

CONFERENCE BOOKLET

PRESENTS

GLOBAL ONLINE CONFERENCE

on Sexual Violence against Children
with an Evidence-based, Equity-lens

SPONSORED BY

PROTEKNON

PRESENTS

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Proteknon Foundation

Proteknôn Consulting Group, LLC is also registered as a foundation to develop new, evidence-based initiatives such as this global online conference on sexual violence against children with an evidence-based, equity-lens. For more information:

www.proteknon.org

CONTENTS

OVERVIEW

of Proteknôn, p 1

of the Conference, p 2

by Zosa De Sas Kropiwnicki
and Sara Lim Bertrand

18/
09

TRACK 1: DISABILITIES

**The Ubuntu Care project:
Addressing age, gender
and disability as dynamic
factors of vulnerability in
the prevention and
response to sexual
violence against children
in Kenya, Rwanda and
Burundi, p 7**

by Nidhi Kapur

**Responses to sexual
violence against children
with disabilities in South
African townships, p 8**

by Dr. Jean Elphick

**Dangerous girls and
cheating boys: Zulu-
speaking disabled young
peoples' constructs of
heterosexual relationships
in Kwazulu-Natal, South
Africa, p 9**

by Dr. Paul Chappell

19/
09

TRACK 2: BOYS

**Caring for boys affected by
sexual violence: Tentative
findings from a scoping
study, p 12**

by Camilla Jones

**A closer look: Survival sex
& sexual exploitation of
Children on the Move in
Greece, p 13**

by Suhail Abualsameed

**Same sex peer on peer
sexual abuse, p 14**

by Rabia Gungor

20/
09

TRACK 3: EMERGING TRENDS

**Modern slavery in
humanitarian settings:
Tentative findings, p 17**

by Huda Ghalegolabi

**Exploring the role of
voodoo in the sex-
trafficking of girls from
Nigeria to Europe, p 18**

by Dr. Ana Dols García

**Prevention of sexual abuse
among vulnerable children in
Tehran, Iran (boys and girls
seven to nine years old), p 19**

by Nazanin Einolyaghin

**21/
09**

TRACK 4: JUSTICE, FINANCING & SYSTEMS BUILDING

**Access to justice for
girl victims of sexual
violence, p 22**

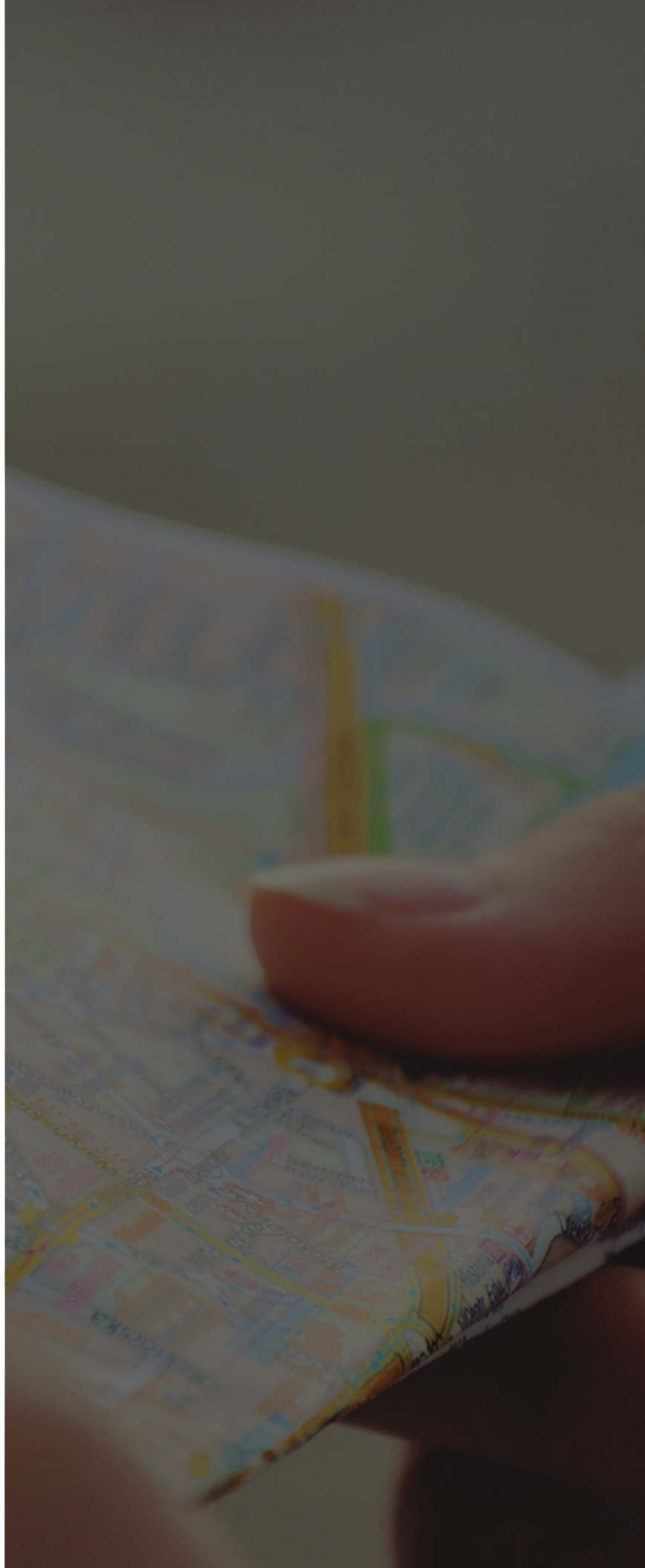
by Dr. Laurene Graziani

**Child sexual abuse and the
multidisciplinary team
response: Strengthening
the capacities of the
criminal justice sector,
p 23**

by Professor Susan Kreston

**Protecting children from
sexual violence through
financing and tracking
child protection
expenditures, p 24**

by Bob Muchabaiwa



OVERVIEW

BY: DR. ZOSA DE SAS KROPIWNICKI
& SARA LIM BERTRAND

A brief overview of Proteknôn Foundation and its conference on sexual violence against children with an evidence-informed, equity lens.

Proteknôn is derived from two Greek words: "in front of" and "child". As our name implies, we are focused on what children are facing, especially as it relates to their care, protection and wellbeing. In order to do this, we are committed to learning from, and with, girls and boys, of all ages, backgrounds and capacities.

Our vision is a world in which every child, without discrimination of any kind, is

- Protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect;
