafficking laws, and human rights laws particularly in Southern Africa. He has been actively involved in the domestication of various international instruments on Child Rights in Zambia through the Zambia Law Development Commission and has led advocacy activities on law reforms as part of the Civil Society consortium through Transparency International Zambia. He has led various technical committees on Child rights both on behalf of the government of Zambia and as an independent consultant. He is also a researcher, motivator and teacher of the law.

6. Professor Alpaslan Özerdem

Prof. Özerdem is the co-Chair of the Academic Advisory Group on Child Reintegration, a project of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC). He is the Dean of the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution and a professor of peace and conflict studies. Prof. Özerdem specializes in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. He has over 20 years of field research experience in various countries in Asia, Europe and Africa among others and has published extensively including 14 books and numerous journal articles, book chapters and op-eds.

7. Godfrey Lado

Godfrey Lado is a project officer for the ASKV Steunpunt Vluchtelingen, an Amsterdam based NGO that has for the last 33 yrs dedicated its efforts to catering for undocumented migrants and offers them legal, medical and social support to the target group. He is also a creative undertaker, initiator, project developer, program maker, host and a camera man amongst many other things. Godfrey was born into the war malice of Sudan in the then southern Sudan city of Juba where he spent his early years until he was 12. Due to the war, Godfrey’s family was displaced and fled to the north in Khartoum, the then and still capital city of Sudan. Until then Godfrey considered himself as a war child. While in Khartoum Godfrey began understanding the dynamics of the Sudanese conflict thus shaping his activist mindset that developed into the love for protest music and poetry writing. Putting the two together plus the gift of a sound voice the singer emerged, the singer in turn inspired the poet to perform and the poet inspired a speaker, and the speaker inspired the storyteller. Today, Godfrey is known as a speaker, storyteller, writer, poet, singer and the performer he is.