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Freedom from fear

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YOUTHS WITHOUT YOUTH



**Violence
in the Family**

Kai-D. Bussmann



**Interview with
Juan Pablo
Escobar**

(now Juan Sebastian
Marroquin Santos)



**Restavèks and
child trafficking
in Haiti**

Daniel Ruiz



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Betraying young people

Why is an issue of our Magazine devoted to youth and young people? So far we have presented specific phenomena, from illicit trafficking to cybercrimes. This issue is dedicated to the youths. There are 1.2 billion young people in the world, or 18 per cent of the global population. The UN General Assembly declared 2010-11 as the International Year of Youth. This Year is an important chance to paint a clear picture on the situation that young people face all around the world, an opportunity for governments and civil society as a whole to re-think policies and strategies in favour of youth. An opportunity for youths to make their voices heard.

From developing to developed countries it appears that we are betraying the expectation of the young generations and of the generations to come. As governments in many rich countries spend ever larger sums to stabilize economies and to guarantee security, it is not inappropriate to ask how much is really invested in empowering young people. Poorer countries and countries affected by violence see many of their young people leaving their homes to migrate to richer and more stable areas. Not only does this deprive many regions of their most valuable assets, but these young people face many problems in the destination countries. Today young people face record levels of unemployment; they are at the highest risk of both causing crime and being victims of crime; they live in a world increasingly suffering from the effects of man-made climate change. In many ways, today's young people seem to have a bleak future ahead of them.

But it is not all bad news. Great strides in education have been made across the globe over the last 30 years, producing more highly skilled workforces. However, advances in education provision must be continued and need to be followed up with an increase in employment opportunities: the ILO reported that in 2008, 20 per cent of the youth workforce was unable to find employment.

As access to, and use of, new technology increases, we see new ways developing for young people to get involved in their communities, both local and global. Programmes to prevent crime amongst young people should focus on both supporting the victims of crime and rehabilitating offenders – reconciliation between both sides of any conflict is crucial for a peaceful future.

Many young people are feeling disconnected from their own communities and oppressed by the political processes that govern them. But young people do have the strength and the capabilities to change their realities. They do care about what is going on in the world, and they are prepared to take action to make their concerns known.

The views and opinions expressed in the Magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations, UNICRI, and the Max Planck Institute. The designations and terminology employed may not conform to United Nations practice and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the publishing institutions.

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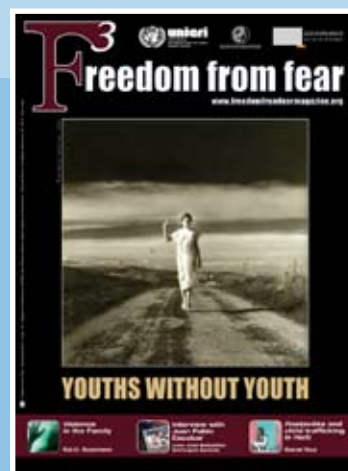
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The 1.2 billion young people on the planet are a great resource for countries everywhere. They will have some great ideas for solving some of the world's biggest problems and must be listened to and engaged with. Above all everyone in society must be made to understand the responsibilities that young people have in the world they will shortly be called upon to manage, and must make sure that they are well prepared for the task.

A great believer in the importance of having a strong youth population to ensure a strong future for the nation once said: "He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future." This person was Adolf Hitler. In 1945, soon after the Second World War, the Charter of the United Nations was signed "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." The consequences of the lack of youth empowerment, or the empowerment of youth for the wrong cause, are visible to everyone. Young people are the future and they deserve to be in a position to contribute to its creation. In too many countries there is no future for too many young people, youth are violated and betrayed all around the world. In 1965, the UN General Assembly declared "Young people must become conscious of their responsibilities in the world they will be called upon to manage and should be inspired with confidence in a future of happiness for mankind."

This issue includes contributions from many young people; their articles and visual work should inspire us all. The issue is dedicated to Giuseppe Di Matteo a 12 year old boy, kidnapped by the Italian Mafia and kept as a hostage for 26 months in retaliation for his father turning state's evidence. Giuseppe was strangled and his body disposed of in acid. We dedicate this issue to all children and young people whose rights are violated every day and we devote it to the real dreamers of our society. Only young people can make our dreams become reality.

Kristiina Kangaspunta
UNICRI Officer-in-Charge

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FABRICA

Creativity and Design for Humanity

Youth for Youth: working for a World Free From Fear



Fabrica is the communication research centre founded by Luciano Benetton. It was created in 1994 with the aim of offering young designers from around the world an alternative opportunity for creative growth, multicultural exchange and social impact. Fabrica is located in Italy, near Venice, in Villa Pastega Manera, an ancient villa built in the seventeenth century, restored and enlarged by Tadao Ando.

The institute invites young artists/designers, offering them a one-year study grant. The young residents develop cultural and social communication projects in the areas of communication and product design, photography, interaction, video and film, music and publishing under the guidance of onsite and visiting international experts.

Fabrica's aim is to inspire a different creative category made of young "social catalysts" that at the end of their experience at the centre, will continue to offer their creativity to social change.

Fabrica's many years of commitment to socially-aware communication have achieved manifold results. To mention just a few: the campaigns developed in collaboration with the UNWHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNICRI, Amnesty International, Witness, and Reporters Without Borders; Credo, a musical study on the subject of religious tolerance; films from the world's South that have been awarded at Cannes, Venice and Hollywood; COLORS - A Magazine About the Rest of the World; and its series of environmental, social and relational workshops.

Fabrica's practice-led research is a cross-disciplinary commitment where communication and design interact with other crucial public sectors such as culture, economy and environmental sciences. It is also continuously alert to the changes and trends of modern society.

To contribute to this issue of Freedom From Fear dedicating to Youth and Violence Fabrica created a dedicated workshop. The participants were all under 25 years old from Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Poland, South Korea and Italy, residing in Fabrica's Visual communication department. The age and cultural diversity of the artists seemed ideal for the topic.

The objective of the workshop was to create a collective and multicultural visual investigation with a critical perspective on the various realms of violence engaging young people around the world. The process spanned over 4 weeks of researching, brainstorming, critique meetings, testing and final presentation to Freedom From Fear.

It was a very unique and constructive learning experience that we will cherish and have grown from.

My sincere thanks to UNICRI, the Max Planck Institute and the Basel Institute on Governance for having given us the opportunity to contribute.

Omar Vulpinari
Head of Communication Design Fabrica
www.fabrica.it





UNWHO Road Safety

© Fabrica 2007

Art Director: Yianni Hill

Photographer: Yianni Hill

Creative Director : Omar Vulpinari

This campaign was commissioned by UNWHO for the First United Nations Global World Road Safety Week 2007.

The campaign includes five posters and public service announcements addressing “young road users” who are the most frequent victims of road accidents.

The aim of the operation is to raise awareness and promote action amongst the general global public around the five factors of greatest impact in road injuries regarding young road users: helmets, seatbelts, drinking and driving, speeding, and visibility.

Fabrica was designated as the ideal creative partner for UNWHO on this project because its young international creatives align perfectly with the project’s theme.

UNWHO World No Tobacco Day – Show the Truth

© Fabrica 2009

Art Director: Namyung An

Photographer: Piero Martinello

Teeth photo: © Province of British Columbia

Creative Director: Omar Vulpinari

World No Tobacco Day is celebrated around the world every year on May 31st. The theme for 2009 was “Show the truth: picture health warnings save lives.” For this occasion UNWHO commissioned a global campaign to urge worldwide national decision-makers to apply pictorial health warnings on all packages of tobacco products. Pictorial tobacco health warnings are better than textual warnings only because they more effectively inform smokers about the dangers of tobacco, specially in countries with low rates of literacy. Governments should not just tell the truth about how tobacco sickens and kills prematurely, they should show the truth also by requiring the placement of pictorial health warnings on packs of tobacco.

Fabrica designed the series of three posters for this initiative.

Each poster surrealistically communicates the pictorial warnings’ main goal: to not just tell the truth, but show it.





UNWHO Child Injury Prevention Campaign

© Fabrica 2008

Art Director: Valery Gudenus

Photographer: Piero Martinello

Creative Director : Omar Vulpinari

The Child Injury Prevention campaign was awarded the Graphis Advertising Platinum "G" 2009.

The global campaign was commissioned to Fabrica by World Health Organization and UNICEF on the occasion of the launch of the World Report on Child Injury Prevention in 2008. Five different posters, that have also become off and on-line ads and displays, were designed to communicate the graveness of the child injury situation worldwide. The goal is to urge policy makers to implement prevention measures for the top five injury causes: road traffic accidents, drowning, burns, falls and poisoning.

In order to use a universal visual language related to children, Fabrica's Austrian resident Valerie Gudenus created putty characters engaged in the five dangerous situations.

Graphis, The International Journal of Visual Communication, was first published in 1944 in Zurich, Switzerland and relocated in 1986 to New York City. Graphis has become a compelling record of the most significant and influential work in Design, Advertising and Photography past and present.

UNWHO Global Violence Prevention Campaign

© Fabrica 2003

Art Director: Gabriele Riva

Photographer: Enrico Moro

Creative Director : Omar Vulpinari

UNWHO launched The Global Campaign for Violence Prevention following the release of the World Report on Violence and Health, in October, 2002. The objectives of this campaign were to raise awareness on the problem of violence, highlighting the crucial role that public health can play in addressing its causes and consequences and encouraging action at every level of society.

The branding and posters/adverts address different violence forms: child abuse, elder abuse, violence against women, partner related violence, group violence, youth violence, suicide.



Fabrica Research Centre on Youth and Violence



Dominic Langdeau-McGee,
27 years old, Canada



Francesco Delrosso,
22 years old, Italy



Jennifer Bulcock, 24
years old, Australia



Simon Roy
22 years old, Canada



Henriette Kruse Jørgensen,
24 years old, Denmark



Namyoun An,
29 years old, Seoul



Dominic Langdeau-McGee,
27 years old, Canada



Francesco Delrosso,
22 years old, Italy



Simon Roy, 22 years old,
Canada



Guanru Lee,
22 years old, China



Simon Roy, 22 years old,
Canada



Jennifer Bulcock, 24
years old, Australia



Jennifer Bulcock, 24
years old, Australia



Henriette Kruse Jørgensen,
24 years old, Denmark



Dominic Langdeau-McGee,
27 years old, Canada



Henriette Kruse Jørgensen,
24 years old, Denmark



Simon Roy, 22 years old,
Canada

For full viewing and author comments:
www.freedomfromfearmagazine.org




(Namyoung An)

Creativity and design have great social impact. Fabrica supports young artists and designers in the aim to inspire a new creative category of social catalyts.

We are looking for people — working in graphic design, illustration, photography, product design, video, music, new media and writing — who share this vision. At Fabrica people work together, not just individually. At a maximum of 25 years old, Fabrica’s residents come from the four corners of the earth.

To apply for a residency and study grant you can upload your curriculum vitae, statement of purpose and a concise pdf presentation of your work at:

www.fabrica.it/apply



According to dark
figure studies, within
any single year, 10 per
cent of all women are
victims of physical
violence from within
the family

* Kai-D. Bussmann

The Unseen Violence **Violence in the Family**

In 2010, German police registered approximately 6 million offences in their crime statistics. Less than 10 per cent of these offences involved violence against persons. However, police crime statistics do not necessarily reflect actual crime levels, but depend on the willingness of the population to report them. They tell us nothing about the “dark figure” of crime, and this applies particularly to the family domain, which is also not documented separately in German crime statistics.

At least 20% of all children have experienced severe violence from a parent at least once in their upbringing

According to dark figure studies, within any single year, 10 per cent of all women are victims of physical violence from within the family, whereas less than 1–2 per cent of all males and females are victims of physical violence from outside the family. In general, sexual and violent crimes within the family are even considered to be extremely low-risk crimes because of the low probability of prosecution. Due to the anonymity and privacy of intimate relationships, acts of violence within the family or partnership have a very low visibility for observers compared to violence in public spaces. In addition, social taboos greatly impede any communication about such incidents: family violence feeds on privacy. Even the victims are often afraid to make their suffering public. Hence offenses within the family are the exception to the criminological rule that the willingness to report crimes grows with increasing severity. This is why it is often too late when the police and youth offices become aware of such grievances.

For women and particularly for children, there is nowhere else in society where they are more frequently victims of violent assault. The risk from outside the family or partnership does not even come close to being comparable. Moreover, society does not perceive the quantitatively even more devastating incidents of child neglect as a form of passive violence. Both sexual and physical child abuse, together with neglect, continue to represent one of the most severe grievances in family childrearing. According to this author’s recent research on physical violence, at least 20% of all children have experienced severe violence from a parent at least once in their upbringing.

Although dark figure studies indicate that violence is slowly declining in both society and the family, by far the highest risk of being a victim of violence is still to be found within proximal social space. Nobody physically abuses children, women or men more often than their close relatives. As a result, the true risks are misunderstood in the public discourse. The strongest potential threat does not come from violent youth but from partners, friends, and acquaintances. It is not without reason that some scientists studying the family describe it as a “battlefield” or a “violent institution.” Nonetheless, from a sober and empirical perspective, the

risk of personally becoming a victim or even a perpetrator of violence increases when one founds a family - particularly when the family does not remain childless.

Violence in the family is also not primarily a lower class problem. Although dark figure studies repeatedly reveal a relation between child abuse and membership of the lower social classes along with familial stressors such as unemployment and massive partner conflicts, the fundamental risk of violence is to be found in all families and partnerships.

The public outcry over juvenile violence, however, largely ignores its familial roots. In international research on family violence, it has long been a known fact that an upbringing marked by violence is responsible for numerous developmental risks in children. These include severe psychosocial disturbances, later drug addiction, major problems at school, the emergence of antisocial behavior and subsequent delinquency and, in particular, violent crimes. The experience of violence within the family has a strong impact on children in many ways. Such children more frequently seek violently disposed peer groups and they show a preference for violent media products and computer games. Accordingly, they see themselves as living in a world ruled by violence. Beforehand, however, most of these young people have been exposed to an upbringing marked by excessive violence and other deficiencies. In turn, many of their parents also come from similar multiproblem families. The basic problem here is breaking this vicious cycle.

Nobody physically abuses children, women or men more often than their close relatives

One important step in this direction is the introduction of an absolute legal prohibition of violence in childrearing. This is why the 1989 Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child internationally agreed on the right to be reared without violence. On a national level, 18 European states have now placed such a right on a legal footing. They have all oriented their legislation toward Sweden, which was the first country to legally prohibit corporal punishment in family childrearing in 1979. Since November 2000, German law also states: “Children have a right to be reared without violence. Corporal punishment, mental cruelty, and other degrading measures are impermissible” (§ 1631 Abs.2. Civil Code [BGB], translated).

The author has studied the effects of these prohibitions in a comparative study of European countries. More than 5,000 parents from five different European countries were surveyed in face-to-face interviews. The countries selected for the study were Austria, France, Germany, Spain and Sweden. At the time of the survey in 2007, the only countries apart from Sweden with a legal prohibition were Austria (introduced in 1989) and Germany (2000). Neither France nor Spain belonged to this group. The main finding was that childrearing is freer from corporal punishment in countries

with a legally codified prohibition than in countries that do not prohibit it. This can be seen most clearly in Sweden. For generations, regular campaigns and actions have kept public attention focused on the law. The successes in Sweden since the introduction of the legal prohibition show that the level of violence in family childrearing can be more than halved within one generation. This can be seen by looking at three sanctioning subgroups:

- *Nonviolent childrearing*: parents who rear their children without even mild forms of corporal punishment
- *Conventional childrearing*: parents who use mild but no severe corporal punishment
- *Violent childrearing*: parents who also fall back on severe corporal punishments such as beating with objects, severe beating.

In 2007, three-quarters of Swedish parents were rearing their children without any kinds of corporal punishment. In France and Spain, in contrast, almost one-half of the parents were using severe corporal punishments. Hence, a legal ban can lead to a lasting break in the intergenerational cycle of violence and open the way for medium-term change. The study also showed that a legal prohibition of corporal punishment reduces psychological forms of violence as well. Moreover, in these countries the ban also makes parents more sensitive toward violence in childrearing. A further important effect is that when parents suspect

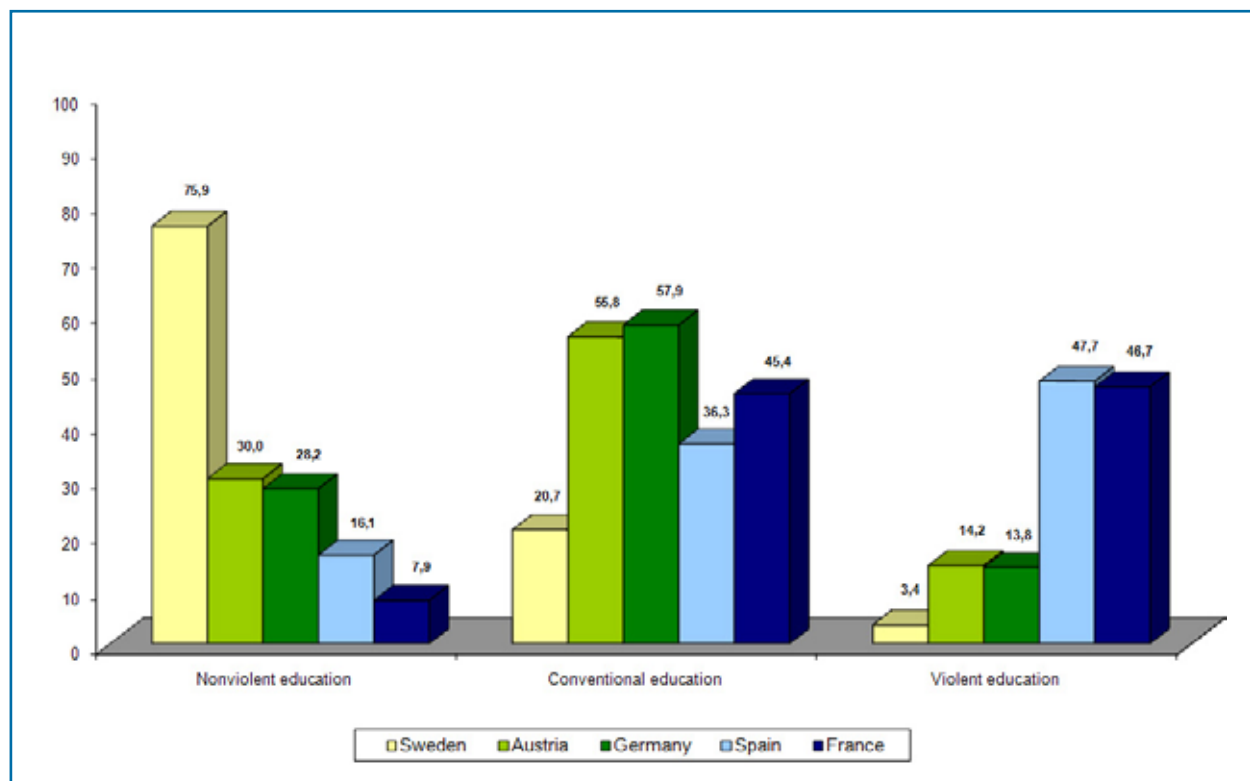
A legal ban can lead to a lasting break in the intergenerational cycle of violence and open the way for medium-term change

a case of child abuse in their neighborhood, they are much less likely to do nothing. More of them will turn to family counseling centers to ensure that the abused child receives help. This destroys an important breeding ground for violence in the family - neighbours who look away.

Hence, the results of this study deliver support for several arguments in favor of a legal ban on violence in childrearing. Therefore, other countries should also apply such legal reforms to reduce violence. However, to achieve a sustainable, lasting effect, these need to be flanked by intensive and long-term information campaigns - as the example of Sweden shows. If the prevention of violence is to be effective, it has to be introduced far earlier in the family and in childrearing. There is a need to break the vicious cycle of violence by introducing a legal ban.

* **Kai-D. Bussmann**, Professor of Penal Law and Criminology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Economy & Crime Research Center, Halle/Germany

Sanction groups (percentages)





unieri

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Interregional Crime and Justice
Research Institute

WHAT'S YOUR CHILD PLAYING WITH?