- Empowered to participate fully in matters that affect him or her; and
- Cared for and has access to basic services, essential to his or her wellbeing.

We understand that this involves addressing the range of barriers children face in claiming their rights, including discrimination and inequality; harmful social norms and practices; and the availability of and access to appropriate, quality services. In addition to working directly with children and their families, we support the state and other duty-bearers to fulfil their obligations in ensuring the care, protection and wellbeing of every child within their jurisdiction, enhancing technical and oversight capacities, and strengthening formal and informal child protection systems. Senior child protection practitioners and researchers lead

Proteknôn. In total, we have worked in over 67 countries, providing a range of services including programme design; assessment, evaluation and research; proposal development; and learning and development.

Conference

Why evidence?

The effective implementation of child protection instruments, policies, norms and standards requires an in depth understanding of the prevalence of violence against children and youths. Unfortunately, this information is not known because reliable national and sub-national prevalence rates for violence against women and children are absent in many countries, and existing statistics do not disaggregate in terms of age, gender or disability. As a result, it is difficult to gauge the impact of violence on children and youth in general, and vulnerable children, such as those living with disabilities in particular. This paucity of evidence is highlighted in the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children. Reference is made to the absence of reliable data and evidence on the magnitude of violence against children due to the "silence" surrounding child abuse, the "persistent social acceptance" of violence

against children, the very small proportion of cases that are actually reported and investigated, and the inadequacies of official statistics, national birth registration and information management systems for recording and tracking violence against children.

Hence, this conference constitutes a strategic action in the cross-cutting area of **evidence-building**, defined in the UNICEF Child Protection Strategy (2008) as the strengthening of an evidence base on child protection in order to improve policies, laws and their implementation (See Section III.A. 45). Importantly article 48 calls for a sound analysis of child protection risks, as well as of the services, structures and policies that seek to protect children. It calls for the inclusion of children's views as well as a gender-sensitive and highly contextualised understanding of the risks and issues facing children. This conference is therefore one opportunity for child protection actors to share and discuss information on challenges, main results achieved and lessons learnt through programming and research to date.

Why equity?

This conference responds to the call for equity in child protection programmes, which necessitates

documentation of knowledge and evidence for preventing and responding to the child protection violations experienced by vulnerable, marginalised and hard to reach children. For instance, several UNICEF documents argue that greater attention should be directed to prevention efforts that target the underlying root causes of disparities and to early intervention measures that seek to identify and assist the most vulnerable and marginalized children. Equity-focused evaluations go beyond conventional quantitative data to examine the complex range of political, social, and economic factors that impede the realisation of rights for the worst-off and most difficult to reach children.

There has been increasing recognition of the need to balance interventions that seek to target the most vulnerable and marginalised children, with those that support the integration and protection of such children within a broader child protection system. It is important to adopt a holistic approach to child protection that moves beyond vertical or isolated programmatic responses to more horizontal approaches that support wider systemic reform, whose benefits will reach the most vulnerable and neglected. On the other hand, it is also important to not lose sight of the specific child protection needs of the most vulnerable children, since addressing vulnerability

and risk factors, and providing appropriate, quality, timely support to affected children and their families, will require a contextualised, tailored and targeted response. Hence, this conference will build an evidence-base on vulnerable children who are affected by sexual violence.

Why sexual violence from an equity lens?

Research suggests that the risks for certain children, such as those living with disabilities, are significantly higher in relation to SGBV, and that vulnerable and marginalised children often do not receive the help or recourse that they need from the health or justice systems. An ecological systems approach to sexual abuse also reveals a range of other factors that enhance vulnerability for children at individual, interpersonal and macro levels. It is also enhanced by the intersection of their age, gender, as well as other factors associated with their positioning in relation to socio-economic status, geo-political context, race, ethnicity, citizenship, documentation status and so forth. Vulnerability, like resilience, is highly individual and context-specific but evidence suggests that the following groups of children are particularly vulnerable to **sexual violence**: children living with disabilities and chronic illnesses; children on the move, including refugee and displaced children; children

belonging to linguistic and ethnic minorities; children living in residential care; and children in conflict with the law. There is also increasing research into the sexual abuse experienced by boy children and adolescents in certain contexts.

Despite their vulnerability, research suggests that children, who face a range of intersecting disadvantages have the agency to bring about transformative change in their lives. Interventions should therefore recognize vulnerable children and their caregivers as not only targets, but also as champions and partners for social change. They should therefore have empowerment as their driving principle and overarching goal.

Structure of the conference

The conference will be organised around a series of tracks, or thematic areas:

1. Sexual violence against children with disabilities;
2. Sexual violence against boy children;
3. Emerging trends related to sexual violence; and
4. Justice, financing and child protection system strengthening to respond to sexual violence against children in developing, transition and emergency contexts.



CONSIDERING

DISABILITY

IN THE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

TRACK 1

SEXUAL VIOLENCE & DISABILITIES

07

Nidhi Kapur

The Ubuntu Care project: Addressing age, gender and disability as dynamic factors of vulnerability in the prevention and response to sexual violence against children in Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi

08

Dr. Jean Elphick

Responses to sexual violence against children with disabilities in South African townships

09

Dr. Paul Chappell

Dangerous girls and cheating boys: Zulu-speaking disabled young peoples' constructs of heterosexual relationships in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

18 Sept

07



The Ubuntu Care project: Addressing age, gender and disability as dynamic factors of vulnerability in the prevention and response to sexual violence against children in Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi

Implemented by Handicap International and its partners in Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi, Ubuntu Care aims to address both the causes and consequences of sexual violence against children, particularly those with disabilities. Phase one (2013-2015) encompassed activities and research designed to more effectively identify and address factors related to sexual violence against children, including children with disabilities. Phase two (2016-2018) continues to develop our understanding in more effectively addressing age, gender and disability as three powerfully dynamic factors of vulnerability. The presentation will introduce the main successes, challenges and lessons learned from the project – many of which can be translated and contextualised to better inform child protection programming for vulnerable children in other regions of the world. It will also aim to highlight some of the innovative approaches employed in the field (exploring positive masculinity at family and community levels, as well as enabling effective participation of children with disabilities).