Anna, 3 years old
Loves Ted, the big
brown bear she got
for her birthday

Ted, made by
a 5 year old boy
Nobody's checked for
toxins in the dye
Nobody cared about
the risk of choking
hazards



COUNTERFEIT GOODS CAN KILL

Many counterfeit toys are made by exploited children

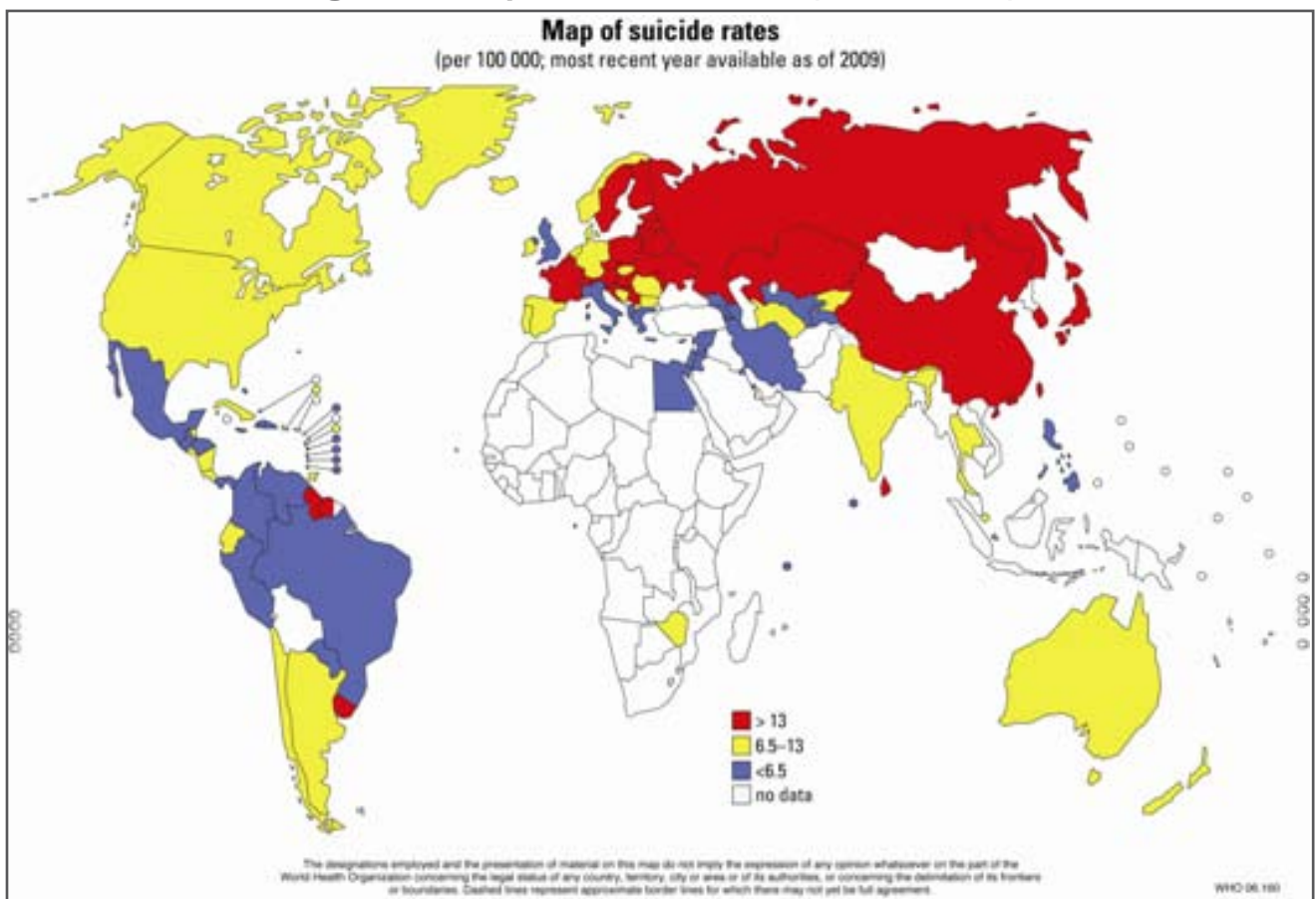
Current Issues in Youth Suicide

A Global Address and an East-West Comparison

Suicide is a global problem affecting many different parts of the world (see Figure 1 for a map of suicide rates globally). The global suicide rate is about one million people per year, a rate of 14.5 per 100,000 people (WHO, 2010). In particular, suicide rates among young people have risen to such an alarming extent that 15 to 19 year olds are now at highest risk of suicide in a third of all countries, with suicide being the second leading cause of mortality for this age group glo-

bally (WHO, 2009). Considering that the available statistics on suicide are generally based on completed suicides rather than attempted suicides, the figures may not fully capture the risk of suicidal behaviours. For example, mere exposure to suicide attempts by peers may place young people at risk of suicidal behaviour (Ho, et al., 2000). Taken together, young people can be expected to be the group at highest risk of suicide in the future.

Figure 1 - Map of Suicide Rates (WHO, 2009)





The global suicide rate is about one million people per year, a rate of 14.5 per 100,000 people

Comparing the rates and trends of youth suicide between the Eastern and Western parts of the world, several key differences have been identified in the epidemiology of suicide.

Firstly, suicide is the leading cause of death in Asian countries, whereas it is about the third or fourth cause of death in Western countries (WHO, 2010). This difference may be due to the use of more lethal suicide methods in Asia (Liu, Chen, Cheung, & Yip, 2009). In Asian countries the suicide means chosen are more lethal in nature, such as jumping and poisoning via pesticide and charcoal burning. In Western countries, firearms are the most common means of suicide.

In most countries, suicide rates are higher in males than in females. This also applies to the 15 to 19 year old age group, with about 10.5 suicides per 100,000 people for males and about 4.1 per 100,000 people for females (Wasserman, Cheng, & Jiang, 2005). Gender ratios vary between countries (about 3-4:1 in European countries and 1-2:1 in Asian countries) with a high rate of suicides among young males in the West and a relatively lower rate in Asia (Yip, 2009).

The causes of suicide worldwide are also diverse; with different risk factors in different cultures. Mental disorders (particularly depression) and abuse of alcohol or drugs are the major risk factors for suicide in Europe and North America. In Asian countries, impulsiveness and adjustment disorders play an important role (WHO, 2010). A risk factor that is evident across the East and West is unemployment, especially when coupled by stressful events such as financial problems and an inability to compete.

Youth suicide, although responsible for only 6 to 11 per cent of all deaths globally (WHO, 2009), can still impose a non-negligible burden. Yip et al. (2005) proposed the use of a years-of-life-lost method in assessing the magnitude of the socioeconomic burden of suicide to the community. This measures the number of years of healthy life lost in the society for each premature death. The estimated years of life lost for youth suicide worldwide are huge, about 20 million life-years in 2002 (Mann, et. al, 2005). The burden of suicide on communities cannot be ignored by any country worldwide.

Yet, suicide prevention is limited without a universal perspective on mental health. A public health approach to suicide prevention has generally been advocated worldwide. As summarized by Yip (2005), a public health approach “acknowledges the importance of both the high-risk and the population-based strategies to suicide prevention, and requires a multi-sector effort to tackle the problem at multiple levels: in the community (universal strategies), among specific population subgroups (selective strategies), and among those at a particular high risk of suicidal behaviour (indicated strategies)”. Given that suicide prevention for high-risk groups would only have a modest effect on population suicide rates (Lewis, Hawton and Jones, 1997), effective intervention should be targeted at groups that show alarming trends (i.e. adopting selective strategies), and prevention in

the community (i.e. adopting universal strategies).

Countries in the Western Pacific region are particularly affected by suicide, accounting for 38 per cent of the world's suicides (Yip, 2005). Hong Kong, located in this region, has experienced one of the most drastic increases in suicide rate. The suicide rate in Hong Kong increased from 12.5 per 100,000 people in 1997 to 19.6 per 100,000 people in 2003 (c.f. the world's average suicide rate of 14.5 per 100,000 people), while the youth suicide rate has increased by more than 70 per cent since 1997 (Yip, 2005). In particular, news about young people burning charcoal or jumping from heights has aroused public attention, along with unreported cases of those at the verge of attempting suicide. To tackle the problem, suicide prevention efforts were initiated by different stakeholders (government, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the general public) to intervene at a number of possible avenues to suicide. These suicide preventive measures work by restricting access to lethal means of suicide in Asia (e.g. limited access to charcoal, Yip et al., 2010, and installation of platform screen doors on railway platforms, Law et al., 2009); reinforcing the social support which is an important protective factor in Asia (e.g. establishment of neighbourhood watch schemes and strengthening the community network in social support, Wong et al., 2009); and promoting responsible reporting of suicides in the media, etc. On top of these, there are school-based programme (educating students on mental health issues) and youth mentoring programme (involving youths as volunteers in mental health promotion) targeted to intervene through educational settings to enhance mental health knowledge, reduce stigmas towards mental illnesses, and foster positive attitudes towards help-seeking behaviours in young people. With the above suicide prevention efforts, the suicide rate in Hong Kong dropped significantly from 19.6 per 100,000 people in 2003 to 13.8 per 100,000 people in 2009 (CSRP, 2010). This is an example of successful suicide prevention work, in that the success of these efforts rests on the involvement and commitment of the wider community in a social and interagency network to intervene through multiple avenues to raise awareness of the problem and prevent suicide for various causes.

Yet, there is still a way to go for suicide prevention to be adequately addressed worldwide. Current inadequacies and difficulties in suicide prevention that the world is facing include a lack of information on the essentials aspects of effective suicide prevention practices that can be adapted across cultures, looseness of surveillance and reporting system of suicide mortality globally, and unawareness of the importance of suicide prevention as a public health concern. Reflecting the slogan of the World Suicide Prevention Day 2010 (“*Many faces, many places: Suicide prevention across the world*”), it is time for the whole world to collaborate together in an integrated manner to address these inadequacies in suicide prevention as we face the challenges of an alarming trend in youth suicide.

* **Paul Yip** is the second vice-president of the International Association of Suicide Prevention and the Director of Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention at the University of Hong Kong and **Ms Jenny Huen** is a research co-ordinator of the Centre for Suicide research and Prevention of the University of Hong Kong

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CONNECTED GENERATION: Young People and Social Networks: Outline

* Tim Davies

The social networking phenomena

According to boyd and Ellison's definitive 2007 article,¹ the first online social network service (SNS) emerged in 1997, but it is only in the last five years that social networks have made it from obscurity to become a ubiquitous part of many people's online, and offline, day to day experience. With 2 billion people predicted to be connected to the Internet by the end of 2010,² Facebook now has over 500 million registered users from right across the globe.³ 2.1 million new Twitter accounts are registered every week,⁴ and regional, local and niche social network services and social media sites are being launched and are growing daily.

Whilst a few years ago, clear distinctions could be drawn between the social media sites focused on hosting user-generated content, such as YouTube or the photo-sharing website Flickr - and the social networks which focused on allowing

individuals to create personal profiles and to link those profiles to their friends - now the distinctions are blurring. Social networking features are built into, or added onto, most social media websites (and even, increasingly, corporate intranet platforms), and the social networks have become major media-sharing platforms in their own right. Facebook is now the largest photo-sharing website on the planet, hosting over 10 billion photos.⁵

Never before in human history have so many people had the ability to publish content to a potentially global audience: bypassing the need to get permission to publish or to have access to expensive broadcast equipment. Social media and social networking sites have created new public squares: places where people can meet with friends; do business; gather in crowds or visit alone; find out local gossip, or talk about national issues; share their creativity and find arts and entertainment; and listen to or engage in political expression.

An equal world?

In common with most technologies, access to online social networks is not equally distributed. We looked at some of the differences in access to social network services in the Future Connect report on the potential of social network services for HIV/AIDs communication (<http://www.communicationforsocialchange.org/publications/future-connect?articleid=35>). Inequalities in access to the Internet mean that many people have no access to social network sites. However, once some means of Internet access is available, social networks are proving to be part of a shared global online experience. In fact, for many, social networks are the reason to get online, and are the hub of their online experience.

Facebook now has over 500 million registered users from right across the globe

Social networks are also not just PC keyboard & screen based services. Most operate mobile websites and offer mobile applications, and many are mobile-only. Some social network services have established special deals with mobile phone networks, providing free access to their networks from phone handsets. In Thailand, the Hi5 social network was the second most visited mobile site in 2009, closely followed by Facebook.⁶ Taking the social network mobile can have interesting implications: from allowing people to share photos, media and updates right away when they are out-and-about, to enabling location-based-services that use the global positioning system (GPS) to show people which of their friends have recently 'checked-in' nearby, or customizing the content an individual will see on the network based on their current location.

The exact form that social networking services take in different parts of the world, and the emphasis they place on different aspects of their service, from accessing professionally produced entertainment content to connecting with friends and sharing user-generated content, varies. In Japan, the cell-phone based network Mixi is only available to users with a Japanese cell-phone number. Mixi in South Africa, also cell-phone based, started out with a focus on instant messaging between users on a friends list, and owes much of its success to providing young people with a way to 'text' each other far cheaper than using their mobile phone providers Short-Message-Service (SMS) feature. A lot of the content and communication on major Indian social networks is centered around media content from music and Bollywood stars.

The differences between social network services is often based on differences in Internet access, on cultural norms, and often, which company made it into the social networking market in a country first. Unsurprisingly people join the networks where their friends and contacts are. Some networks play a particular role in connecting diaspora communities. For example, Hi5 and Orkut are not mainstream social networks for young people in the UK (where Facebook now

predominates), but young people with family connections to Asia may be members of Hi5 as well as Facebook, and those with particular Latin American or Indian connections may also have an account on Orkut.

Young people in the networked world

Social networking is often seen as a youth phenomenon. Whilst the assumption that the majority of people registered on social network sites are young people is frequently mistaken (less than 50% of Facebook users are under 25; and the average user of Twitter is certainly over 25), social networks can play a very significant role within young people's lives, and young people are often heavy users of these sites.

Young people use social network sites in many different ways:

- **Keeping in touch with friends** - the vast majority of SNS activity involves just hanging out online with existing friends. Larsen describes the 'love (friendship) discourse' created by leaving messages on friend's profile walls⁷, or by clicking the 'like' button to indicate having read and enjoyed someone's postings. These small social cues extend the off-line interaction of adolescents and young adults - acting as a way of saying "Hi, I am still your friend and I still care about you."

- **Accessing media, entertainment and information** - exploring media shared by friends, or searching on the SNS platforms for content of interest.

- **Exploring self-identity** - crafting an SNS profile, with biographical information, shared media and messages, provides a way for young people to explore their own identity and self-presentation (anyone who has ever written a CV, or submitted a biography for a conference programme will be familiar with the same process of thinking about how you want to be perceived and thinking critically about self-presentation through text, layout, images etc.). Through social network sites young people are 'writing themselves into being' (boyd) online.

- **Sharing status updates & media** - most networks provide a way for users to share updates on what they have been doing recently, or what they are thinking. These updates are shared with their friends on the network, and can generally become subjects for comments and discussion. Sharing these updates, or sharing media (photos of recent activities; video clips; favorite music, etc.), provides a means for being present to friends and for self-expression.

- **Making new connections & engaging with groups** - many users of SNS will find they make new connections through them - whether adding a 'friend of a friend' as a new connection to their profile, or finding entirely new people to connect and converse with. Large scale SNS and social media sites, and niche-interest networks and sites also provide interest-specific groups which young users may join to explore a particular interest, or just to 'mess about' and find things that might be interesting.

- **Hanging out, messing around, geeking out** - the MacArthur funded Digital Youth project, that explored young people's use of digital media in the United States, identi-

fied three 'genres' of engagement with digital media: from the hanging out activities noted above, to messing around exploring potential new interests, and to 'geeking out' - using the opportunities of digital media to gain expertise and become deeply engaged in an issue - from making music, to running a business, to getting involved in political movements. Young people are not the only ones engaging in these activities through SNS, but perhaps the biggest generational divide is that many young people have never known life without them. None of us have been on Facebook for more than five years - but for some young people, that five years is the entirety of their adolescent life.

Opportunities and risks: Myths and realities

The challenge in thinking about the impacts of social networks is to cut through reactions based on unfamiliarity or fear, to identify the risks and opportunities they create and, equally as important, the changes that new technologies make to the background conditions of what constitutes a viable policy response to any concerns that they do give rise to.

So what of the different concerns. Are these myths or reality?

- Young people are wasting time on social networks.

Many young people can certainly end up spending a lot of time on social networks, though often this is multi-tasking time, doing other things as well as being online or linked to a network by phone. Some young people do identify that they want to spend less time in front of Facebook, or on a particular network. Howard Rheingold has written of the importance of helping young people develop 'attention literacy' to know when to tune out from the flow of conversation in online networks and to focus on other tasks.⁸ The Digital Youth report noted that time spent with digital media can be effective informal learning time, and many young people will explain that they were using SNS to get help from friends with projects or homework or even using networks to help them find employment.

- Young people don't believe in privacy and are oversharing.

The 10 billion photos and thousands of status updates every minute on sites like Facebook show that SNS users share a lot of content about themselves online. Some have argued that this leads to the end of privacy. Whilst most SNS offer some privacy features, users may leave their content open to anyone to view, and it can appear as if they do not care about privacy at all. danah boyd describes how much of this arises from individuals having an 'imagined audience' who they think are reading/engaging with their content⁹ - when the real audience may be quite different. However, danah also describes how many young people adopt sophisticated strategies to manage their privacy. There are both risks and benefits to new forms of SNS-enabled online transparency: risks of identity theft or of state surveillance of individuals are, for many, set against benefits of sharing in online communities, or being visible in ways that can bring better job prospects or other opportunities. Privacy isn't dead; but it is constantly evolving.¹⁰

- Social networks expose young people to dangerous ideas or groups.

Undoubtedly the ability for anyone to publish content through social media spaces means there is a lot of negative and potentially harmful content available - and some young people do come across and engage with this content online. Gangs may use social networks to organise, and the way in which most networks only moderate or check content when it is reported to them as problematic means that a lot of harmful content can exist openly relatively undetected by authorities. But just because content is on YouTube or posted somewhere on Facebook, does not mean it is right in front of everyone - most young people never voyage far on a social network from the spaces where their friends are - but some undoubtedly may end up in more harmful 'dark alleyways' of the networks.

- Young people are at risk from sexual predators and abusive adults through SNS.

There have been high-profile stories in a number of countries about cases of sexual abuse of young people facilitated by contact on social network sites. In sidelining adult gatekeepers, social networks can facilitate contact between young people and abusive adults - although the absolute number of cases of Internet-mediated harm is small in comparison to the number of young people abused by adults known to them from their family or local community. Research from the Crimes Against Children Research Centre in the United States¹¹ suggests that those vulnerable to online abuse are often the young people with existing vulnerabilities offline too.

One simple way of understanding SNS is as 'amplifiers'. They can amplify the opportunities available to young people with existing positive connections and opportunities; but they can also amplify the vulnerabilities of the vulnerable. Offering vulnerable and disadvantaged young people support to develop the skills to get the most out of online social networking may turn out to be an important role for those who work with them.

Returning to the earlier metaphor of SNS as new public squares (or, to extend the metaphor, whole towns with public and private spaces), they do present some particular policy challenges. Most social networks services are privately owned by companies with commercial goals for the networks - they are 'privatized public space'. They are also global spaces, making it difficult for national norms of regulations to be applied to them. That is why innovations in governance remain a pressing issue, and a topic that has been discussed at The Internet Governance Forum over recent years, including by the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance.

So what?

Social networks are not going to go away, though they will keep evolving. For organizations working with young people, there are several elements to responding to the growth of SNS:

- 1) **Awareness** - think about how SNS affect the environment you are working in; make sure you are supporting young people to navigate online risks and take up online

opportunities.

- 2) **Use** - explore how SNS and social media could provide tools for your work. How could you use the networking opportunities to increase your impact or promote your projects?
- 3) **Outreach** - explore how you can spend time working directly in online SNS spaces - either to reach out to young people, or to take a community development approach to addressing some of the risks and problematic spaces.

Fortunately, in the online world you don't have to work out your response alone: a quick search online, or a search on networks like Twitter should find you many colleagues going on the same learning journey.