Nidhi Kapur

studied International Relations at the University of Toronto, and subsequently completed her master's degree at the London School of Economics, specializing in the causes and consequences of the Rwandan genocide. Motivated by a strong interest in the complexities of child protection programming in conflict and post-conflict zones, Nidhi has worked for a number of international organisations including the British Red Cross, Save the Children, War Child UK and Right to Play. Nidhi has worked on a multitude of issues with, and on behalf of, children, including gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as psychosocial interventions. Nidhi is currently regional technical coordinator for Handicap International's Ubuntu Care project.

Responses to sexual violence against children with disabilities in South African townships

As a caregiver, likely a single mother, how is one to respond to a society that discriminates against disability, and simultaneously sustains a culture of ubiquitous gender-based violence? This dilemma and the related findings of a transformative research study are presented in this talk. The study was based upon research among several hundred caregivers of children and youth with disabilities registered on a Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) programme in a Johannesburg township. Using mixed methods, the study journeyed with the increasingly empowered caregivers, who participated in developing and implementing several progressive interventions to address the vulnerabilities of their children to abuse. Among others, these included a peer-led comprehensive sexuality education course initiated among over 500 children in a local school for children with educational support needs.

Dr. Jean Elphick

is a child protection practitioner, child rights activist and researcher with a proven track-record of planning, establishing and leading highly effective, innovative interventions for vulnerable children in resource-scarce settings. In 2017, she was awarded a PhD in Development Studies from the University of Johannesburg's Department of Development Studies and Anthropology based on her thesis, Empowerment Outcomes: Evaluation of a Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) Empowerment Programme for Caregivers of Children with Disabilities in a South African Township. Jean has a range of professional interests from inclusive development and human rights advocacy, to empowerment and evidence-based early intervention and prevention programming targeting under-served young people, including children with disabilities. She is currently leading the Sexual Violence in Schools in South Africa Gauteng Coalition, comprised of five national child protection and gender rights organisations.



Dangerous girls and cheating boys: Zulu-speaking disabled young peoples' constructs of heterosexual relationships in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

Across South Africa there is a growing body of work that explores gender dynamics in heterosexual relationships between young people aged 15 and 24 years. This is mainly influenced by the high prevalence of HIV and the incidence of intimate partner violence in this age group. Most studies to date have been based upon non-disabled young people, with limited focus on young disabled people. In an attempt to address this gap, this presentation describes findings from a study conducted with 22 Zulu-speaking young people with visual and physical disabilities in KwaZulu-Natal. The presentation highlights how young disabled participants appeared to downplay their disability with respect to intimate relationships and accentuated the interweaving of complementary and contentious discourses surrounding multiple partners, gender-based violence and cultural identity.

Dr. Paul Chappell

is a Researcher at the Centre for Diversity Studies, Wits University. Paul is an educational social scientist with a Doctorate in Education. As a disabled person, he has over 14 years of international experience in the field of inclusive development in relation to disability and diversity. His research interests include the development of sexual identities amongst youth with disabilities in the African context, and the intersections between gender, queer and disability studies. Paul has published extensively on issues related to disabled sexualities and inclusive development. As a registered therapist of sexuality, he also has wide-ranging experience in providing comprehensive sexuality education to disabled youth and their caregivers in South Africa. He is passionate about developing positive socio-sexual identities among disabled youth, and actively encouraging their involvement in research.

A close-up, sepia-toned photograph of a hand cupped together, holding water. Numerous water droplets are suspended in the air around the hand, creating a sense of motion and freshness. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the clarity of the water.