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CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND MAINTENANCE

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High School Cybercriminals Wreaking Havoc

Why Are More Youths
Committing Online Crime?



In June this year, UK authorities tracked down and arrested two people suspected of ring leading the largest international English speaking online cyber criminal forum. They were charged with stealing and selling the details of 65,000 bank accounts they had ransacked from computers infected with malware. They had sold the details at varying prices according to their origin, with US bank details going for \$3, EU bank details for \$5 and UK bank details for \$7. Furthermore, they had provided advice through their online forum on the best ways to use the details to wire money, purchase items online or pay for other services. According to the authorities, more than 8 million pounds (US\$12.5 million) had subsequently been stolen from these accounts. The kicker – the two alleged criminals, Nick Webber and Ryan Thomas, were both teenagers (18 and 17) and still in high school.

Why are contemporary youths so willing to jump into the world of cybercrime?

Unfortunately, this is far from being an isolated case. With the continuing growth of the internet, youth cybercrime is fast becoming a mainstream issue. In a recent survey conducted by Tufin Technologies, an online security company, it was found that roughly one in six teenagers in the US, and one in four teenagers in the UK, had tried their hand at some form of internet 'hacking'.¹ Gone are the days when computer crimes were restricted to the socially awkward Napoleon Dynamite look-a-likes. These days, multi-million dollar damage can be caused by a teenager conducting simple 'point and click' attacks using the family computer. The question we have to ask is: why are contemporary youths so willing to jump into the world of cybercrime?

Theory 1: Cybercriminals are the New Rock Stars

In a 2008 interview with the BBC, Mark Bevan ('a reformed hacker') gave an explanation as to why more teenagers are becoming hackers: "The aim of what they are doing is to get the fame within their peer group."²

This suggests that many youths are turning to cybercrimes simply because it is the 'in thing' – a claim reinforced by the Tufin survey which found that almost 40 per cent of teenagers admitted that they thought illegal 'hacking' was cool.

Perhaps then, a finger of blame should be pointed at the portrayal of cybercriminals in popular culture. For years, the internet underworld has made appearances in mainstream culture – Matthew Broderick played the role of a hacker in the 1983 movie 'WarGames', while Keanu Reeves' character started out as an illegal coder in the blockbuster Matrix trilogy. Furthermore, when cybercriminals have made appearances in popular culture, they have generally been portrayed

in a positive light. According to a study by Damian Gordon, which looked at the portrayal of computer hacking in popular media over the last 40 years, 70 per cent of hackers featured in films in this period were portrayed as the hero, regardless of whether their acts were illegal or not.³ This trend looks likely to continue, with the current 'Millennium Trilogy' movies all celebrating the hacker Lisbeth Salander and her predisposition to frequently commit cybercrime.

As an 11 year old, my first impression of computer crime was heavily influenced by the 1995 movie Hackers, in which teenagers (including a youthful Angelina Jolie) used unconventional and illegal methods to take down an evil computer specialist who had framed them as terrorists. The teenagers – who wore outlandish outfits; went to nightclubs and parties; and gave themselves tag names such as 'Crash Override' and 'Acid Burn' – ended up outsmarting the ignorant and incapable secret service and gave hackers worldwide a 'cool' image in the process. And unlike the rollerblades and bright lycra that featured prominently in the film, it appears that cybercriminals have only become cooler.

For instance, a recent issue of Rolling Stone Magazine even jumped onto the issue of cybercrime. In its June issue, the magazine published a feature article entitled 'Sex, Drugs and the Biggest Cybercrime of all time,' which told the story of Albert Gonzales – the mastermind behind an international cybercriminal ring that stole over 170 million credit and debit card numbers at an estimated cost of US\$200million to corporations and insurers, all while hosting lavish parties and consuming copious amounts of cocaine, ecstasy and LSD.

The aim of what they are doing is to get the fame within their peer group

There is little doubt that youths are influenced heavily by popular culture, and youths will always use popular culture as a guide to achieving notoriety among their peers. Unfortunately in this case, the way popular culture has increasingly portrayed cybercriminals in a positive light appears to be encouraging youths to commit unlawful acts.

Theory 2: Easy Crime, Big Reward

Other explanations also exist to account for the distinct increase in youth cybercrime. Some suggest that youths are committing cybercrimes simply to reap the large illicit rewards that it can provide. There will always be some youths on the look out for an easy dollar. Unfortunately, the advent of new internet technologies has given rise to a situation in which opportunistic youths have now been given a means to commit crimes that were commonly perceived to be massively disproportionate to their age. Before the internet era, youth crime was more or

less limited to minor offences such as shoplifting and other simple thefts. Nowadays however, cybercrimes committed by youths can include anything from large-scale software piracy to multi-million dollar credit card fraud.

According to the US Department of Justice, the ability of juveniles to portray themselves as adults in the online world has allowed them to access brand new areas of criminality. Areas which would deny youths access in the real world, such as online auction sites, financial service websites, and discussion forums, are all easily reachable with the click of a mouse, regardless of the user's age. The internet allows an individual to commit serious and far reaching offences. It has become almost impossible to ban someone from the internet, with connection points available in so many areas (e.g. schools, cafés, and libraries) and young people everywhere can easily log on and get up to all kinds of unsupervised online mischief. And they do: one in ten of the teenagers that admitted to 'hacking' in the Tufin survey also admitted that they had done so for money.

When cybercriminals have made appearances in popular culture, they have generally been portrayed in a positive light

In addition to the wide accessibility that the internet provides to youths, the level of skill required to commit many online crimes is very low when compared to the skills required to commit large scale crimes in the physical world. Youths no longer need to be highly and technically skilled to commit online crime. Nowadays, any novice user can download a wide range of 'Hacker Tools' with easy-to-use guides, and this alone has greatly increased the number of potential online criminals. Crimeware tools such as Zeus, Sploit and Fiesta are easily attainable online, and at no cost. With online weapons so easily accessible to youth, and so easy to operate, it is of little wonder that so many young people are trying their hand at cybercrime.

Theory 3: Malicious Curiosity

There are also many youths that actually possess highly technical skills, and are using these skills to increasingly commit serious cybercrimes that reap little to no personal gain. Just last month, a Canadian student was charged with hacking into a school board website and exposing the passwords of 27,000 fellow students. Furthermore in September this year, a 17 year old Australian was found to be the creator of a computer worm that crippled Twitter for several hours. The worm exposed a flaw in the microblogging site which allowed other hackers to send unsuspecting users to Japanese pornography sites. When asked to explain why he hacked Twitter, the student's response was "To see if it could be done."⁴ This answer sums up the major motivation behind many of the more highly skilled young cybercriminals, in particular the young 'black hat' hackers – they simply do it to see if they can, without any thought

to the real-world consequences. If they break through a system and cause large amounts of financial damage in the process, it is the system's fault for being 'weak'.

Theory 4: An Ethical Deficit

It is incidents such as the ones mentioned above that somewhat justify the US Department of Justice's (DOJ) claim that young people have an 'ethical deficit' when it comes to computer crimes.⁵ In the movie 'WarGames', there is a scene where Matthew Broderick's character, David, uses his computer to dial a large list of phone numbers without charge.

Jennifer: 'You could go to jail for that!'

David: 'Only if you're over 18!'

While the movie was made in 1983, the scene still typifies the present generation of youth's naïve and cavalier attitude towards computer crime. In a Scholastic Inc. poll referenced by the DOJ on their website,⁶ 48 per cent of elementary and middle school respondents do not believe that hacking is a crime. Furthermore, in another study quoted by the DOJ, 34 per cent of university undergraduates admitted to illegally pirating copyrighted software. The existence of this ethical deficit increases the likelihood that even young people that are unlikely to commit traditional crimes in the physical world may be much more inclined to commit crimes online.

The Solution?

There is no doubt: today's youths are becoming more and more willing to commit cybercrimes. While explanations may differ as to why this is the case, one question that needs to be answered is 'What can be done to address this problem?' According to the US National Crime Prevention Council, the best way to halt the youth cybercrime phenomenon is through widespread education.⁷ They suggest that young people need to be taught the legal and ethical rules of the internet, as well as how to use the internet responsibly. Currently, most children do not view cybercrime in the same light as crime in the physical world, and they need to understand that illegal actions online carry real consequences and cause large scale emotional and financial costs to victims. This concept is also supported by the US Department of Justice, which has launched a campaign aimed at both parents and children with the goal of raising awareness on the importance of 'cyberethics.' On the website 'Cyberethics for Kids'⁸ the DOJ provides a children-targeted explanation of the harmful effects of cybercrime, while on its website 'Cyberethics for Parents and Educators'⁹ the DOJ attempts to outline an appropriate syllabus that adults can use to teach young people about the specifics of internet responsibility.

The UK and US have also adopted much more specific initiatives to reduce the instances of youth cybercrime. Targeting teens with highly technical skills, the two governments created a contest aimed to test the skills of young hackers and to attract them to the idea of using their skills for positive purposes, rather than becoming cybercriminals. In one of the US chal-

lenges, competitors were required to analyse a hard drive to find evidence to convict criminals, while in another they had to defend a network from attacks. One eventual contest winner earned bonus points by breaking into the contest scoring system and awarding himself 10,000 extra points. The aim of the programme was to encourage young hackers to consider careers in internet security, either for the government or private corporations, rather than using their skills for criminal motivations.

Nevertheless, the internet is spreading and the number of global youths with online access is increasing significantly. Unless successful and widespread initiatives are implemented soon, the number of young people willing to commit online crime will continue to increase just as drastically.

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Restavèks and Child Trafficking in Haiti

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According to different studies, child domestic workers in Haiti number between 170,000 and 230,000, which represents around 10 per cent of the child population aged between 5 and 17



The earthquake in Haiti has left thousands of children dependent on assistance from people with whom they have previously had no contact

* Daniel Ruiz

Haiti has come to the front of the international news after the earthquake that took place in January this year and caused more than 200,000 deaths. Another issue also called the attention of the world: the situation of the child serfs and the trafficking of minors.

The *Restavèks* are unpaid child servants living and working away from home. In principle, parental placement of a *restavèk* child involves the handover of childrearing responsibility to another household in exchange for the child's unpaid domestic service. *Restavèk* placement is generally viewed as a long term arrangement that may last for several years. The traditional expectation is that the "caretaker" household will cover the cost of sending the *restavèk* child to school. The Créole term *restavèk* literally means someone who lives with another ("*reste avec*" in French). In some cases, outside children are treated almost as if they were informally adopted, but often they are treated very badly, virtually as slaves.

The exploitation of children in domestic service is compounded by economic hardship in Haiti, with many of the receiving families living in poverty themselves. Over half of the population lives below the \$1-a-day poverty line, and 76 per cent live on less than \$2 a day.

The UN *Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, its Causes and Consequences*, Gulnara Shahinian, expressed deep concern over the highly exploitative nature of the 'restavèk' system in Haiti, which she considers to be a modern form of slavery.

The *restavèk* system, often deprives children of their family environment and violates their most basic rights such as the rights to education, health, and food as well as subjecting them to multiple forms of abuse including economic exploitation, sexual violence and corporal punishment.

According to different studies, child domestic workers in Haiti number between 170,000 and 230,000, which represents around 10 per cent of the child population aged between 5 and 17. About two-thirds of the child domestic-helpers are girls and they are mostly found in rural areas. There is a tendency for male *restavèks* to originate from



With all the funds pledged to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake it is difficult to justify not addressing the problem of the restavèks

rural areas, whereas girls tend to come from urban areas. As restavèk teens get older, they are commonly tossed to the street to fend for themselves and become victims of other types of abuse and social exclusion.

According to a study by *The Lancet*, the rate of sexual assault against female *restaveks* is almost four and a half times greater than that for girls who are not restavèks. Of the female restavèks, one in 19 are sexually assaulted per year, compared with one in 84 girls who are not restavèks.

Recently the direct placement of children from family to family has been supplemented by the existence of recruiters, who for financial gain recruit children from rural areas to work in urban families as child slaves in domestic work. In addition, the majority of the demand has shifted from wealthy families to poorer ones.

Many children have been reported as trafficked both within and outside the country. These abuses happen irrespective of the fact that Haiti has ratified many international human rights instruments on the elimination of slavery and the protection of the rights of the child, in particular the *UN Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave trade and Practices similar to Slavery*, the *ILO Convention No. 29 on Forced or Compulsory Labour*, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, and *ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour* and the *UN Convention on*

Transnational organized Crime and Protocols. Haiti should still ratify the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights* and the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*. The Government of Haiti should also take urgent measures to bring local legislation into conformity with ratified international legal instruments; adopt a law on the fight against trafficking in human beings; and develop strong mechanisms for child adoption.

The earthquake in Haiti has left thousands of children dependent on assistance from people with whom they have previously had no contact. While the majority of people offering assistance following the Haiti earthquake will be committed to improving the lives of the children who have survived, these types of situations also attract individuals and organised criminal syndicates seeking to gain access to possible victims who are vulnerable and easy to exploit. According to Interpol, there are concerns over increased offers of international adoption, as there are known links between this market and child trafficking and exploitation networks.

Moreover, many children resident in orphanages are not true orphans. There is an international adoption circuit that operates in Haiti, and this circuit is built in part on the role of orphanages as assembly points for children available for adoption. Given the relative affluence of foreign parents seeking children, the situation is rife with the potential for corruption and maneuvers that may not be in the best interest of the children.

According to one child protection group in Haiti, since the earthquake more than 7,300 boys and girls have been smuggled out of their homeland to the Dominican Republic by traffickers profiting on the hunger and desperation of Haitian children and their families. In 2009, the figure was 950. There was a scandal when an Evangelical group from Idaho tried to



More than 7,300 boys and girls have been smuggled out of their homeland to the Dominican Republic by traffickers profiting on the hunger and desperation of Haitian children and their families

take 33 children from Haiti to an orphanage in the Dominican Republic in February, but one month later, smugglers moved 1,411 children out of the country without attracting much attention. The *buscones*, as the smugglers are known, not only deliver children on request, they also deliver them on demand to strangers.

“During the emergency, the border was opened - nicely opened - because it was useful for humanitarian reasons,” stated UNICEF Representative in Haiti Françoise Gruloons-Ackermans. “But we heard about a lot of movement of children. And among them were probably children who were trafficked.”

Two UN studies in 2002 and 2004 demonstrated that even in the past Haitian and Dominican traffickers have operated with impunity and taken advantage of the complicity of the border authorities in both countries.

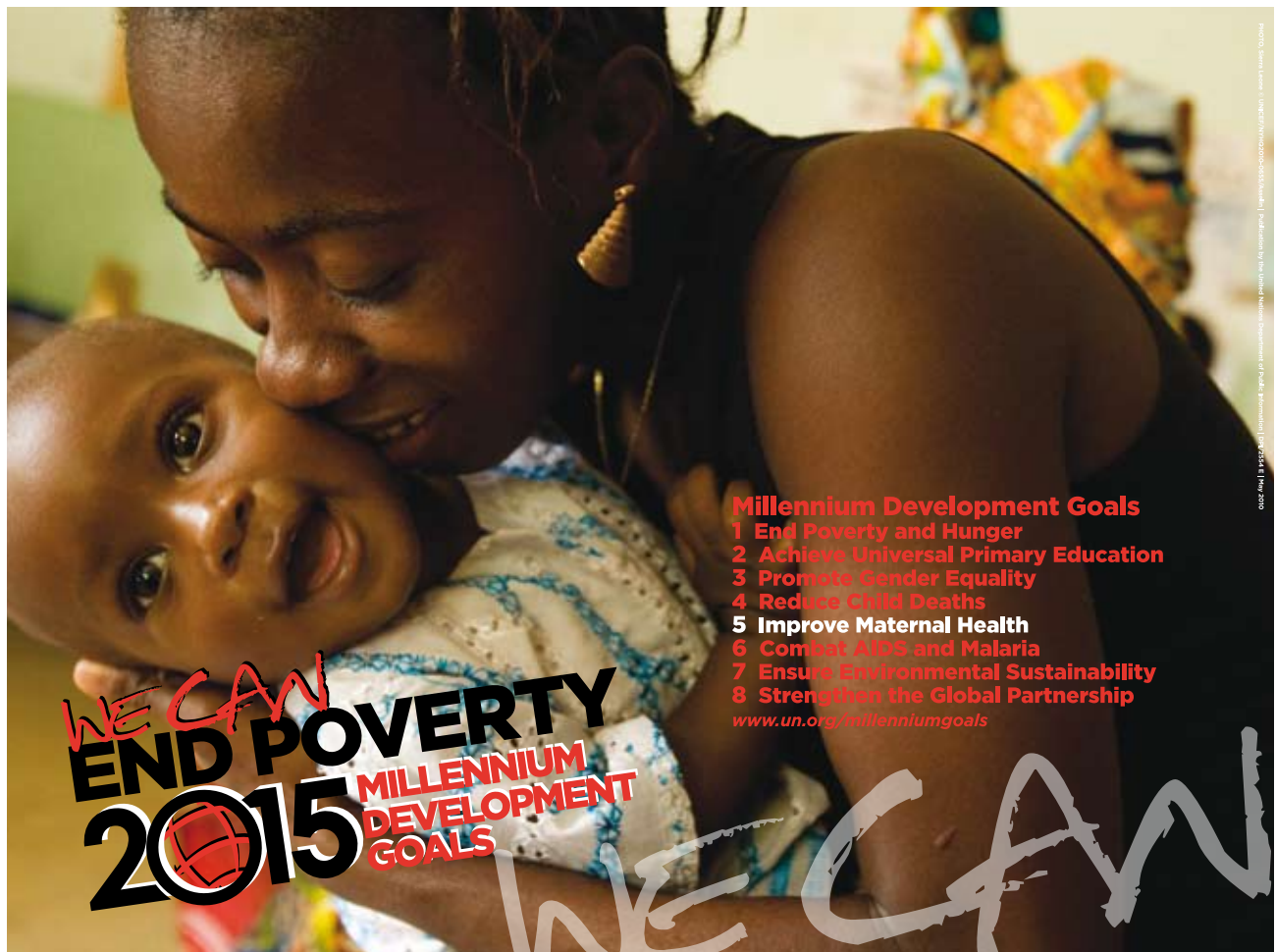
The earthquake created a mass exodus, which makes it hard at times to differentiate between smugglers and parents or relatives crossing the border with children. Some of these minors are now offering their sexual services to affluent foreigners in tourist resorts on the western part of the Island. A zero-tolerance policy against traffickers has to be effectively implemented so as to stop thousands of children becoming victims of their crimes and bring them to justice.

The main driver of child servitude and child trafficking is the

extreme poverty reigning in Haitian society. The solution to this problem should be based on the provision of development aid and the establishment of educational institutions, social protection networks, family policies, and the strengthening of the rule of law. However, in spite of the sums pledged by the international community to rebuild the country after the earthquake there is still much to be done to guarantee a future for the country and real support for its people.

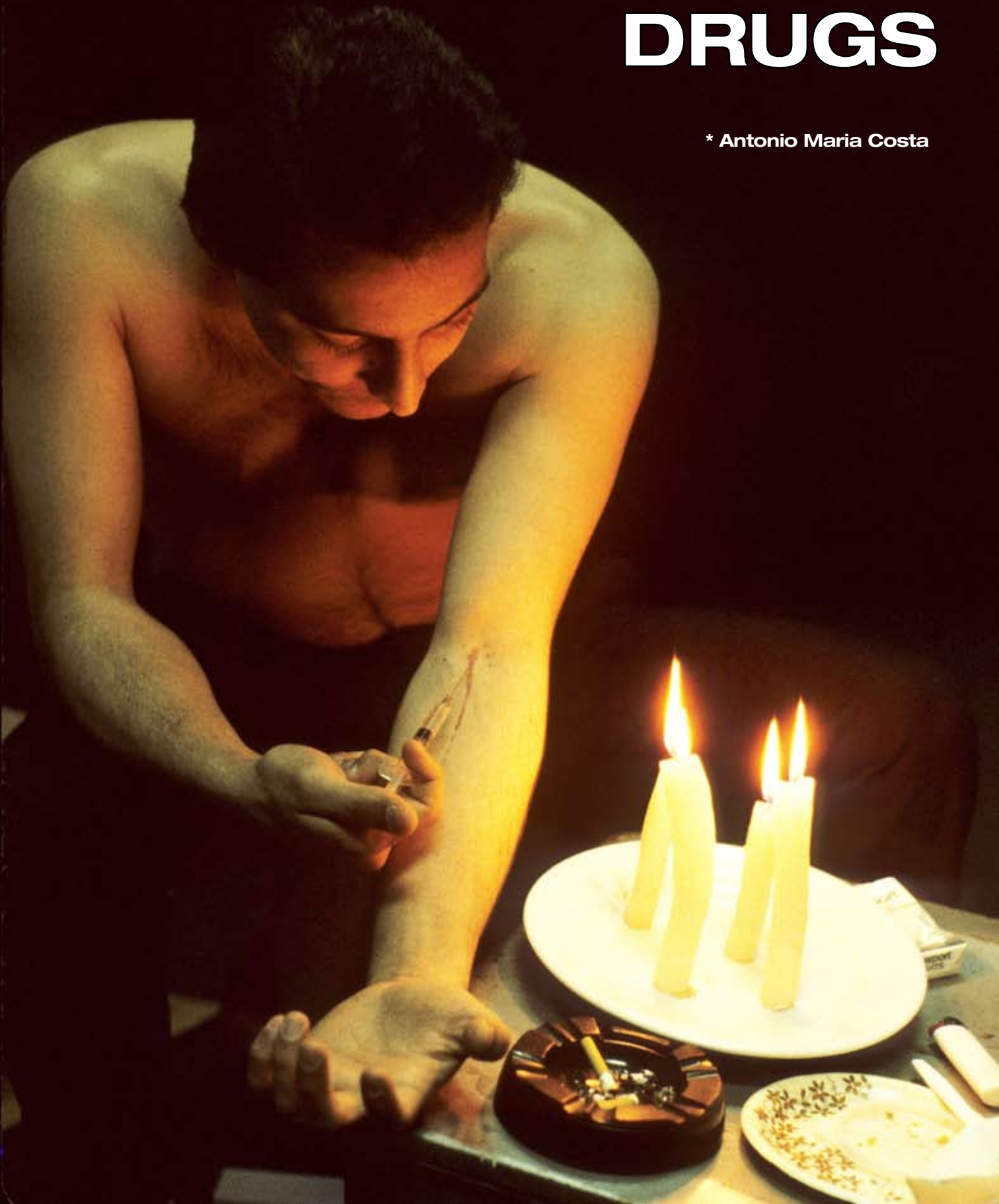
The tradition of the *restavèk*, which was born traditionally as a way to provide an education to poor rural children, has become today a method of exploitation of child labour or even a source for the worst kinds of slavery and human trafficking. With all the funds pledged to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake it is difficult to justify not addressing the problem of the *restavèk* through measures such as the creation of rural schools, the improvement of the income of the poorest families, or the prosecution of traffickers. It would be good to include in the Millenium Development Goals for 2015 the elimination of the practice of the *restavèk* in Haiti.

* **Daniel Ruiz** is a researcher in Peace and Transnational Organized Crime, and has taken part as a relief operator in the reconstruction effort following the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti.



YOUTH and DRUGS

* Antonio Maria Costa



the Temptation and the Disillusion

I am glad to be given the opportunity to talk with young people about drugs, especially about the **temptation** to take addictive substances for fun or need, and the **dis-illusion** victims inevitably face – unable to overcome personal problems with a few grams of dope.

I invite young people to exchange views in an urbane and fruitful manner, in recognition of everybody's good intentions. This will help us to better understand a century-old scourge: drug addiction and the crime associated to it, and what to do about both.

Many young people, radical as they are (should be?) before professional and family needs settle in, tend to militate in two opposing camps: there are those who pursue *a world free of drugs*, and those who propose *a world of free drugs*. The vast majority of youth however, tend to place themselves in between these two fringes, basing their views on common sense:

- First, health must be protected as a matter of priority, including when we talk about personal lifestyles and their consequences to society.
- Second, as a corollary, there is an urgent need to reduce the harm caused by drugs – by preventing their use, by treating those who use them, and by limiting the damage they cause to individuals and society.
- Third, views about drugs must be evidence-based, not the result of political considerations or ideological preferences.
- Forth, the dichotomy *prohibition vs legalization* (of drugs) is too simplistic for a civilized debate nor does it help those whom we wish to assist: our brothers, the drug addicts.
- Fifth, and finally, there is agreement that addictive substances (drugs, alcohol and tobacco) should be regulated – like the other major global killer: privately owned firearms.

There are those who pursue a world free of drugs, and those who propose a world of free drugs

I believe these five points are accepted by the majority of young people, and I invite them to review *where to set the bar*, how to define and set the degrees of drug regulation. In other words, instead of accentuating differences, I invite young people to be rational and draw the appropriate conclusion from these common sense premises.

Let me begin with the world drug situation: where do we stand?

The world drug situation

For a few years, for all drugs (opiates, cocaine, cannabis, ATS) there have been signs of world market stability. What I mean is that, in every phase of the drug business (cultivation, production, consumption), aggregate totals have lost the upward momentum they had in the 1980s and the 1990s. Of course, world aggregates hide improvements in some countries for some drugs, which are offset by deterioration elsewhere. Yet, the global totals are stable.

This finding refers to the past few years, namely since the early 2000s. Hopefully, in the period ahead evidence to support this claim will become statistically and logically incontrovertible.

Next question: how did this market change come about? Is this the result of successful drug control? Some surely doubt it. I see this as a good sign (the result of correlations over time and space), but yet not as evidence of causality (social sciences are generally poor in proving cause/effect relations). Drug trends respond to a wide range of factors, especially changes in society's revealed preferences. For me, the result is what counts: the world still has an enormous drug problem, but it is not out of control as it was in the final two decades of the last century. Indeed, it is being controlled.

Problem drug users make up less than 0.6 per cent of the world's population. Even if you take into account the number of people who take drugs once a year, this is still below 5 per cent of world's population. By comparison, alcohol is at 50 per cent and tobacco at 30 Per cent. Alcohol kills 2.5 million people a year; more than half of all homicides and road-accidents, and most domestic violence is alcohol-related. Tobacco kills 5 million people a year, because of cardio-vascular diseases and cancer – two of the greatest killers of our time.

As a consequence there is growing public and medical pressure to tighten controls on the consumption of alcohol and cigarettes. That's right. So why increase the public health damage by making drugs more freely available, drugs whose damage – thanks to the controls – is limited to 1/10 the casualties caused by tobacco? Why ignore the knowledge that we have gained from our experience with tobacco and alcohol? (and fire arms, by the way).

If only dreams came true

I start with a series of (hypothetical) situations useful to set priorities in drug policy. I invite my readers to consider them.



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Without demand, there would be no supply or trafficking. Demand reduction is the driver to everything else: the necessary and sufficient condition to make drug policy realistic and pragmatic.

I hope the young readers will agree on the sequence I just proposed, to separate the three elements of the drug chain, and their primary agents: **supply**, by farmers in need of assistance; **trafficking**, by criminals deserving retribution; and **demand**, by addicts craving for care.

Health and safety

With two building blocks of my argumentation in place (namely, stability of the world drug market and the priority of reducing drug demand), let me now explain how we can contain the harm caused by drugs.

Science has established that drug addiction is a disease affecting the brain, as much as any other neurological or psychiatric disorder. So let's prevent drug addiction, and treat it, as we would any other illness. There are no ideological debates about curing cancer or diabetes. So why have them about drug addiction? People to the left or right of the political spectrum are not divided on the need for preventing or treating tuberculosis or HIV/AIDS. Yet, they profoundly disagree about drug policy. But why? This is a health issue, not a moral or a political one.

It is a matter of life or death – in terms of the life-expectancy of the drug user and the spread of blood borne diseases to others.

It is damaging to society – by deadly accidents or crimes committed under the influence of psycho-active substances.

It is a threat to the security of states – think of Central America, the Caribbean and West Africa, caught in the cross-fire of drug trafficking.

I know of critical comments against this last point. Prohibition causes violence by creating a lucrative black market for drugs: legalize them to defeat organized crime. I submit: this is surely the antithesis of harm reduction. While legalization may reduce the profits to organized crime, it would increase the damage to the health of individuals and society. Health and safety go hand in hand. Although critics may construct arguments based on the merits of individual freedoms, including the freedom to harm one-self by taking drugs, I challenge the false dichotomy between health and security. Namely, I reject the argument that drugs are a matter of private and personal choice, and that their legalization would not only sanction such lifestyles, but would also curb organized crime. First, the pursuit of life-styles cannot be detrimental to society. Second, international mafia prosper because there are no convincing measures against it, globally: drugs are only one brand in their portfolio.

I do not believe that we have to choose between either protecting health, through drug control, or ensuring law-and-order, by liberalizing drugs

- **First**, I invite you all to imagine that this year, all cocaine, heroin, cannabis and synthetic drugs produced and trafficked around the world, were seized: the dream of law enforcement agencies. Well, when we woke up having had this first dream, we would realize that hundreds of thousands of hectares of cannabis, coca and opium would be grown again next year: as a result once again thousands of tons of drugs would be trafficked. In other words, this first dream shows that, while law enforcement is necessary in drug control, it is not sufficient. New supply would keep coming on stream, year after year.
- So let's dream a **second time**. Let's dream that, by some miracle, we can convince farmers around the world (Afghanistan, Colombia, Morocco, Myanmar for example) to eradicate the drug crops, replaced by the fruits of development. A great dream of course, but yet again, one that would not solve the world drug problem on its own. Why? Because when we woke up after this second dream we would realize that other sources of supply would open up somewhere else on the planet, to satisfy the daily cravings of 25 million hardcore drug addicts around the world.
- So we are left with a **third dream**, the real challenge of drug control: to reduce the demand for drugs. This would work: namely prevention, treatment and reintegration, combined in a single health based programme, has to be our priority.

In other words, I do not believe that we have to choose between **either protecting health** through drug control, **or ensuring law-and-order** by liberalizing drugs. Democratic governments can, and must, ensure both: health as well as security.

Condemning Young People to a Life of Addiction

My next message is about the need to reduce the harm caused by drugs through prevention, treatment and assistance to addicts.

If governments only focus on assistance to addicts through narrowly conceived harm reduction, without engaging in prevention or providing treatment, the result is ghettoization.

Let me explain – based on science, not emotions or ideology. Scientific evidence has proven that drug dependence is the result of nature and nurture – namely **a mix of genetic and social factors**. People are more vulnerable to addiction as a result of:

- *gene variants*, namely hereditary conditions.
- *childhood*, inadequate pre-natal care, poor parenting, neglect and abuse, low school engagement, lack of family and community bonding, and
- *social conditions*, marginalization, poverty, and latent or overt psychiatric disorders.

There is a *double jeopardy* at play here: not only are such people more vulnerable to addiction, but addiction deepens their vulnerability. As a result, the disadvantaged are pushed even further away from society.

The advice of the pro-drug lobby, if listened to, would condemn our brothers, the addicts, to a life of dependence. Rhetorical gymnastics about civil liberties favour the privileged who can afford expensive treatment for their drug habits, or those of their kids. But what about the less fortunate who lack the same means and opportunities?

Now extrapolate that problem onto a global scale. It is one thing to ignore the plight of the less fortunate in our midst who, because of their addiction, fall through the cracks and end up in the city gutters, in prison or in the morgue. Imagine the impact of unregulated drug use in developing countries where no prevention or treatment is available. This would unleash an epidemic of drug addiction and all the social and health consequences that go with it. Is this desirable? Instead of reducing harm, this would increase the damage done by drugs and everything associated with them.

Away from the illusion

Young people: I speak candidly to you all. Press governments to rebalance global drug control in favour of prevention and treatment. Only advocating harm reduction is not radical enough: actually it is a conservative approach, as it would preserve the *status quo*. Handing out a few condoms or needles to drug addicts is a Band-Aid solution. We need to break the vicious circle of dependence and disadvantage. How to do this? Simple. Just press governments to:

- devote more attention to early detection of addiction;
- reach out to people who need treatment, on a non-discriminatory basis;
- support an integrated approach for drug treatment, so that drug therapy is mainstreamed in public health and social services;
- make sure that there is sufficient intervention to prevent the spread of diseases like HIV and hepatitis among drug users;
- promote alternative measures to prison for drug addicts involved in crimes and provide the same standard of health care in prisons as on the outside.
- send drug users to rehab, not to jail, in view of curing them;
- pay greater attention to treating all forms of addiction. There is no consolation for stabilizing drug trends if people turn instead to abusing other substances like solvents, prescription drugs or alcohol.

But, and most importantly, we must make drug control a society-wide issue. Drugs are too important to be left to drug experts and governments alone. Dealing with them is a society-wide responsibility that requires society-wide engagement. This means working with children, starting from parents and teachers, to ensure that they get the love, encouragement and support that they need to develop self-esteem. This means greater support for family-based programmes: prevention begins at home.



Schools can help by teaching life-skills and the effects of drug use. Let's help those your age engage in healthy activities, like sports and culture, to enhance their well-being and prevent social isolation that leads to drugs and crime. In this way, young people can be steered away from drugs, and those that do suffer the misery of addiction can be brought back into society.

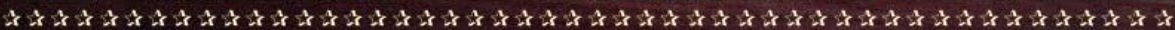
* **Antonio Maria Costa**
Executive Director UNODC (May 2002-Aug 2010)



una película de NICOLÁS ENTEL

PECADOS DE MI PADRE

¿Y si fueras el hijo de Pablo Escobar?



RED CREEK PRODUCTIONS presenta PECADOS DE MI PADRE

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Breaking the Silence

The Story of Colombian Drug Kingpin Escobar through the Eyes of his Son

* Nicolas Entel

The idea of making “Sins of My Father” first came about around the end of 2005, when I had an opportunity to meet Sebastián Marroquín, the only son of Pablo Escobar. Sebastián was born Juan Pablo Escobar in 1977 but was granted a name change shortly after his father’s death for security reasons. By the time of our meeting, he had been living in Argentina for a decade but few people knew about him, or his story.

Between 1984, the year Escobar ordered the assassination of the Minister of Justice Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, and 1993, when Escobar was finally killed, Sebastián was exposed to violence from many sides. He witnessed from close quarters the horrible violence inflicted on others by his father, described to me by former President Cesar Gaviria as “the worst in Colombia’s history.” Not only did he see violence being inflicted on others, but he was also subjected to

He was forced to choose whether to follow in his father’s footsteps or to break with the circle of violence to which he seemed destined

the violence used by his father’s persecutors, the paramilitary group known as Perseguidos por Pablo Escobar, or “Los Pepes,” and the Colombian security forces. The latter were desperate to stop Escobar, often seemingly disregarding any respect for human rights in the process.

When Escobar was killed, Sebastián was sixteen years old. He was forced to choose whether to follow in his father’s footsteps or to break with the circle of violence to which he seemed destined. Sebastián chose the latter. Llos Pepes lifted a \$4,000,000 reward on his head. Gustavo de Greiff, the Attorney General of Colombia, provided new identities for him, his mother and his sister. And so began their lives in exile. In December 1994, after a brief stay in Mozambique, Sebastián moved to Argentina with his mother and sister under their new identities. No one else knew about this. Neither the Argentinean Government nor the Argentinean President, Carlos Menem, were notified.

After eleven years of silence, Sebastián agreed to tell me his story for the first time. The story of his life with Pablo Escobar. He warned me, however, that he would never dare set foot in Colombia because among the conditions under which he was able to leave the country

alive were agreements that he would never engage in drug trafficking and that he would never return to Colombia. Sebastián feared what might happen if he did.

How do you start a conversation with someone who was done so much harm by your own father?

Nevertheless, in March 2007, Sebastián accepted an offer to travel to Ecuador with me. The idea was to drive from Quito all the way to the Colombian border, where we would visit the bridge he had crossed thirteen years earlier with his mother and sister as they fled the country. That was the point at which Juan Pablo Escobar became Sebastián Marroquín. Shortly before our departure, his mother, now known as María Isabel Santos, decided to join us on the trip. She wanted to find out who was making a documentary about Sebastián and to help protect her son. When we returned to Argentina, María Isabel invited me to Medellín to view the private archives of the Escobar family, composed of hundreds of pictures, home-movies and letters.

It is possible for other young Colombians across the country to discover another way of life, free from continuous cycles of violence

A few days after I returned from Ecuador, I traveled to Medellín to meet for the first time with the sons of Rodrigo Lara Bonilla and Luis Carlos Galán, Escobar's two most prominent victims. Lara Bonilla had been Minister of Justice when, in 1983, he became the first political figure to publicly denounce Escobar and to call for his resignation as a Congressman. He had also called for the raid of Tranquilandia, the biggest cocaine-processing lab ever found. Within a matter of a few hours, Escobar and his associates lost thirteen tons of cocaine, with an estimated street value of 1.2 billion U.S. Dollars. A month later, on 30 April, 1984, Lara was assassinated by *sicarios* working for Escobar. Never before had organized crime in Colombia gone so far. Several years later, Galán, a co-founder of Lara's New Liberalism Party, had become a leading candidate for the presidency. On his third attempt, he seemed destined to become President of Colombia. According to the polls, he was a clear winner. On 18 August, 1989 he was assassinated. With him died the hopes of millions of Colombians.

From the outset of making the documentary, I dreamt of a possible meeting between the sons of Lara and Galán and the son of Escobar. I will never wholly understand the reasons why Rodrigo Lara (Jr.), Juan Manuel, Carlos and Claudio Galán agreed to take part in this project. I believe that they could see within me the will to make a sincere and original project in a difficult and complex country like Colombia. I spent a considerable amount of time with them, traveling all across Colombia. I had opportunities to meet with senators, mayors, and even Vice-President Francisco Santos and Former President César Gaviria, both survivors of Escobar's violence. I was introduced to members of left-wing parties, such as the Polo Democrático, and conservative parties. I visited luxurious penthouses as well as neighborhoods which were entirely under water. I met with journalists and drug-dealers and spent time with soldiers, peasants, intellectuals and even former bandits.

The process of making this documentary allowed Sebastián some time for reflection and in January 2009 he asked me to give a letter he had written to the sons of Galán and Lara. In his letter, Sebastián wondered: "How do you start a conversation with someone who was done so much harm by your own father?" and asked for forgiveness for his father's crimes. Rodrigo Lara, who inherited his father's courage and spontaneity, took the next step. Since Sebastián was still afraid to visit Colombia, Rodrigo came with me to Buenos Aires to meet him. They both knew that this meeting, which took place in the utmost secrecy, was only a first step. The Galán brothers had not yet answered Sebastián's letter and I started to fear that they never would.

Rodrigo's decision to travel to Buenos Aires, however, helped convince Sebastián to travel to Colombia. In fact, Rodrigo and I mentioned this possibility to the Galán brothers. Unfortunately, the timing could not have been worse. The slow investigation into their father's death had just taken a sudden turn. The Colombian Judiciary was investigating a number of public figures, besides Escobar, for potential links to the assassination, and the three brothers feared that a potential meeting with Escobar's son could be misread. Nevertheless, they accepted our proposal with great courage.

In the end, I was able to witness a historic event. Without any sort of preconditions or arrangements, the sons of Lara and Galán gathered in Bogotá to meet with the son of Pablo Escobar. This time Sebastián was able to ask for forgiveness "To their eyes."

"We don't have anything to forgive you for," Juan Manuel answered. His brother Carlos added "My father used to say that we are all victims of drug trafficking. You have been a victim." What did Sebastián's request for forgiveness mean then? That night, I finally understood what Sebastián had meant when



he asked in his letter: "How do you start a conversation with someone who was done so much harm by your own father?" The answer: by asking for forgiveness. Even if one did not commit the crimes oneself, asking for forgiveness is fundamentally a gesture of humility and friendship. The response he was given was a touching acknowledgment that the sons of Pablo Escobar's victims did not hold Sebastián morally responsible for the violence waged by his father. If Sebastián Marroquín was able to rebuild a life for himself free of violence, and if Rodrigo, Juan Manuel, Claudio and Carlos were able to see past his link to Pablo Escobar, their fathers' killer, then we must realize that it is possible for other young Colombians across the country to discover another way of life, free from continuous cycles of violence. As Rodrigo Lara (Jr.) said: "This gesture will contribute to shaping a better country than the one in which we lived our tender youths."