CONSIDERING

BOYS

IN THE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE

TRACK 2

SEXUAL VIOLENCE & BOYS

12

Camilla Jones

Caring for boys affected by sexual violence: Tentative findings from a scoping study

13

Suhail Abualsameed

A Closer look: Survival sex & sexual exploitation of Children on the Move in Greece

14

Rabia Gungor

Same sex peer on peer sexual abuse



Caring for boys affected by sexual violence: Tentative findings from a scoping study

Family for Every Child is a network of civil society organisations working to mobilise knowledge, skills and resources around children's care. This study was proposed by five member organisations of the network that met in the Philippines in February 2017 for a practice exchange on the issue of child sexual abuse; CPTCSA (Philippines), Butterflies (India), First Step Cambodia, Muhammadiyah (Indonesia) and Voice of Children (Nepal). They wanted to garner a better understanding of how social norms around gender influence how we care for boys who are affected by sexual violence and what is already being done by likeminded organisations to ensure that boys affected by sexual violence grow up in a permanent, safe and caring family, or quality alternative care where needed. In order to gather this information, 20 semi-structured key informant interviews with Family for Every Child members and other international and national civil society organisations were conducted. In addition, over 100 documents (English, Spanish and Portuguese) were reviewed focusing specifically on boys affected by sexual violence in developing country contexts. This presentation will highlight some of the initial draft findings of this study, in order to raise awareness around this hidden issue.

Camilla Jones

has worked in child care and protection for over a decade. She initially worked for NCOs delivering and advising on child protection programmes, and then as a consultant developing guidelines and training resources. She has worked for Family for Every Child since 2015, during which time she has focussed on five major projects looking at: the links between social protection and children's care in three African countries; the links between education and children's care from a global perspective; using digital storytelling to explore the nature of families from children's perspectives around the world; a review of what 'effective' family care is and what can be done to better support it; and now a scoping study on caring for boys affected by sexual violence.

A Closer Look: Survival Sex & Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Move in Greece

There is a general assumption in Greece and within the humanitarian sector that survival sex (the exchange of sex for basic needs (or money to purchase basic needs) or protection in order to survive) among unaccompanied and separated children takes place, yet its prevalence is unknown. However it is generally acknowledged that mainly boys engage in this practice. Under international law children cannot consent to engage in exchanging sex for money, goods, or services. If they do engage in survival sex, they should be treated as survivors of sexual abuse and exploitation. This phenomenon puts young refugees at an array of risks, from sexual exploitation and trafficking to physical and mental health vulnerabilities. However, there has been little factual documentation of the issue or significant well thought of interventions in Greece. This presentation will focus on the findings on a situation analysis commissioned by UNHCR Greece on survival sex as well as outlining intervention recommendations and strategic approaches aiming to prevent sexual exploitation of unaccompanied children.

Suhail Abualsameed

is an experienced professional with skills in gender and masculinities, sexual and gender based violence, international development, project coordination, cross-cultural education and community based research, within emergency response and development contexts. Suhail has 15 years of thorough working knowledge on issues faced by diverse populations and minority groups with respect to gender and equity. He also has extensive experience dealing with issues relating to engaging men and boys in the prevention of sexual and gender based violence, refugees and migration, sexuality, determinants of health, and cultural competency.

Same sex peer on peer sexual abuse

There is growing focus on child sexual exploitation and abuse globally, However this has mainly focused on older males abusing girls and women, as highlighted in Save the Children's report, No One to Turn To and celebrity activism that included Angelina Jolie's End Sexual Violence in Conflict. There appears to be a limited focus on peer on peer and same sex sexual violence against boys. The UNCRC (1989) article 3 "best interest of the child" and article 34 "protect the child from sexual abuse" acts as principles for facilitating intervention. However, it can also put the child at further risk if wrongly applied. For example, same sex relations and abuse is illegal in many contexts and can put the survivor of sexual abuse at further risk. Whereas the "do no harm" principle clearly forces you to reconsider your intervention, these approaches create a dichotomy in protection. It is extremely difficult to find organisations that address sexual abuse against boys in developing contexts. There is a need for more collaboration between protection centric organisations, and how data is collected and shared, to start understanding the scale of the issue. There needs to be a shift in guidance, theory and language, insuring it is inclusive of age, disability and gender. Finally, there needs to be more programmatic focus on healthy relationships.

Rabia Gungor

is a Child Protection, Safeguarding and Participation Manager at ChildHope. In addition to a Master of Science within Childhood, Youth and International Development studies. Rabia has over 12 years experience of working with 'at risk' and marginalised children and young people in the UK, Africa, Asia and Latin America. She has participated in various sexual violence conferences including the Global Summit to End Sexualise Violence in Conflict summit.