* **Nicolas Entel** is a filmmaker. His latest project is the documentary *Sins of My Father*, which tells the story of Colombian drug kingpin Pablo Escobar through the eyes of his only son, as well as the sons of his most prominent victims. Nicolas directed the multiple-award-winning documentary film *Orquesta Tipica*. He has won several awards from the likes of the Sundance Institute, NALIP, IDFA and others. He has also contributed to several print publications including Americas Quarterly (US) *La Nacion* and *Haciendo Cine* (Argentina).

An interview with **JUAN PABLO ESCOBAR** **(now Juan Sebastian Marroquín Santos)**



I was born into a world fertile for violence. With this as my legacy, my only choice is to search for peace.

When deciding to expose your identity you probably evaluated the risks involved, but most likely your courage was driven by an objective which prevailed over the fear. Why did you decide to once again become the son of Pablo Escobar for the rest of the world?

It seemed selfish to me, just keeping to myself a solitary pacifist legacy of this violent story. I wanted to share with young people what I have learned about the serious consequences of participating in the cruel game of drug dealing. I am just doing what I believe is right. If I can prevent even a single young person from entering that world, then it will be worth it.

As you explain in the documentary, during your childhood you lived a life of luxury, interspersed with fear and violence. In your childhood you probably experienced several times the fear of losing your family because of drug trafficking, and you witnessed the violence inflicted on others by your father. Do you think that your decision to end the cycle of violence had been made even before the killing of your father?

I always expressed to my father, when he was alive, my disapproval of any form of violence and rejected his actions. Maybe that was why he dedicated his surrendering to justice to his 14 year-old pacifist son. It is very difficult to get out of the cycle of violence when you are being attacked from all sides, but finally a “spirit of goodness” prevailed. We can’t change the past, but we can change the present and the future.

Despite your father having been one of the most dangerous drug dealers, nobody can deny he was a father to you. He once said: *I can replace things, but I could never replace my wife and kids*. In the end he condemned himself to death when he wanted to reach your family by phone. You are living with a heavy burden and with the big contradiction of loving a person and at the same time condemning what he has done to the rest of the world. Many poor young people in Colombia cultivate the dream of becoming Escobar. Do you have a message for them?



The message is: imitate only the good things my father did, like his sensitivity towards the poor and the needy. Violence and revenge only lead to more violence. Drug trafficking money will lead you to self-destruction and war. I don't know of any retired "bosses"! Making money is hard work both legally and illegally, but if you do it legally you will be able to really enjoy it. We must recover the human values lost in war.

Why do you think that you felt a need to seek absolution for the acts of your father?

I feel I have a moral responsibility for my father's actions. The least I can do in order to pay my respects to the victims of his violence is to apologize for his actions.

How much did the work of Nicolás, the director of the documentary, contribute to the reconciliation process with the sons of Rodrigo Lara Bonilla and Luis Carlos Galán?

Nicolas was not only a director, but also a great mediator between the parties. He did an excellent job and was very respectful towards the children.

What was the hardest part of making the documentary?

Writing the letter of apology and participating in the two subsequent meetings with the children of Galán and Lara. It was a real challenge, but I'm proud of having been part of this project because it demonstrates that Colombians can achieve peace through dialogue, forgiveness and reconciliation as effective means for a healthy coexistence in society.

The documentary lasts 90 minutes and covers a long period of time, presumably some issues were excluded during editing. Are there any other points or issues which you wanted to include in the documentary?

It is difficult to explain 44 years of history in 90 minutes. The only thing to be highlighted is the joint responsibility of many sectors of society, which created a suitable atmosphere for someone like my father to be able to go so far. Without the corruption and complicity of so many states, my father would not have progressed an inch.

You identity and your face have now been disclosed because of the documentary. Has your life changed?

I don't believe in the culture of fame. My life is like that of any other architect living in Argentina. I have to work for a living. The only thing that has changed is that now I receive much more affection from people, and countries that

in the past didn't welcome us are now generous because they believe in this message of peace.

Have you been in contact with any of the people who used to work with your father? What do you think their opinion would be of the film and your actions to seek reconciliation?

Most of them are dead. Actually, there are not many people to talk to. The interesting thing is that this documentary appeals to the "human" and makes no distinction between uniforms. I have received expressions of solidarity from both children of drug dealers and the anti-drug police, and also from many relatives of my father's direct victims. We are all sick of violence. Now drug dealers ask their children to watch the documentary so that history is not repeated.

How do people tend to react when they find out about your past?

After watching the documentary I get the most noble and pleasant affections



from people around the world. So far no one has “thrown a shoe at me.”

You had the courage and the will to try to close the wounds of the past, of which you have also been a victim, obliged to live as a fugitive and fully aware of the fact that you will never be a normal citizen. Do you have any life long goals that can help you to escape from the burden you are carrying?

For 17 years I have been living on extratime. I live one day at a time. My goals are to continue respecting the lives and liberties of all, hoping for the same in return.

the spiral of violence that drug trafficking has generated, do you think that this burden should also be shared by the consumer countries of the drug trade? What do you think is in store for Colombia in the future? Do you think the Colombian people will eventually achieve widespread peace? And is this possible with the continued existence of the cocaine trade?

The problem exists because the consumer has never stopped buying, and it continues because it has been managed as a military issue instead of a topic of public health. This ensures the profitability and violence among producing

learns math at gunpoint. Education is the most powerful tool against drugs. Any other attempts will fail. Peace is possible even in the worst and most absurd of wars. Colombia will finally live in peace when these things change.



© UN Photo/UNDCP/J. Salas

Do you think that you will ever be able to return to Colombia permanently?

Returning is not a concern of mine. I would like that every Colombian who has abandoned their land because of the violence, one day regains the right to choose to return.

In analyzing the situation of your country over the last decade, and

groups, fighting for the control of territories and drug trafficking routes. I am not saying drugs are good, but they are made worse and more deadly because of the ban. In fact, alcohol is the worst of the drugs, yet it seems that it has a license to kill just because it is under taxation. I think that if tomorrow pizzas were banned, there would be a war because of it. You don't educate your children by forcing them. Nobody

These questions were written by Paul Doherty, Andrew Dornbierer and Marina Mazzini.

Photos: courtesy of Sebastian Marroquin



Youth Influence

in Decision Making Processes

* Felix König

Half of the world's population is composed of young people, and the numbers are growing. Strong shifts in global populations are already visible. The population in the global north is growing older and older, with young people making up less and less of the total population. Meanwhile the situation is the opposite in the global south. This has created many challenges, challenges that no longer can be referred to as *new*. What we need to find out is if the world will be up to the task of taking on these

Young people are already active participants, leaders, initiators, and actors for change

challenges.

According to the International Labour Organization, youth unemployment rates have never before reached such high levels. The recent economic recession has hit young people hardest. No longer are they being prioritized in many aspects of policy making, instead being relegated to bottom of the list of priority groups. We see cuts in school funding; less money spent on young people's health; and fewer efforts to get young people working. This may be a useful strategy for securing the annual budget for the current year, but it will have many serious long-term repercussions around the world.

Sweden has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in Europe, despite being one of the strongest economies

health care systems will pay an additional toll in terms of their mental and physical health. This further compromises their ability to participate in society and with it the likelihood of them becoming productive citizens. This is a serious issue, concerning these individuals' most basic human

Given that they make-up half of the world's population, not including young people is not only an inefficient way of working; it also undermines the true essence of democracy

rights to fair and equal treatment.

Discrimination on any grounds, generates and strengthens stigmas within our societies especially when absorbed by the young. Young people need to be allowed the freedom to develop their own judgements and opinions when it comes to issues such as sexuality, gender, religion or other such matters relating to a young person's identity, rather than inheriting ideas and norms from older generations. This burden often prevents young people from being themselves, and encourages the spread of intolerance and discrimination.

We need to find the solutions to all these challenges and implement them on a global scale. In this aspect, the young civil society is a crucial actor. It is within the young civil society of the world that the groups of young people who feel discriminated against can become actors for change; the confrontations between different ideologies and religions can take place in a constructive manner and difficulties can become opportunities.

I am the president of the national youth organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth; RFSL Ungdom is its Swedish name. We coordinate young people across the entire country, and we work together because we face challenges related to our sexual orientation and gender identity. We work for ourselves as individuals, strengthening each other in our everyday lives. But our work is also broader: we work to create spaces for everyone in society to be themselves and to be able to explore their identities and dreams.

Creating opportunities for young people can help to change their lives and gives them tools to tackle discrimination in their societies. Through a young civil society, young people facing challenges because of their faith, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender or gender ex-

Young people struggle to be part of the solution but are left being a part of the problem. We need this to stop

pression, can take full part in their society.

In October, I participated in the negotiations of the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. I was

part of the youth delegate program, which makes it possible for young people from all over the world to be included in decision making and to have real influence in making sure that the decisions made in important forums of the United Nations reach out to the young population of the world. It is, of course, a great responsibility to take on, attempting to be the link between young people and the global decision making process, but the action of a limited number of youth delegates is not enough if we want young people to achieve real influence on the global stage. However, this is a first step in the right direction and more countries should start their own youth delegate programs to enhance youth participation. Bringing a young person to the United Nations will not only improve the dialogue between the civil society and the United Nations, but also bring new perspectives to the discussion and introduce some qualities that the national delegates may be lacking.

It is time to move past the exclusion of young people from decision making. The decision making processes at local, national, regional and international level need to be opened up to allow young people to have real influence throughout all parts of the process – it is not enough to let young people in for an hour, or to let them in without providing sufficient background information or access to relevant documents. Providing young people with the necessary information and then letting them take part in the decisions would make the process, the decision itself and – of course – the result more relevant, effective and legitimate.

Just as when it comes to establishing inclusiveness, young civil society is a key actor for ensuring that young people can influence global policy making. There is, however, one precondition: decision makers will need to move past the very common platitude: *youth are the future*. This is not true. Young people are **already** active participants, leaders, initiators, and actors for change. Young people are already changing the world. Youth organizations already create forums for young people to influence their surroundings and the rest of the world around them.

Given that they make-up half of the world's population, not including young people is not only an inefficient way of working; it also undermines the true essence of democracy. With the challenges the world faces today – unemployment, social exclusion, intolerant attitudes, climate change and poverty – can we really afford to wait?

Young people struggle to be part of the solution but are left being a part of the problem. We need this to stop.

* **Felix König** is Swedish Youth Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly 2010.



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Teenagers, Violence and Crime in Brazil



* Cléssio Moura de Souza

One can not speak of violence in Brazil and its increases since 1980 without mentioning the population that it harms: the young. Reports that have been dedicated to analyzing the victims of homicide in the country since 1980 have reached a dramatic conclusion: the cause of increased violence in the country is due to the rise of homicides among young people. Studies carried out by Instituto Sangari show a dramatic and permanent increase in cases of homicide among people between 12 and 24 years of age. While in 1980 the homicide rate among youths between 15 and 24 years of age was 30.0 per 100,000, in 2007 that number had grown

The country spends more per year on the problems arising from and connected with violence than on education (30,4 billion US dollars in 2010)

to 50.1. The rate of homicides among older people, however, remained stable. In the past 20 years homicides among youths have almost doubled, which positions Brazil as 6th in the international ranking of countries with the highest homicide rates among youths in the World Health Organization Statistical Information System (WHOSIS).

Violence is clearly a social tragedy and a great expense for the government. According to the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), the government spends an average of 34 billion US dollars per year on public safety, prisons and treatment of victims of violence. This means that the country spends more per year on the problems arising from and connected with violence than on education (30,4 billion US dollars in 2010).

In the past, violence leading to death among young people was related to large, crowded cities, full of slums; today it has become one of the main problems of small towns in the country.

Rates of teenagers who infringed the law increased 400% over the past 10 years

The figures show that large cities like Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are improving in controlling violence, but that does not mean that cities are safer, or that young people have a better standard of living.

The number of adolescents who have committed infractions has increased in recent years. Rates of teenagers who infringed the law increased 400% over the past 10 years and currently it is estimated that there are some 60,000 adolescents against whom measures have been taken. Typically these measures are used for young adults because a special law (Statute of the Child and Adolescent – ECA) judges teens regarding education which means they receive lower sentences because in no case the maximum period of internment can exceed three years.

When comparing figures for adolescents (under Brazilian law adolescents are defined as individuals aged 12 to 18 years) who are victims of homicides and adolescents who have committed infractions, it is clear that there is a relation between both. As for victims, figures indicate that with each passing year the number of homicide cases increased gradually and cases among 12 to 15 year-olds doubled. From 1997 to 2007 there was an increase of 24.4% in the number of homicides of teenagers which is now 24.1 for every 100,000 adolescents. Rates increase progressively for teenagers that committed offences from 13 years of age and upwards and in both cases the peak incidence is concentrated among 16 to 17 years old. However, what most of these teens have in common is that almost 90% are male, come from poor neighborhoods or regions and most were identified as afro-Brazilians. These similarities between criminal adolescents and adolescent victims of violence show that there is clearly a relationship between these two worlds. A qualitative analysis is necessary to try to understand how such violence occurs.

From 1997 to 2007 there was an increase of 24.4% in the number of homicides

First we have the story of Peter, a 16-year-old resident of the Favela da Maré slum in Rio de Janeiro. He was caught red-handed for the first time when he was 15 years old for car theft. After a few months in a Social Institution, he was released and began committing crimes along with another teenager. During a fight Peter killed his partner and just months later he himself was murdered. His body was found in the trash by his father, who says that Peter was killed by drug dealers in the slums because of their debts to the dealers. He was a drug addict and to maintain his habit he would constantly participate in armed robberies.

In the south of Brazil we have the story of Rogério, only 13 years old, a resident of a suburb in Santa Catarina. He was caught red-handed by the police trying to hold up a woman on the street with a plastic pistol. It was his second arrest for

the same offence. Rogério has been addicted to drugs since he was eleven and besides hold-ups he also sold drugs as a way to support his crack addiction. After staying in an Educational Institute he interrupted rehab and went back to the streets where he dealt and consumed crack. He used so much that he became indebted to drug dealers and had to commit robberies and deal drugs. However, he failed to pay his debts and to avoid being murdered he fled his hometown.

Veronica, 16, is also from Santa Catarina and lived in a Social Institute for committing a double murder. She began to sell drugs at age 11. At 13, she was an important drug dealer. At 14 she shot and killed two teenagers. The reason: the two teenagers belonged to a rival slum in their drug trade.

During a fight Peter killed his partner and just months later he himself was murdered

The Northeast, one of the poorest regions of Brazil, was the scene of one of the most beautiful stories of resilience and social involvement, which later became a tragedy. In 2007 a 19-year-old, Alcides, captured people's attention when his story was aired on a television program. The son of a scavenger and a resident of the outskirts of Recife, Alcides became a hero and example of overcoming difficulties. He was admitted to study biomedicine in a public university, despite the characteristics that normally exclude this opportunity: being afro-Brazilian, having lived all his life in poverty and violence, and having gone to a public school. His story drew tears to the eyes of many Brazilians and he became a symbol of hope for millions of poor young Brazilians linked to crime.

Three years later, in February 2010, Alcides' story was back on the radio and television news. This time for being shot to death in front of his house by a 16-year-old because Alcides refused to give information about two people in his community who were to be executed that night.

In Arapiraca, Alagoas, a small Brazilian city, Maria, 23, lived in the outback. This city is second in the ranking of youth homicides. Maria reported on a television channel that her brother, 18, and her nephew, 15, were killed in June 2010. Maria states she would like to leave the poor neighborhood where she has lived all her life because she fears she will suffer the same tragic fate of her relatives.

Rogério has been addicted to drugs since he was eleven

These stories show that each number, presented above, represents a complex context of social problems that are part of the daily lives of most young Brazilians, whether victims or perpetrators of violence. Many Pedros, Rogerios, Veronicas, Alcides and Marias in Brazil have had their lives disrupted or drastically changed by violence. In general they were all victims in some way. Peter stole in order to support his drug addiction. The environment he lived in gave him no perspec-



© UN Photo/Sténey Rezendé

Veronica, 16, is also from Santa Catarina and lived in a Social Institute for committing a double murder. She began to sell drugs at age 11. At 13, she was an important drug dealer. At 14 she shot and killed two teenagers. The reason: the two teenagers belonged to a rival slum in their drug trade

tives other than that of poverty, violence and the chance of escaping it all through crime. His partner, also a victim of the same social context, became another of Peter’s murder victims and Peter in turn became a victim of dealers in his slum. Rogério’s addiction to crack meant several people became victims of theft. He is currently a runaway from his community, trying to avoid becoming yet another murder victim. Veronica, also a victim of addiction, sought power and money in drug dealing and coldly murdered two other teenagers. Alcides, our hero, an example of resilience and social involvement, was murdered by a teenager who shared the same social and economic background as he did. Finally, Maria, who has had two relatives executed, also fears being a victim of future violence.

This helps us to understand that both adolescents who commit crime and those who are affected by it, are above all, victims of common violence. Being a victim thus includes mur-

dering and/or being murdered, because on both sides, they have missed out on basic rights such as education, health, professional schools, leisure activities or jobs - all of which are needed in order to keep them away from crime. This awakens in society a constant feeling of insecurity and makes one want tougher measures to ultimately separate these young “thugs” from the rest of society. One reflection of this is the fact that Brazilians chose Public Safety, in a public opinion poll released by the Brazilian Institute of Public Opinion and Statistics (IBOPE), as their third greatest concern, after health and education respectively.

The rising number of homicides among young people represents not only the steady increase of crime, but also a lack of perspective on these young people. Education, professional training, sports, leisure and cultural events should be considered by the State as an absolute priority for children and adolescents, as a way of helping them avoid crime. Society must assume its role in the constant search for more effective means of ensuring the rights of these young people in order to keep them out of trouble. Investing in life quality for these young people would keep them away from crime. It would also enforce the basic human rights that a democratic system should offer and build a society based on “Order and Progress” as is proclaimed on the Brazilian flag.

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Teenagers in Conflict with the Law and Justice in Brazil

* **Aline Yamamoto and Natália Bouças do Lago**

Brazil has the world's third largest prison population.¹ Of the roughly 500,000 prisoners currently being held in the Brazilian prison system, 59 per cent are youth between 18 and 29 years of age.^{2,3} The number of adolescents (between 12 and 18 years old) who have been deprived of their liberty in the socio-educational system⁴ is around 18,000.⁵

The high levels of imprisoned youth and adolescents, along with high levels of victimization within the same age groups, highlights two important features of Brazilian society: firstly, it shows how the cycle of urban violence disproportionately affects this age range (and specifically a certain social profile); and secondly, it underlines the pervasive culture of discrimination which dominates the processes of imprisonment and detention.

Considerations about the legal framework

The current legal framework for the protection of children's and teenagers' rights was introduced into the Brazilian justice system through the Federal Constitution established in 1988. It includes references to juvenile justice and was subject to further specific legislation in 1990, when the Statute of the Child and Adolescent (*Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente- ECA*) came into force.⁶

Both of these legal documents were written in compliance with the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* and other international guidelines. They established that children, teenagers and young people in Brazil should be a top priority for public policies and that responsibility for ensuring these rights falls on families, the State and society as a whole.

In regard to adolescents in conflict with the law, the ECA establishes specific procedures to be followed during legal proceedings from the moment of arrest until the eventual implementation of a socio-educational measure. This law provides for rapid processing and assures compliance with the due process of the law and its guarantees throughout the legal process.

The ECA does not establish any objective criteria for imposing the penalty⁷, but it states that the deprivation of liberty must be an exceptional response, only to be used when no alternatives exist⁸. Furthermore, regarding the manner of implementing the socio-educational measures the ECA merely defines their types⁹, establishes minimum and maximum terms of duration and lists the rights of juvenile prisoners.

Given these gaps between the law and the reality, in which many of these rights were frequently violated whilst sentences were being served, the Federal Government introduced the

Socio-Educational Measures National System (Sinase) in 2006.¹⁰

Sinase's main objective is to coordinate federal entities and their various bodies (on education, health, security, social assistance, etc.) to undertake programmes of socio-educational care. In this sense, it defines the functions and responsibilities of the different actors involved within the processes of financing, implementing, monitoring and evaluation as well as providing educational guidelines which reaffirm the predominantly educational nature of these measures.¹¹

Despite these new standards and improvements in the care for children and adolescents in the country, young people in conflict with the law still face stark discrepancies between their legal rights and the actual reality of the treatment they receive, especially when the socio-educational measures include incarceration.

Teenagers deprived of freedom

Of the approximately 60,000 teenagers who are subject to socio-educational measures in Brazil, around 18,000 (about 30 per cent) have been given prison sentences or are being held in prison prior to trial or sentencing¹² and held in one of 288 internment institutes.

The majority of them are males (93 per cent), between 16-17 years old (44 per cent) and are poorly educated; 53 per cent have committed an offence against property; 16 per cent have committed drug offences and less than 5 per cent have been imprisoned for homicide.¹³

The profiles and backgrounds of these imprisoned adolescents are very similar to the profiles and backgrounds of those who are most likely to be the victims of lethal violence: young, black males from the suburbs of large cities.¹⁴ This data indicates that just as violence is unfairly directed at certain groups, the justice system is also selective in who it targets, with social stigmas encouraging prison sentences for many teenagers who do not deserve them.

A recent study¹⁵ in the Courts of six Brazilian States¹⁶ found that the majority of appeals on behalf of teenagers - on grounds of insufficient evidence or lack of due process - are denied. On the other hand, the analysis of such decisions made by the Superior Court of Justice¹⁷ - the court responsible for ensuring the uniform interpretation of federal law across the country - shows greater acceptance of defence requests. For example, freedom is often granted to teenagers who have been imprisoned for drug trafficking offences - a crime which is not subject to jail sentences.

Furthermore, the research highlights an important element which contributes to the increased use of imprisonment: the limited development of legal doctrine regarding the prosecution of crimes committed by teenagers. As a consequence, judges and prosecutors often base their decisions and sentences on subjective and extra-judicial criteria, often reinforcing stereotypes and prejudices.

The violation of the right to receive a broad and qualified defence during all stages of the legal process contributes to the consolidation of the current situation, if we consider that in many Brazilian States the right to receive free juridical assistance¹⁸ has been only recently introduced (and it is still absent in some States) as well as if we look at the weak, and often lacking, training of defence personnel with respect to specific issues related to children in conflict with the law.

Juvenile Justice in Brazil is a sector marked by ideas of *social defense* which often results in a moralistic and overprotective approach. In this respect, laws and legal principles are poorly implemented which leads to an excessive use of custodial sentences.

The consequences are widespread and serious, not only regarding the illegal and unfair nature of these decisions, but also in relation to the poor standards of care in Brazilian detention facilities. With rare exceptions, they suffer from poor structure; overcrowding; poor health; torture and ill treatment; lack of educational or training opportunities; a lack of training for staff in maintaining standards of health and education and so on. This helps to perpetuate the cycle of violence into which these teenagers are introduced early on.

Challenges

Although Brazil has advanced legislation – which is constantly subject to the threat of reductions in the rights and guaran-

- 1 According to the Justice National Council, Brazil is the third country in the world with the highest incarcerated population, just after USA and China.
- 2 Source: National Penitentiary Department. Brazilian Penitentiary System: consolidated data: Ministry of Justice, 2009.
- 3 In Brazil, the minimum age for criminal charges is fixed at 18 years old as established by the Federal Constitution.
- 4 The socio-educational system is related to the Juvenile Justice system and is different from the Criminal Justice not only because it addresses specifically young people but also because of its specific procedures, principles and objectives. Among other principles, the Juvenile Justice system is based on the assumption that adolescents are people under a peculiar condition of development, the deprivation of liberty must be an exception, with an overall approach aimed at re-educating children without compromising any penal or constitutional guarantees of the legal process.
- 5 Source: Human Rights Secretariat of the Republican Presidency, 2009.
- 6 The Minors Code, which represents the legislation previous to the ECA's implementation, referred to children and teenagers in 'irregular situations' – which includes either those neglected and mistreated or those responsible for infractions, without distinguishing between them. In this sense, they were treated as mere objects of protection, and restrictive measures were imposed on them without attempting to adapt them to their personal and singular experiences. The ECA introduced in Brazil the understanding of children and teenagers as subjects of rights; this means that any action affecting their rights should only be done in their personal interest.
- 7 The implementation of a socio-educational measure should consider teenagers' capability as well as the circumstances and the seriousness of their infractions.
- 8 The law lists only three cases for application of the internment measure: when a teenager commits a crime under serious threat or violence to the person; if he/she commits serious crimes for many times; or when he/she repeatedly does not accomplish the measure without justifying (in this case, the internment is limited to a period of three months, while in other cases, the maximum period is 3 years).
- 9 The socio-educational measures are: admonition, obligation to repair the

damages, community service, probation, semiliberty and internment.

Further improvements are needed to ensure full compliance with the principles of the legislation. Furthermore, it is important to bring about radical changes in the culture of those involved within the justice system, including investments in training programmes and oversight bodies, as was seen in reforms of the National Council of Justice.¹⁹

Regarding public policies, a rethinking is needed on criminality issues in order to encourage an attitude of prevention rather than repression. Moreover, it is fundamental to increase the use of non-custodial measures by structuring its programs and qualifying its staff, so that imprisonment is not seen as the only option for adolescents who have committed crimes.

There are many challenges to be overcome in order to change the process of institutionalization and segregation of socially vulnerable teenagers in Brazil. It is time to change their life stories, which are more and more frequently marked by violations of their rights, and put into practice what was written into the Brazilian constitution more than 20 years ago: children and young people are subjects of full rights and must become a top priority for the State, families, and society as a whole.

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- 10 Document available at: http://www.presidencia.gov.br/estrutura_presidencia/sedh/arquivos/spdca/sinase_integra1.pdf (Consulted in 27.10.2010)
- 11 The Sinace has no legal power yet, since the bill is currently being processed through the National Congress.
- 12 According to the ECA, pretrial detention can be ordered by a judge for a maximum of 45 days and only if it is demonstrated that this is absolutely necessary (Art. 108).
- 13 Source: Ilanud/SDH-PR, National Mapping of the outdoor socio-educational measures, 2008.
- 14 Source: Index of homicides in youth - Índice de Homicídios na Adolescência (IHA) and Violence Map 2010.
- 15 The research was carried out by researchers at the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA) in collaboration with the Legislative Secretariat of the Brazilian Ministry of Justice, 2010.
- 16 The justice tribunals which have been the object of the research were the following State Tribunals: São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Pernambuco, Paraná, Bahia e Rio Grande do Sul.
- 17 The Superior Court of Justice is the ultimate instance of the Brazilian justice system with respect to cases regarding a federal law, which are not directly related to the Constitution.
- 18 The Public Advocacies are institutions related to the State Governments mentioned within the Constitution of 1988 which aim to provide free juridical assistance to people who are unable to pay for a lawyer. However, Public Advocacies are quite disparate in terms of structure, autonomy and personnel organization. Furthermore, there are federal units which still lack this kind of institution which hampers efforts to ensure fair treatment across the entire justice system.
- 19 The Justice National Council is carrying out a very important role with respect to socio-educational and prison issues through different positive actions, like the Right Measure Project which aims to revise the standards and procedures of imprisonment.



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Giving Children their Right to Dream

* Andrea Rachele Fiore

Since I was young I have always dreamed that what I wanted to do, when I would be an adult, was to work with something that would have contributed to make this world a better place. Most of the children in Mozambique may have the same dream but unfortunately do not have the same chances to achieve their dreams because there are things that they must do which are more important than 'just' following up on a dream: finding a way to eat or bringing food home; finding a way to get to school which is more often than not hours away from their houses, avoid tearing their own clothes while playing because they will not get new ones as easily, stay away from trouble... and when you are a kid left alone all day long these are not easy tasks. Indeed, it may be that parents have to stay out of the house all day long to work and *crianças* (children) have to be responsible for carrying out a proper healthy life full of dreams.

The Mozambique population is composed of more than 21 million people of whom over 44% are under the age of 15 while the median age of population is little over 17 years. Almost 70% of the total population live below the poverty line. In 2003 Mozambique ranked 170th out of 175 on the Human Development Index: although in the past years the growing rate has risen in absolute terms reflecting the improved growth performance of the economy, the development performance continues to be highly skewed. The country is currently facing the phenomena of child abandonment and minor deviancy which are also a "collateral effect" of the rapid social changes.

The growing mobility of the rural population, the increasing circulation of money and goods in the main cities are opening new opportunities for surviving in the urban area. The erosion of the traditional family structure, previously undermined by the urbanization process, is today further worsened

by the HIV-AIDS plague which is partly responsible for the high number of orphans (in 2001 Mozambique ranked as one of the ten most highly affected countries in the world with 500 people infected per day). While in 2007 the number of orphans was estimated to be more than 300,000, the Ministry of Health of Mozambique estimated an escalation of over 900,000 by the end of 2010.

The poverty, in which more than two thirds of the Mozambican population lives, may lead many families to abandon their children because they can not nourish them or give them proper health care. As a consequence, many minors are forced to take care of their own parents or to contribute to the meagre family income. Unfortunately in order to do this, minors occur in performing informal working activities on the streets when lucky (such as sell eggs, snacks and candy), but not infrequently they fall into some form of exploitation, such as prostitution.

The result is a rise in the number of vulnerable children who live in difficult conditions and are at risk. They need special measures of protection and assistance. It is extremely important to prevent victims of abuses become themselves, for reaction or necessity, subjects at the edge of legality. The protection of minors is, along with crime prevention, an essential element in a system of “juvenile justice” aimed at assisting the minor to achieve a better future.



Minors during training courses.

Protection and prevention have been the two pillars of the project that UNICRI began in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Mozambique and other relevant institutions in the country, with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' General Directorate for Development Cooperation. The programme was developed in response to the concern expressed by Mozambican authorities regarding the phenomenon of abandonment and juvenile delinquency. By establishing inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and by involving civil society organizations, the initiative was proposed to protect the rights of minors in conflict with the law by offering them a legal and social path aimed towards their recovery and reintegration.

More specifically, some of the major activities implemented to strengthen the juvenile justice system in Mozambique included: the rehabilitation and equipment of the Tribunal for Minors of Maputo; the identification, rehabilitation and equipment of the first Observation Centre (pre-sentence) and the first Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre (post-sentence) inaugurated in the Country; the establishment of the First Forum on juvenile justice that is now, totally managed by the Ministry of Justice; the creation of a prevention network through reception of minors, their support and listening, as well as the training of justice personnel among which policemen, judges and social operators.

With the implementation of the project ‘Strengthening Juvenile Justice in Mozambique’ two centres where opened in two different neighbourhoods: Hulene and the Baixa. Taking as example the one in Hulene, the Information Point in Baixa was set up to:

- provide information about principles, rules and current procedures related to minors in conflict with the law in coordination with the other institutions (representatives of the Minister of Women and Social Affairs, police officers, judges of the Communities Courts, secretaries of the neighbourhoods etc.)
- gather news and complaints, respond to aid’s request from who faces problems related to minors in conflict with the law, and support the relevant structures with respect to singular cases’ specificity.

These services were provided both at the Information Point and through door to door mobilization in order to inform and involve communities to be part of the change of mindset and put minors and juveniles at the centre of all the activities of the project: their lives, their stories, their well-being, supporting their development into respectful citizens, and informing them on their rights, especially given that the Ministry of Justice has passed a new legislative framework on juvenile justice (which still keep the criminal liability to individuals over 16 years of age).

The Information Point started out as a place where families would go for advice but then turned into an important reference point able to mobilize communities and assist them in resolving conflicts by supporting and training personnel for community courts, collecting data and liaising with community leaders, police and heads of the neighborhoods; providing

information about principles, rules and current procedures related to minors in conflict with the law through the distribution of information and in coordination with the other institutions (representatives of the Minister of Women and Social Affairs, police officers, judges of the Communities Courts, secretaries of the neighborhoods etc.).

The Information Point worked 5 days per week and the local team carried out hearings together with the support of psychologists and legal aid when necessary.

In Hulene the rehabilitation process consists not only in the support to the family and the child but also in educational, social, training and vocational activity so that the minor will be effectively reinserted back into the community. Since the Information Point worked during week days it was planned also an emergency service which consisted in watch services in order to respond to situations which demand prompt intervention.

It is important to review the figures on the minors that have attended the Information Point.

In 2008-2009, 187 minors went to the Information Point of Hulene: 164 were between 8-10 years old and 23 were between 11-14 years old. Males were in the majority, at 175, compared to 12 females. The majority were males for a total of 175 and 12 females. Minors in conflict with the law were 125, while minors at risk 62. It is important to note that minors in conflict with the law were the vast majority. Main offences committed included moral offences, alcohol and drugs consumption, property damages and vandalism.

In relation to minors in conflict with the law, 97 of them were between 8-10 years old and 28 were between 11-14; there was a majority of males for a total of 88 while females were 37. In relation to minors at risk 33 of them were between 8-10 years old and 29 were between 11-14 for a total of 56 males and 6 females.

By the end of 2009, there were 104 minors that were being supported and that were actively involved in the programme activities. Many of them participated in the daily activities at the Information Point by taking part in the information and social activities, and in the vocational training on offer. It was not always possible to establish permanent contact between the Information Point and the minors. The Information Point was not intended to be coercive.

Many of the minors who reach the Information Point feel that they have been abandoned. They feel lonely, isolated, and different and for them it is very difficult to communicate their anguish and discomfort. After the first hearing the local team which received them, begins a cycle of rehabilitation. It appears that minors' deviance is mostly due to a request of a more humane response to their difficult situations. Situations which make them feel oppressed and that depend on the political, economic and social context which ultimately undermine minors' life conditions. In order to overcome this day-to-day uncertainty of the minors' future UNICRI decided to try to invest in education and training activities which can give minors an opportunity for social inclusion (for those who were 15 years and older). The training activities are not compulsory since such activities represent a vehicle to stimulate interests as well as an instrument to support minors' growth and better

life expectations. In this respect, training activities are elaborated in partnership with the direct beneficiaries by analyzing their profiles and listening to their expectations and needs in order to avoid the risk of making these activities unsustainable from the consensus perspective.

With the beginning of the new project 'Strengthening Juvenile Justice in Mozambique – Consolidation Phase' (funded by Belgium and Denmark) all the work that has been carried out in the communities following the setting up of Information Points, will be strengthened and expanded to other communities strongly affected by the problem of minors in conflict with the law or at risk of coming into conflict with the law. UNICRI hopes to achieve the same results that were accomplished during the first project.

The objective is to offer a space where children can regain their right to dream, as all children in any other part of the world should

Indeed, among the social, educational and training activities, UNICRI with the support of the local NGO Cooperativa Social Tsembeka (of Maputo) provided also internships and job placements. Of the pilot group of 28 minors (15 years old and older) who were professionally trained, 24 of them have been successfully integrated into the formal market and continue to study while having better life expectations thanks to the training, internship and job placement received. With the new project, specific education modules will be distributed to teachers so that they can conduct prevention activities as part of the lessons and in the context of special events in schools. Indeed, the field work has demonstrated the importance of school support and this is the reason why, besides intensifying vocational training together with social and other educational activities (painting, dancing, music classes, games, drama, inter-exchanges, workshops, sports, cultural activities, recreation, and visits to historical sites), UNICRI will continue to support minors in conflict with the law or at risk by involving selected schools in Maputo. The educational and training activities are opportunities for human enhancement and empowerment. They change the way justice is perceived especially if we consider that the concept of justice is still confused with vengeance in many communities.

The objective is to offer a space where children can regain their right to dream, as all children in any other part of the world should.

* **Andrea Rachele Fiore** – Programme Coordinator of the Project 'Strengthening Juvenile Justice in Mozambique – Consolidation Phase'.

Taking drugs can lead to HIV/AIDS.



before you start.
before you shoot.
before you share.

Sharing contaminated needles and syringes is one of the quickest and easiest ways of transmitting HIV.



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An interview with Claudina Macuacua

President of the Tribunal for Minors in Mozambique



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What are the main causes of the juvenile delinquency phenomenon in Mozambique?

The phenomenon of minors in conflict with the law has different roots and reasons. It started with the civil war which ended in 1992 and killed parents who went off to fight, leaving children alone and abandoned. In most cases, both the mothers and the fathers lost their lives and neither returned to their homes, thus children became orphans and remained alone with nobody to look after them. These children began living on the streets trying to earn a life by carrying out little bits of work such as cleaning cars. But in the majority of cases they ended up begging and starving. As a consequence, these children grew up carrying out petty crimes and later on they committed bigger offences.

The judicial authorities were not ready and were slow in taking any preventative measures. Thus children continue to grow, carrying out petty crimes like stealing phones and pieces of cars. The juveniles who commit crimes today are the same children who were abandoned by their parents because of the civil war. Other theories identify different causes, for the roots of the phenomenon of minors/juveniles in conflict with the law, among which is the extensive poverty in the country. Indeed, we can not forget that Mozambique is one of the poorest countries of the world. Personally I don't believe that this is a valid

reason, because we are all poor. The whole Mozambican population is very poor but not every child commits offences. But it is true that there are also too many cases of adults who exploit children and juveniles by sending them to the streets to commit crimes for them.

Can you present a case that can raise awareness of the problem?

It is really hard to elect one case because there are really too many. Unfortunately there is one case that I always have in mind and for which I still have a feeling of unaccomplishment, and this hurts. Two minors, 13 and 14 years old, argued at school and somehow one got hold of a blunt object and hit the other so hard that the other died. Since the Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre¹ is not currently functioning we have no place to send severe cases like the one I described. Indeed we, the magistrates, work together with the family of the offender and psychologists in order to formulate sentences which are specifically addressed to each case and with the objective of preventing the offender from committing illegal acts again. This particular case was really hard for the entire team in the Tribunal of Minors (magistrates, prosecutors and psychologists) because the parents of the offender were two alcoholic addicts and did nothing but drink all day long without taking care of their children or the family in general. Indeed, during

the investigations even the psychologists in the hospital were shocked by the total degradation of the environment in which the offender grew up. The family absence was a real problem for us in drafting a proper sentence. At the end, because of the impossibility of sending the child to the Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre, the offender was sent back to his family where all responsibility fell back onto his brother's shoulders, a 19 year old. This case was and still is very difficult for all of us. Moreover, the family of the victim still comes at the Tribunal to ask why the family of the offender didn't pay any sum for the loss of his son (in Mozambique the whole system is based on restorative justice). Thus I am still receiving a father in mourning for the loss of his son, without giving him any possible solution.

Are the minors at risk or in conflict with the law and the rehabilitation programmes a priority in Mozambique's agenda?

Generally they are important and these issues are in the agenda of the Government but unfortunately the lack of a prompt answer has roots in the Portuguese colonization. Indeed, during the colonization all the government and management positions were filled by the Portuguese or other nationalities. As a consequence, when Mozambique became free from colonization we really suffered from a lack of trained and adequate personnel in all sectors of the government, including the justice system. For this reason the first step of the government in addressing the problem was to start rebuilding the whole system by investing in education and training; and building and renovating schools, universities and specialized post-graduate institutions. The training of personnel who could take over specific responsibilities was part of this plan. We should not forget again that Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the world. This means that, in order for us to reconstruct and organize the whole system again, we need to seek support from international donors. Within this framework, I can say that the whole area is of great importance for the Government and it is one of its priorities. This is also thanks to the fundamental support of international cooperation interventions like the one implemented by UNICRI.

How important is the "Strengthening Juvenile Justice in Mozambique" programme for the Mozambican Justice System?

It is not very important - it is fundamental! Indeed, as explained above, due to the whole reconstruction of the country, international donors and projects like the one with UNICRI, came during the most important period for my country. The project enabled many fundamental management personnel to be trained and then assigned to perform sensitive tasks. They are now effectively able to deal with minors in conflict with the law and with other difficult situations which are related to the particular backgrounds of these minors and juveniles.

What have been the most important results and the most innovative aspects of this programme?