CONSIDERING

EMERGING TRENDS

IN THE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE

TRACK 3

SEXUAL VIOLENCE & EMERGING TRENDS

17

Huda Ghalegolabi

Modern slavery of children in humanitarian settings: Tentative findings

18

Dr. Ana Dols García

Exploring the role of voodoo in the sex-trafficking of girls from Nigeria to Europe

19

Nazanin Einolyaghin

Prevention of sexual abuse among vulnerable children in Tehran, Iran (boys and girls seven to nine years old)

20 Sept

17



Modern slavery of children in humanitarian settings: Tentative findings

Modern slavery is the coercive exploitation of the most vulnerable. Modern slavery of children in humanitarian settings can include: forced and bonded labour, human trafficking, descent-based slavery, slavery in supply chains, exploitation of migrant workers, forced and early marriage and the worst forms of child labour. There is an increasing recognition that the socio-economic conditions associated with conflict, political crisis and natural disasters create situations where children are more vulnerable to exploitation. With little awareness and guidance from their immediate caregivers, a weakening of the protective environment and worsening economic conditions, the risk factors for children increase.

Responding to this, Plan International has identified significant gaps in the data about how many and in which ways children in humanitarian settings are affected by modern slavery, as well as limited information and analysis on how gender plays a role in affecting girls and boys. As a result of these gaps and limited documentation within this field of protection, Plan International is taking steps to better understand which prevention and response interventions are most effective to reach and address the needs of these children. This presentation will focus on the tentative findings of a global desk review related to modern slavery in humanitarian contexts.

Huda Ghalegolabi

works as a Child Protection Programme Specialist in Emergencies for Plan International UK. She has previously worked as a Protection Associate for UNHCR in Somalia and Malaysia. In Malaysia, she focused on addressing the protection needs of trafficked children and other complex cases and worked towards addressing the alternative shelter needs of unaccompanied and separated children. She has also worked as a Programme Officer for UNRWA in the Gaza Strip. Her back ground is Public International law and International relations.

Exploring the role of voodoo in the sex-trafficking of girls from Nigeria to Europe

The manipulation of African traditional beliefs to traffic and enslave women and girls for sexual purposes is a common practice in Nigerian sex-trafficking networks based in Europe. Indeed, ritual oaths and voodoo rituals constitute one of the main strengths of these Nigerian rings. The aim is to explore the role of voodoo in this sex-trafficking circle and its effect on child victims; examining the legal consequences of this abuse as well as some approaches and strategies to protect girls who have undergone these oaths and voodoo rituals in Nigerian sex-trafficking networks.

Dr. Ana Dols García

works as a human rights specialist in different African countries. She became passionate about the legal aspects of witchcraft beliefs, especially on how European countries are dealing with African witchcraft manifestations present in Europe. Ana was recently awarded a PhD in Criminal Law at the University of Extremadura (Spain), based on her research on crimes linked to African witchcraft belief with a special focus on voodoo and sex trafficking. She has also facilitated training sessions for police, law enforcement officers and NGOs on Voodoo and Nigerian Sex Trafficking and has many publications on that topic.



Prevention of sexual abuse among vulnerable children in Tehran, Iran (boys and girls seven to nine years old)

Sexual abuse of children is not usually reported, and victims in many cases do not receive support and treatment. Therefore, the prevention of sexual abuse is the most effective means to deal with this phenomenon. Teaching children is the most important preventive strategy in this area. As this issue is very sensitive and taboo in Iran, we designed a package for children between 7 to 9 years old. The aim of the project is to educate children on how to protect themselves from sexual abuse and how to report abuse.

Nazanin Einolyaghin

was born in 1980 in Iran, Tehran. Having won a Chevening Scholarship, Nazanin has a MSc in Education, Power, and Social Change at Birkbeck College, University of London. Nazanin earned a BA in Social Work at Allameh Tabatabaei University in Iran. She has primarily worked with underprivileged children in need of care and protection, children in conflict with the law with local and international NGOs. She has worked for UNICEF for nearly seven years and she is the founder of Atman Social Work Clinic and works in the area of child protection in Iran mainly related to violence against children.



CONSIDERING

JUSTICE, FINANCING & SYSTEMS BUILDING

IN THE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE

TRACK 4

SEXUAL VIOLENCE & JUSTICE, FINANCING AND SYSTEMS BUILDING

22

Dr. Laurene Graziani

Access to justice for girl victims of sexual violence

23

Prof. Susan Kreston

Child sexual abuse and the multidisciplinary team response:
Strengthening the capacities of the criminal justice sector

24

Bob Muchabaiwa

Protecting children from sexual violence through financing and
tracking child protection expenditures

Access to justice for girl victims of sexual violence

The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognised that children are fully-fledged persons to whom public authorities can be held accountable. Since children have rights, they should have access to justice in case of violations of their rights. Generally without legal capacity, minors do not have the ability to act directly before domestic courts. However, the procedural capacity of children has progressively been recognized by some international judicial authorities. Taking into account their victim status rather than their age or legal status, they have been able to bring their complaints before those judicial bodies. Thus, several complaints have been brought by children victims of sexual violence, or their parents, before the European and Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Elimination of the Discrimination against Women. Our main objective is to underline that access to justice for victims of sexual violence is fundamental. Through an analysis of the international case law on the rights of the child, we will also highlight obstacles that girls, who are particularly concerned by sexual violence, can face and how to address them.

Dr. Laurene Graziani

holds a PhD in Law (Aix-Marseille University, 2015), under the supervision of Professor Kerbrat (Sorbonne) and Professor Hanson (Geneva) and an interdisciplinary Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (IUKB/ Fribourg University, 2010). In parallel with her academic work, she has undertaken several projects in the field of children's rights advocacy and education, child protection and participation.

Child sexual abuse and the multidisciplinary team response: Strengthening the capacities of the criminal justice sector

The great insight of twenty-first century criminal justice is that while punishment must be meted out to offenders, equally important is support to the victims of crime. This module will address the need for a coordinated and informed response from the criminal justice community specifically in the context of child sexual abuse. Focus will be placed on the multidisciplinary team approach. Key members of the team's composition and their roles within the team will be discussed, as will the role the judiciary plays. Best practices in forming the team, defining team members' role and responsibilities, providing training to the team and dealing with burn-out and turn over will be highlighted.

Professor Susan Kreston

is a consultant on legal and human rights issues. She researches, guest lectures and publishes on criminal justice matters, with a focus on human trafficking and crimes against children. Recently she was a Fulbright Professor of Psychology and Law (2013-2015) and Research Fellow in Law (2013-2016) at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal in Durban, South Africa. Her first Fulbright professorship (2005-2008) was also in South Africa, focusing on issues of human trafficking and violence against women and children. She has worked as a Legal Consultant to various United Nations agencies (UNODC, UNICEF and UN Women) as well as national and local governments and NGOs, working in Africa (South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda and Kenya) Asia (Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand), Europe (Sweden, Russia, England), Bermuda and the Dominican Republic on human trafficking, gender based violence, child abuse and related matters.

Protecting children from sexual violence through financing and tracking child protection expenditures

Using four African countries - Botswana, Kenya, South Sudan and Zimbabwe – as case studies, this session seeks to demonstrate how public spending on child protection can be measured and tracked. It also seeks to highlight how a range of political economy variables at play in a given country affect the level of public spending on child protection. It is regrettable that at a time when children across the world face various forms of abuse, exploitation and deprivation, child protection is notoriously under-funded. Globally, child protection accounts for a paltry 1% of total humanitarian funding. Several factors, exogenous and endogenous to the state, account for the insufficient and sometimes ineffective public spending on child protection. These include lack of political will to invest in children, scarcity of resources, influence of international finance institutions, limited appreciation of benefits of investing in child protection and constructions of childhood in a given country. These factors cannot be delinked from the political, economic and social contexts in which they are embedded. At the end of the session, participants would have gained new knowledge on how to measure and track child protection budgets. In addition, they will also gain new insights on how an understanding of political economy dynamics can better inform communicative actions and advocacy for increased and improved quality of public spending on child protection.

Bob Muchabaiwa

is a PhD Student in Development Studies at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa. His study is focused on the political economy of public spending on child protection in selected African states. Bob has have over 15 years working experience at the national, regional and international level focusing on children's rights as well as social and economic policy. in addition to working with a number of national and regional development organizations, Bob has worked for leading global child rights organizations, including UNICEF and Save the Children.

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