Surely the most interesting and innovative aspect for me was having contact with new realities and experiences, different from the ones I live in. The cooperation with international professionals gives the possibility of developing a higher conscience. To give an example, when I was appointed to work in the Tribunal for Minors (I did not choose it but I was appointed by our system) I thought that my position had been



downgraded. But thanks to the creation of this high level network I understood the real meaning of working in this area. With UNICRI's project the study visits carried out both in Italy and in Angola gave me the chance to see different realities in Europe. I then understood that I was lucky to be assigned to the Tribunal. Indeed, in doing this job you really feel useful because you contribute to prevention. You have the responsibility of educating juveniles: those who tomorrow will have the possibility of becoming useful, responsible and honest citizens. Moreover, the information that I have acquired during the implementation of the project like training, material, modules, bibliography and books are now everyday tools.

What still needs to be done?

A lot still has to be done because raising awareness of the problem that I talked about before has really only taken place here, in Maputo. Indeed there is also a lack of infrastructure because the only Tribunal for Minors is the one in Maputo and it serves the whole country. There are Tribunals in Zambezia, Sofala and Nampula but they have only sections for minors. They are not to be considered as Tribunals for Minors. There might be people who think that having ad hoc Tribunals is not fundamental. But not having specific Tribunals for minors will prejudice the future of our children. The alternative is to continue on as in the northern and central regions where there is no special attention given, or specific structures for minors. We would continue mixing adults and minors together thus impeding any preventative efforts. But Mozambique has to change this not only because it is the ethical and fair thing to do, but also because the country must comply with international conventions.

Interview by Andrea Rachele Fiore and Marina Mazzini

1 UNICRI with the project 'Strengthening Juvenile Justice in Mozambique' renovated equipped and trained all personnel of the Observation (pre-trial) and Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre (post-trial). The responsibility for the functions of the Centre was handed over to the Government of Mozambique in May 2009.



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The Role of Civil Societies on Youth Empowerment in Post-War Sierra Leone

* Isabela Leao and Albert Kim Cowan

In Sierra Leone, young people constitute about 34 per cent of the country's total 5.6 million estimated population.¹ The broad definition of youth in Sierra Leone includes people between 15-35 years old, of whom 70 per cent are unemployed and 53.4 per cent are illiterate.² As a result, the lack of employment and educational opportunities has become one of the major concerns of the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL). In this complex context numerous local civil society organizations, together with the GoSL, have played a significant role in empowering young people, who were the most active players in Sierra Leone's decade civil war (1991-2002). According to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Report the conflict was caused by years of bad governance, endemic corruption and the denial of basic human rights, which created deplorable conditions for Sierra Leoneans. Amidst this context, most of the country's civil society organizations were established during and after the end of the war, aiming above all to empower minority groups including youth and women, monitor government activities,

supplement human services and advocate for human rights. Hence, these organizations have given substantial support and hope to the country's post-war recovery and development, and to the improved status of youth.

Civil Society Organizations in Sierra Leone

Today in Sierra Leone there are various civil society organizations that have taken up the youth issue as the main focus of their activities. Among them is 'Enhancing the Interaction and Interface between the Civil Society and the State to Improve Poor People's Lives' (ENCISS) which has been conducting activities at national, district and community levels in four major technical areas: Governance, Youth, Organizational Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy and Decentralization. ENCISS also works with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Development and Economic Planning with the aim of strengthening the GoSL's regional presence whilst working together with local

councils to improve the Government's response to the needs of the people. In 2006, ENCISS supported a coalition of youth organizations in organizing a Youth-Led National Development Conference on 'Engaging Young People in State Planning,' which brought together 150 youth group representatives who met and discussed with Government officials on different areas of state policies. In this conference, young people had an opportunity to express some of their concerns, needs, and ideas to government officials prior to the 2007 general elections.³

The Youth Alliance for Peace and Development (YAPAD) is another important organization in Sierra Leone. Established in 2000 as an umbrella organization, YAPAD has been working on a wide variety of programmes, which are mainly focused on the following issues: integration of the most marginalized groups of young people including women and the disabled, youth living with HIV/AIDS, and those affected by conflict in society; and the coordination and facilitation of youth development activities to foster peace and reconciliation among the beneficiaries and their communities. As observed by Bockarie Enssah, the National Coordinator for YAPAD: "The social and economic conditions of the youth in Sierra Leone before the war were not good, which was one of the reasons that led to the war. Today, youths are still marginalized despite the 10 per cent of youth participation in the national decision-making process as recommended by the TRC Report. That's the reason why YAPAD has been organizing sensitization campaigns, creating National Advocacy Programmes for empowering youth's organizations to mainstream gender, disability and health issues within the decision-making process in Sierra Leone."⁴

There are also other national non-governmental organizations working on youth issues, especially through the use of networking and coalition with community-based organizations, in order to address the nationwide integration of the most marginalized youth groups. The participation and inclusion of these marginalized groups in the national decision-making process is of vital importance for the peaceful development of post-war Sierra Leone. Among these

organizations, the Sierra Leone Youth Empowerment Organization (SLYEO), the Centre for the Coordination of Youth Activities (CCYA), the Salon Youth and Adolescent Network (SaLYAN) to name but a few, have implemented, throughout the years, similar projects on youth empowerment in the country. Noteworthy aims and objectives for these organizations include the following: fostering peace building and peace promotion, respect for human rights that ensures rights for young people to develop their potential, training and coalition building, promoting livelihood and food security, promoting rights for people with disabilities and gender consciousness.

Youth Empowerment Activities: Successes and Challenges

For the past years, civil society organizations in Sierra Leone have been providing vocational training to young people in areas such as agriculture, masonry, gara dying, tailoring, hair-dressing, mechanics and more. Through the participation in these trainings activities, thousands of young Sierra Leoneans have been able to enhance their employable skills and enter the formal and informal labour market, therefore acquiring sustainable livelihoods for themselves. In its 2009-2012 Youth Livelihood and Governance project, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of Sierra Leone has already assisted seventy five youths to date. As explained by Mr. Johnson, Project Manager of the YMCA Sierra Leone: "The specific objective of this project is to improve the socio-economic status of disadvantaged young people in Sierra Leone. Most of our training activities have proven viable economic opportunities to these youths. Moreover, we have already supported some of our beneficiaries to establish their own micro-enterprise businesses."⁵ In conjunction with vocational skills trainings, some civil society organizations also offer adult education programmes, as is the case with the Sierra Leone Adult Education Association (SLADEA), whose mission since 1987 has been to help reduce the high rate of illiteracy in the country.

Nonetheless, in recent times it has become clear that most civil society organizations have been facing similar prob-

lems and challenges, such as: financial constraints (lack of funding), poor and inadequate resources to carry out their activities and an increasingly unfriendly perception of these organizations by some segments of society. Despite this, while the work conducted by civil societies in Sierra Leone has enabled the youth population to provide relevant services to their communities in areas such as sanitation and urbanization, it has more importantly, promoted the empowerment of the youth by offering employment and educational opportunities.

Conclusion

The work carried out by civil society organizations over the years in post-war Sierra Leone can be considered of major importance given the fact that first of all, civil society organizations have been operating under a similar scope and with the same objectives: provide for the empowerment of the representatives of the most marginalized in society, youth and women. Secondly, these organizations have focused their activities on increasing the participation of marginalized youth groups into the decision-making process while promoting the respect of their beneficiaries' basic human rights. Therefore, due to the results achieved by these organizations we have witnessed a greater (re)integration of the youth into society and their consequent enhanced participation in societal development in post-war Sierra Leone.

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- 1 United Nations Statistics Division; available from <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=SIERRA%20LEONE>
- 2 Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (GoSL), "Employment for Youth National Programme," presented at the Sierra Leone Investment and Donor Conference (Freetown: 18-19 November 2009).
- 3 ENCISS Manual. "Join Hands to Work for a Better Sierra Leone;" Care International Sierra Leone. "Evaluation of ENCISS," Final Report, October 2008.
- 4 Interview by Isabela Leao to Bockarie Enssah, National Coordinator of YAPAD, Freetown, 29 March 2010.
- 5 Interview by Albert Kim Cowan to Mr. Johnson, Project Manager of YMCA Sierra Leone, Freetown, 23 September 2009.



A prisoner on the Silence the Violence programme shows his 'Violent Side' mask

* Helen Streeter

The Young Child Must Grow

It is not unusual for Western NGOs to create and export programme models and development tools to Africa. What is less common is for this process to happen in reverse: when a wealthy Western nation imports a tried and tested African model to help address its social problems. This is exactly what has happened with Khulisa Crime Prevention Initiative, a South African organisation that has successfully undertaken its programmes in the UK, demonstrating the universality of its approach.

Khulisa was founded in 1997 by Lesley Ann van Selm, based on her notion that through the morals, values and life lessons embedded in traditional African stories, it would be possible to engage troubled youth and help them to make sense of their problems. Early trials at youth prisons in Soweto and Johannesburg were so successful that the Welfare Department named the programme Khulisa ("the young child must grow") and expanded it to five prisons with the largest numbers of youths awaiting trial.

Thirteen years later, the organisation employs 220 people (around 15% of whom are former offenders) and operates nationally. It has developed over 20 programmes designed to address the needs of individuals and communities – from crime prevention and diversion to addressing offenders' multiple needs after release. Khulisa's approach is holistic and the needs of family members, victims and the wider community are also taken into account, with participants encouraged to use their new skills to create a positive 'ripple' effect.

In one rural community in Northern Gauteng two young men who joined a Khulisa programme in prison have since gone on to set up a crèche, a children's shelter, school clubs, an internet cafe, a substance abuse treatment clinic and a grannies football team. This in turn has led to the formation of more youth clubs and the launch of small businesses such as bakeries, food stalls and vegetable gardens. Their actions, with Khulisa's support, have helped to revitalise the entire community and attract further funding to make projects sustainable.

He had become caught up in crime following a family breakdown, teenage drug addiction and his dropping out of school at 14

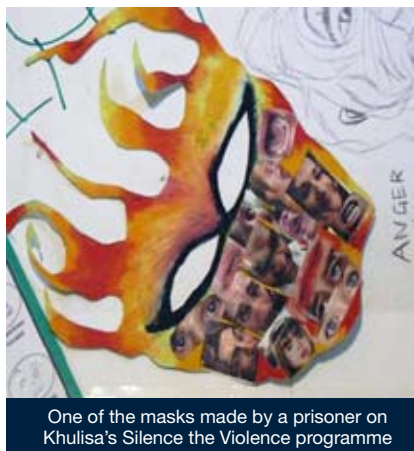
One of these men, Abiot, became involved with Khulisa whilst serving an eight year sentence in Leeuwkop prison. As an angry young man, he had become caught up in crime following a family breakdown, teenage drug addiction and his dropping out

of school at 14. Things changed when he enrolled on a Khulisa programme while in prison, initially purely to gain favour with the Parole Board. After attending the programme however he began to realize that he could have a second chance in life. The course allowed him to explore and understand himself and he began to change his decisions and started studying again, including HIV and AIDs peer education. Khulisa continued to work with him upon release, helping him to put his skills to use, and stay on the right path. Today, Abiot is employed by Khulisa to motivate and engage other young people at risk of turning to crime.

This approach of rehabilitation by doing good sits naturally in a country with a strong overarching philosophy of 'ubuntu' - which loosely translates to mean 'a person is a person through other people.' The redemptive power of Restorative Justice is also key, and participants are motivated to try and repair the harm that their actions may have caused. Not only does this help to foster goodwill towards those who may previously have been shunned by the community, it also helps both offenders and victims to feel a sense of pride and achievement, bringing about healing and the knowledge that offenders are not inherently bad and can overcome their past.

Originally intended as a platform from which to apply for EU funding for its work in South Africa, van Selm registered Khulisa in the UK in 2007. At that time however, London was experiencing its own rise in violent youth crime, with the media fanning the flames and few new solutions being put forward. Van Selm realised this could be an opportune moment to introduce Khulisa's innovative approach in the UK, and after extensive research and consultation, pilot work began in 2009.

The programme identified as the most immediately relevant and adaptable to British audiences was *Silence the Violence*, which uses creative, therapeutic techniques to address the root causes of violence and foster a fundamental shift in attitude and behaviour.



One of the masks made by a prisoner on Khulisa's Silence the Violence programme

The programme was first piloted in a Young Offenders Institute in Kent, a community centre in London, and an adult prison in Manchester. Ten pilot programmes have now run, including two funded by the Home Office's 'Tackling Knives Action Programme'. Further funding was recently secured to deliver the programme in schools over a three-year period, to address violence arising from a local youth "postcode war".

An important factor was the decision to identify a highly qualified local evaluator, Dr Nicola Graham-Kevan from the University of Central Lancashire to demonstrate the pilots' success. Her initial findings have shown a significant impact among participants in the areas of empathy, coping, motivation to change and anger/impulse control. Though currently stabilising, South Africa still has one of the highest violent crime rates in the world. It is an incredibly diverse nation with 11 official languages; an hour's drive from modern "first world" cities can take you to rural areas with no electricity or running water and 80 per cent unemployment. Thus Khulisa is a flexible and dynamic organisation and staff are used to working with offenders for whom rape, murder and hijacking are everyday crimes. Nevertheless, becoming an international organisation was a big step: a new culture and social norms had to be learned and a new audience understood.

One poignant example of cultural difference occurred when South African trainers began working in UK prisons.

Even after working with hardened offenders, one of our most experienced facilitators was shocked by the lack of respect shown to him by young men in a London Young Offenders Institute. Even the most disruptive youth in South Africa have been brought up to respect their elders, and prisoners are generally appreciative of anybody who comes into the prison to help them. In the UK, prisoners are more likely to reject authority and be mistrustful of those offering them help until their actions have shown them to be worthy of trust.

Despite these initial differences, UK participants have responded extremely well to the creative, experiential aspect of Khulisa's programmes. While we were not surprised that the universally accepted therapeutic techniques developed by Khulisa would translate to the UK, we were thrilled that holistic and creative approaches translated just as well.

In our experience the basic problems that often lead to youth crime – a lack of love and family support, lack of employment opportunities, low educational attainment – are the same in the UK and South Africa, and probably in most countries. Though the levels of poverty are higher in South Africa than in the UK, the multiple underlying contributory causes of crime are the same. In South Africa youth crime often stems from a necessity to meet basic needs, however in the UK it frequently originates from boredom and a feeling of being marginalised by a fast-paced society. In both countries the situation is exacerbated by drug and alcohol abuse and, for young people in particular, the sense of belonging and support offered by gang affiliation perpetuates criminal behaviour, and an escalation into violence.

Khulisa has always worked closely with South African government departments including Correctional Services, Education, Health, Social Development and Labour. In the UK, with its highly developed welfare system and charity sector, it was especially important for Khulisa to build partnerships, rather than attempt to make a difference in

The basic problems that often lead to youth crime – a lack of love and family support, lack of employment opportunities, low educational attainment – are the same in the UK and South Africa, and probably in most countries

isolation or in competition with existing services. As a small fish in a big pond we drew on our unique heritage to help open doors with the UK National Offender Management Service and others. Though it is still early days for us in the UK, the organisation is gaining momentum and interest from those who are ready to try something new. Many organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors are keen to analyse our programme models and partner with us, bringing our techniques to bear on some of the UK's more intractable social problems. Khulisa is proud to be demonstrating what we call a "reverse development model": bringing something to the UK that has been so successful in Africa. We believe that as the UK looks to rekindle a sense of community with the concept of a 'Big Society', many more lessons could be learned from the spirit of ubuntu and other African development approaches.

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Group of Khulisa programme graduates



The Daveyton Ubuntu Club



Graduates from an Ubuntu club programme at Kgaphamadi High School, Hammanskraal



A Khulisa Ubuntu Club in Hammanskraal are improving facilities at a local crèche



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Jeunes Reporters Migrants

Raising Issues with Participation

100 young people from Italy, France, Senegal and Burkina Faso were the protagonists in the Jeunes Reporter Migrants (JRM) experience: an educational project which aims to give back a voice to people who do not have any other ways of sharing their stories and views in the mainstream media. These young people have been selected from schools or from the most disadvantaged suburbs. In Italy and France some of them have experienced migration at first-hand. The topic of the entire project is “Citizen journalism,” a new form of citizen media, where individuals can

write and/or comment on issues they feel have been left-out or that tend to be covered only superficially by the mainstream media. In this case, the main issue was “migration.” The young people involved in this workshop met for six months in small newsrooms with the goal of producing reports on migrants and their concerns about living in Europe and in developing countries. In September 2010 they met in four different international exchanges programmes and they worked together to write news articles and reports which can be viewed on the website: jeunesrms.org

Living the news as leading actors

Catalina, a young woman from Romania, is 27 and has been living in Turin for one year with her family. She has written about her experience in Paris during the International Exchange along with four other young people from Italy. The highlight of the week was a visit to Créteil, Bobigny and Saint Denis, four banlieue cities and a journey around the intercultural suburbs of Belleville and Goutte d'Or, with a guide from the French association "Ça se visite."

Migrant Paris Through The Lens Of A Jeune Reporter Migrant

by Catalina Salgau

Taking part in the JRM project gave me the opportunity to take a look at the wonderful "migrant Paris." We all know the touristic Paris, it is so clichéd that we can't even imagine that at the heart of this city are the popular neighbourhoods ("quartiers populaires") – where everything is so "alive" that even at 8 PM on Sunday, people are enjoying life in cafés; shops are exhibiting their stuff on the streets... a Moroccan restaurant here, a Chinese store there... Belleville will take your breath away as it did to us. But the history of migration in Paris, around 200 years, stands out: this neighbourhood looks like a cosmopolitan one and not at all like popular neighbourhoods as they are named. It is known that the

elite of Paris, the "spoiled kids" move here to enjoy a bohemian life and the demographics of Belleville has varied over the years.

The immigrants integrate well, we found people whose family history in France goes back four or more generations, many of whom do not even speak the native language of their parents and believe in French values. Anywhere you go, they speak French while in Italy, for example, one can have problems communicating in Italian when visiting immigrant shops.

But Belleville is not the only popular neighbourhood. The "Ca Se Visite" association was our guide through Goutte d'Or with its Arabian part and of course Château Rouge, the African heart of Paris, where you suddenly feel like you have arrived in Africa with open markets on the streets and a lot of colours and specific costumes and foods. In the middle of this is the Social Café where old migrants find a helping hand and a kind person to talk to in hope of easing life in a foreign country.

In these parts we had the chance to see an Islamic centre, open to everyone, with a variety of activities and we discovered that the imam that preaches there has progressive views and even allowed people of different religions to take part in the final meal of Ramadan

hoping for better coexistence. We also found an unexpected attitude from the Muslim community at "Salam News," a portal that talks about and promotes Muslim culture, where we found out that secularism exists, religion and culture are separated and not only that but this community is promoting the division between the two.

A visit to the museum of emigration can be a good way to understand and learn about migration in Paris and this struggling reality. And climbing the Eiffel Tower on foot, in between two bomb alerts, is a unique experience never to be repeated. So we left Paris with the hope of one day getting married in the wonderful ceremony hall of Bobigny. A hall which evokes so well the multicultural and multiethnic character of the town, of Paris and I'd dare say of the whole world as it will become in the near future. We left with a deep desire for worldwide acceptance of people's freedom of movement.



The following is the report of N’Fanteh Minteh from Burkina Faso. She’s a young citizen reporter from Paris who has spent a week with a community radio station “Voix du Paysan” in Ouahigouya, in the north of the country:

Tuesday, September 14th. Ouahigouya

by N’Fanteh Minteh

All the participants met to share their experiences of working on migration in their native countries. Next, the Italians, the Senegalese and we, the French, summarized everything we have accomplished and the events that we attended. I found this debate on the immigration issue very interesting. Understanding the views of different countries allows for a more comprehensive approach to this worldwide phenomenon. Perceptions vary from country to country. On the European side, immigration is perceived as an invasion or an intercultural exchange; on the African side it is seen as a betrayal or a matter of survival. Particularly innovative was the speech by the Senegalese. These young people between 18 and 24 years old, who come from Louga, did not approve of the North-South migration: “Stay here and develop yourself,” they declared several times. These young people want to rebuild their country, they don’t want any more people leaving. They highlight the damage this migration causes to Senegal: prostitution or sexually transmitted disease. Because these migrants, mostly men, leave their family behind for an indefinite amount of time “When they return, the woman has two children with her,” explains Fatoumata, “because you can not wait 10 years.” Another consequence: young people are so desperate to reach the coast that they abandon all their activities in the country while awaiting their departure. And above all they take deadly risks to reach the

Eldorado. “Some go insane after several missed attempts,” continues Maïmouna. These young migrant reporters are aware of the fact that, because there is a real change in mentality, one must question the current organization of the State of Senegal. “Abolish all the Ministry positions that cost us too much and redistribute these funds in education,” said Ousmane. It’s the first time I’ve heard young Africans expressing so clearly their desire to build a future on their land. And somehow it restores an image of Africa, all too often concentrated on the outside and forgetting about themselves.

On the other hand, I was amazed by the facts reported by the Italians. The situation of immigrants in Italy is very delicate. Clearly they are not very welcome. The press stigmatize them without hesitation or embarrassment. “Those stories that condemn immigrants as thieves, as criminals, we read those everyday in the newspapers,” said Serena. At the administrative level, the matter becomes even more complicated. Take Amina for example. She has lived in Turin for 12 years. Each year she must renew her residence permit and each year it’s the same problem. Since she has reached the age of majority she must now demonstrate that she is receiving a regular salary. “Sometimes I’m forced to make false contracts, because as a student, I can’t have a regular job,” Amina explains. To hear her speak, it seems that acquiring Italian nationality is an impossible goal. From the French perspective, Fatou and I face even more complexities. We are daughters of immigrants. And we were immediately asked this question: do you feel more French or more African? The answer, at least from my point of view, is very clear: I feel first of all French. I was born in France, I’ve lived there all my life, and accustomed myself to the laws, the culture and the way of life. But on the other hand, my African culture is not unknown to me nor am I indifferent to its influence. I already have some typical African behaviours, because of my upbringing. Sometimes, you feel in the middle of the two, but I

could not choose. It’s complex but rewarding. I don’t know if others understand this continuous re-examination of our self-identities...

It is thanks to exchanges as intense as those experienced by N’Fanteh that CISV, along with VPS, the Paralleli Institute in Torino, Altermondes in Paris, Fesfop in Louga (Senegal) and the community radio “La Voix du Paysan” in Burkina Faso all agreed to promote the JRM project. And the original goals have been successfully achieved: the stimulation of the participants’ reflections about the phenomenon of international migration, and the removal of those prejudices and stereotypes which usually accompany discussions on migration. The works produced by the young reporters have been collected in a special issue of “Volontari per lo Sviluppo,” which is available to those who want to learn about the complex story of migration, experienced at first hand by these young people in recent months, who have become “journalists” to tell and spread their stories.

*** Jeunes Reporters Migrants (JRM) editorial staff.** The project JRM was promoted by CISV, an NGO in Turin (www.cisvto.org), in collaboration with the magazine Volontari per lo Sviluppo (“Volunteers for Development” www.volontariperlosviluppo.it), and in partnership with Fesfop (Festival de Folklore et Percussion, Louga - Senegal), the community radio station La Voix du Paysan (Ouahigouya - Burkina Faso), the Magazine Altermondes (Paris - France), the Euro-Mediterranean Institute of North West Paralleli, the City of Turin and the Coordinamento Comuni per la Pace of the Provincia of Turin. The project was funded by the European Commission in the framework of the Youth in Action Programme.

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FBI Outreach Program Promotes Child Safety, Identification

* **Stephen G. Fischer Jr.**

Building on its long history as an authority in fingerprinting, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) uses its expertise to help parents and guardians protect America's children through the Community Fingerprinting Program and the National Child Identification Program. Both of these initiatives capture children's fingerprints in a format that parents can keep in case of an emergency with their child.

FBI's history with fingerprinting

Throughout its more than 100-year history, the FBI has been primarily associated with combating and solving crimes. One important element of its success has been the ability of its agents and fingerprint examiners to identify criminals by their fingerprints.

In 1924, the United States Congress passed an act to establish the Identification Division of the Bureau of Investigation (now known as the FBI) as the national repository for criminal fingerprints in Washington, D.C. A civilian fingerprint file, containing the prints of government applicants and employees, was added in 1933.

Those fingerprint files remained in Washington, D.C. until the mid-1990s when the Identification Division was renamed the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, and the FBI began transferring its fingerprint identification services to Clarksburg, West Virginia.

In the community

In 1995, shortly after the fingerprint files were transferred to West Virginia, the CJIS Division began actively promoting child identification and safety. The program started with the Community Fingerprinting Program, in which a small group of volunteers from the CJIS Division's Community Outreach Program traveled to various venues to fingerprint children (ages 5-17) in the surrounding communities.

The small group of fingerprinters, sometimes with the assistance of local high school students, traveled to area schools,

day care centers, shopping malls, fairs, and festivals. At that time, these volunteers used paper fingerprint cards and ink to take the children's fingerprints. Once completed, these cards were given to each child's parents or guardians for safe keeping and to provide to authorities in the event of a tragedy - their child is abducted, is involved in a natural disaster, goes missing, or runs away. (Although the FBI retains criminal and civil fingerprints for criminal justice purposes, it never maintains children's fingerprints collected through the Community Fingerprinting Program.)

Fingerprinting program goes high-tech

Today, the Community Fingerprinting Program has taken its services "high tech" as technology has advanced. Instead of paper and ink, CJIS Division staff use portable digital scanners to capture fingerprints, and digital cameras to take a picture of each child. Cards with each child's fingerprints and photo incorporated are printed on portable printers and provided to parents and guardians. Since January 2008, when these portable systems were first used, volunteers have digitally fingerprinted nearly 25,000 children.

FBI teams up with football coaches group

The emphasis on child safety expanded in January 2002, when on behalf of the FBI, the CJIS Division's Community Outreach Program began a partnership with the American Football Coaches Association. Through this partnership CJIS employees distribute inkless I.D. kits from the National Child

These cards were given to each child's parents or guardians for safe keeping and to provide to authorities in the event of a tragedy

By providing completed fingerprint cards and the materials needed to collect valuable information about their child, these devoted volunteers equip parents and guardians with a powerful tool

Identification Program at college football games and other outreach events.

The I.D. kits include a fingerprint card, a black image applicator to capture the inkless fingerprints, and sterile swabs to collect a DNA sample from the child. The kit provides directions on how to properly take the child's fingerprints and a DNA sample. It also contains spaces for a physical description of the child, information about the child's physicians, and a recent photograph of the child.

CJIS Division staff recommend that parents and guardians update their child's information whenever necessary and replace the child's photograph in the kit every 6 months, or at least once a year when their child is photographed for school.

CJIS' outreach coordinators encourage the Community Outreach Programs at all of the FBI's 56 field offices and at resident agencies (smaller offices within the field offices' jurisdictions) to get involved in this partnership with college and professional football coaches in their area. Staff with the CJIS Division's Community Outreach Program mail the I.D. kits to the field offices or resident agencies so that they can distribute the kits in their own communities.

To date, CJIS Division staff have distributed more than

250,000 I.D. kits at schools, malls, child care facilities, fairs, festivals, and sporting events throughout West Virginia. Nationwide, FBI employees have distributed more than 1.4 million kits. For more information on the I.D. kits, please go to www.childidprogram.com.

The most requested public programs at the FBI

What started out as a small group of employees assisted by local high school students has grown to 150 employees throughout the CJIS Division helping children with fingerprinting through the Community Fingerprinting Program and distribution of child I.D. kits through the National Child Identification Program. As a result, these programs have evolved into the most requested public programs at the FBI. Through both programs, it is common for staff to provide fingerprint services or distribute I.D. kits at two separate events each weekend; employees with the program attend an average of 80 to 85 events per year in surrounding communities and throughout the Nation.

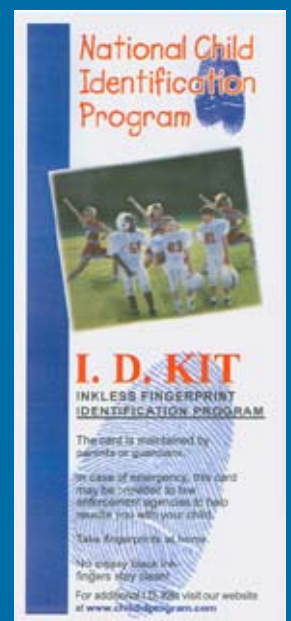
By providing completed fingerprint cards and the materials needed to collect valuable information about their child, these devoted volunteers equip parents and guardians with a powerful tool. Such preparation could save precious time and be a great help to law enforcement or other authorities should the need arise. The FBI's enthusiastic support of these programs demonstrates its continued commitment to combat crimes against children and promote child safety.

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A volunteer from the FBI's CJIS Division in Clarksburg, West Virginia, fingerprints a child on a digital scanner as part of the Community Fingerprinting Program. Since January 2008, CJIS volunteers have digitally fingerprinted nearly 25,000 children as part of this program.

Since 2002, FBI employees have distributed more than 1.4 million inkless I.D. kits from the National Child Identification Program at college football games and other community outreach events across the United States. These kits are a valuable tool for parents and guardians to use for collecting and maintaining vital information about their child.





Cybercrime - Counterfeiting

The Issue of “Real-Virtual” Interactions

* Eric Przyswa

Most professionals define cybercrime as: “Any illegal action in which a computer is the tool or object of the criminal offence.”¹ “However, this definition has the disadvantage of not taking into account the “offline world”. It means that many stakeholders, such as the French Customs, tend to broaden the de facto concept of cybercrime to acts that involve criminal flows, both in the real world and on the Internet, by using a computer. This broader view of cybercrime has the advantage of acknowledging - in theory - this type of crime in both the real and the virtual field. While the Internet is a difficult network to observe, assess and to conceptualize without technical intermediaries, it is reasonable to consider or assume that this broader view of cybercrime leads to a better understanding of the cyber phenomenon and its criminological implications. The well known phenomena of the counterfeiting of physical goods such as luxury goods (watches, cosmetics or accessories) and in the leisure industry (DVDs, video games or music), and its ramifications on the intersection of the real (factories and distribution networks) and the virtual (Internet), would then be especially relevant to unearthing many issues pertaining to cybercrime. Yet, with this hybrid vision of cybercrime it is quite the opposite that happens because reality tends rather

to reflect the fragility of the binomial “Cybercrime - counterfeiting.”

Indeed, according to the multiple available sources (academic studies, French, European or American official reports and the international press), we cannot help noticing that counterfeiting reveals, on the contrary, a strong misunderstanding of cybercrime. Like the Canadian researcher Stéphane Leman-Langlois,² we can consider that cybercrime is proving to be a relative scientific impasse or, as the British researcher Majid Yar³ describes, is a result of statistical constructs. This critical view of cybercrime takes its full dimension in the case of counterfeiting, because it's shown especially in the French case:

- The inability/incapacity of computer experts to work in a transversal way with legal-oriented experts. The latter, being closer to political power, tend to address the fight against cybercrime in the framework of restrictive intellectual property rights for counterfeit products. The result: growing and widely unjustified legislation on cybercrime issues, bringing on dedicated rents of judicial expertise, having as consequence an inadequate fight.

- The available sources do not confirm the very real concept of transnational criminal organization plying in counterfeiting.

The grey areas where the legal economy overlaps with the criminal economy or “mafia” remain a huge blind spot in the public debate on counterfeiting

The cases most often reported by the press are those related to certain criminal organizations matching the Palermo Convention criteria, but most available information supports the theory that most cases primarily involve certain micro-organizations or isolated individuals who use the Internet without understanding the gaps in protection for illegally trafficked counterfeit goods. The Chinese case (with counterfeit websites based in Hong Kong and the factories in China) is rarely discussed in a factual manner and information on this sensitive area is less frequently reported by the media. On the other hand the grey areas where the legal economy overlaps with the criminal economy or “mafia” remain a huge blind spot in the public debate on counterfeiting. One of the few credible descriptions of this overlap is the testimony of the famous journalist Roberto Saviano⁴ in his book *Gomorra*, which accurately describes the extent to which luxury manufacturers (whose names he does not mention) have cooperated (and still cooperate?) with the Camorra on a global scale.

In such a context there is evidence of the opacity of some grey areas in the real world even if we can assume, as the Academic David S. Wall⁵ details for the fashion industry, that “that the counterfeiting economy works more likely in parallel with the legitimate fashion industry with “separate sub-markets-as a sort of assemblage.” Regarding the role of Internet in such a configuration any precise information suggests that it is at the heart of the organizational logistics. The web has more likely accompanied and accelerated the gap to the real world, which has grown with globalization.

Despite the large opacity of the Chinese counterfeiting industry and the many

grey areas, computer users sanctions continue to be carried out primarily on a local basis against less skilled Internet users, rather than on territories like China and Russia, which are more distant but potentially major markets. A more “comfortable” local cybercrime perpetration must also be interpreted as a bad anticipation of the challenges of Internet, to which luxury or cinema corporations have been belatedly adapted. The Internet expresses less of a “cybercrime risk” (transgression of a rule by buying goods known to be counterfeits from Asia) than the strategic importance for industrialists to be able to manage an optimal presence in the information flow network, particularly taking into account semantic parameters (such as keywords). Parameters that new economy corporations such as Google and eBay have been able to better anticipate and integrate within their business model. Some major “old economy” manufacturers, well supported by pressure groups and custom services searching for additional tax revenues, thus are encouraging local cybercrime sanctions, mainly aimed to control through “a kind of administration of fear” a new form of economic consumption that still remain poorly understood, or at least integrated somehow into their business models.

Computer users sanctions continue to be carried out primarily on a local basis against less skilled internet users

However, we can assume that, with globalization, the systemic failures within the real (outsourcing, manufacturing; fragmentation; product designing difficulties) and the virtual (digital paradise where there are few inquiries on hosting servers) offer a wide range of possibilities for malicious activity. But within the dyad/duet “real - virtual”, it is probably the “real” one that presents the highest opacity and the most numerous grey areas. The In-

ternet often serves as a mobilization resource within certain industrial lobbies and especially to divert the public debate away from very opaque issues of the real world which should be better identified. So what is the solution? The sociologist Saskia Sassen⁶ emphasizes the development of concepts that contribute to assessing the interactions between the virtual and the real world. The most radical (or simply lucid/clear?) minds will remain skeptical about such theoretical approaches being difficult to apply, and will consider, as the French magistrate Jean de Maillard⁷ does, that the fight against cybercrime is most of all a “cosmetic” struggle, where actors are mostly concerned with the conservation of capitalist income and are paradoxically also slightly interested in the present anarchy. From such a perspective, the repressive law enforcement tightening of the “cybercrime - counterfeiting” binomial should be decrypted within a broader geopolitical and capital framework, where emerging Countries (both future competitors and subcontractors) could have a major role and where cyberconsumers, even any “criminal organizations,” seem to “play a part” beyond their genuine commitment.

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* David Brazier

A photograph showing a man in a light-colored shirt and blue trousers herding several camels in a lush green field. The camels are of various shades of brown and tan. The background is a bright, slightly hazy sky with some distant trees.

Security and Governance in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

The Office and Rule of Law and Security Institutions (ORoLSI)

“First, we should move beyond the idea of a clear-cut sequence of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. These tools should be deployed in an integrated fashion, not kept in separate silos. Conflict seldom follows a tidy path. We must continue to evolve, towards a faster and more flexible architecture of response that allows us to customize our assistance to the real and immediate needs on the ground”.

Secretary-General
SG/SM/13136
SC/10037

Peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding are undergoing a shifting paradigm and focus in the international arena. Whilst the international community, via the medium of the universal body of the United Nations, has intervened in numerous and varied war ravaged countries and regions of the world since its inception after World War Two, keeping and then building the peace has been more complicated and protracted than originally envisaged. As the then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan lamented, half of those countries that emerge from war succumb back to violence within five years¹, emphasising the depressing fact that it is easier to make the peace than it is to keep it. History has shown us that the transition from internal conflict to a sustainable peace is a fraught one.

Paradoxically, the number of inter-state warfare and armed conflicts around the globe is in decline whilst intra-state and

Half of those countries that emerge from war succumb back to violence within five years

internecine armed conflict is steadily rising²; illustrating a growing trend that those countries and areas affected by post-conflict can be prone to have a propensity at relapsing back in to pre-conflict. As a response to such a structural change and trend in global and regional security is the decision by the United Nations to reinforce and reinvigorate its peacebuilding capacity, recognising its importance as the key to sustainable and tangible success.

Acknowledgement of this 'double sided coin' of peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding has been gradual and steady. Assisting national governments to strengthen their national justice and security institutions has traditionally been primarily for political considerations. The task of setting up a national and sovereign capability to provide internal capacity was not included in traditional peace-keeping operations; since the 1990's, the main *raison d'être* for post-conflict peace building was restricted to economic and social reconstruction.

Then, in the last decade and in today's peace-keeping nexus where operations are multidimensional, complex and more robust in nature, it has become increasingly accepted and expected that, in order to have sustainability and longevity of a credible sovereign national power and the chance to build upon a peacekeeping contextual environment, both the State and its internal support and capacity institutions must feel that it is not only its socio-economic elements that must be effective and empowering, but also high levels of national ownership via good governance and a credible security sector. This is highlighted very well by the fact that Western governments and other beneficiaries have specifically targeted peacebuilding in their donations and respective foreign relations policy.

The inauspicious beginning of Peacebuilding

Post war reconstruction dates back to the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe and the subsequent bolstering of a war ravaged Japan. However, the term 'peacebuilding' itself is a relatively new word, both in vocabulary and terminology which, in turn, has encompassed

a new set of expectations and commensurate capacities to facilitate peacebuilding during the post-conflict stage. In 1992, the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali defined peacebuilding in his Agenda for Peace as "action to identify and support structures which tend to strengthen and solidify peace to avoid relapse in to conflict"³. Peacebuilding therefore became synonymous with post-conflict peacebuilding "becoming necessary only after preventive diplomacy had failed to avert armed hostilities, after peacemaking had established the framework of a negotiated settlement and after peacekeeping had monitored an agreed ceasefire and presumably facilitated the restoration of a threshold of order"⁴.

In August 2000, the "Brahimi Panel"⁵ interjected some intellectual rigour to this growing debate and made a profound comment that ... "conflicts, more often than not, are preceded by a breakdown in the rule of law" and recognised the challenges for peacekeeping and defined the need for a "team approach to upholding the rule of law and respect for human rights, through judicial, penal, human rights and policing experts working together in a coordinated and collegial manner"...inclusive of ... "an area in which peacebuilding makes a direct contribution to public security and law and order"; additionally seeing humanitarian demining as an ... "essential complement" to effective peacebuilding⁶.

In 2001, the UN Security Council elaborated on this by defining peacebuilding as not just keeping previous protagonists at bay from returning to war but, for the first time, to examine and address the actual causes of conflict and even going further to encapsulate the development and promotion of democracy and development cooperation⁷. Hence and up till the current time, whilst the term *post-conflict peacebuilding*⁸ has remained somewhat vague and lacking the analysis and policy associated with other UN departments, this is only a reflection of the relatively short time that post-conflict peacebuilding has been around and its distinctiveness from other terms within the UN spectrum, being intrinsically linked to conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction.

The human approach in peacebuilding for security and governance

Following a Security Council resolution of the requirement for an intervention of a peacekeep-



Post war reconstruction dates back to the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe and the subsequent bolstering of a war ravaged Japan

ing force, such an intervention should be seen as a short-term and expedient solution to a seemingly intractable problem. Normally commencing and manifesting in a humanitarian disaster, this is an absolutely critical period when any possible and practical opportunities for consolidating peace are at their highest but, at the same time, when the threat of a relapse back in to conflict is commensurately high. Unspeakable atrocities and human misery are central drivers to the desire to improve the general lot of the vulnerable peoples on the ground and efforts to assist and support the afflicted must be aligned with adequate resources and expertise. Politically challenging and harder to establish is the task of what comes next to build upon the good work and effort of the peacekeepers which has already gone in to such a fragile environment: that of building national capacity and security.

Any realistic and long lasting peace will need the consent of its population and will stand the greatest chances of success when socio-economic and security governance issues are addressed. A government which is not credible or weak or illegitimate, possibly characterised by human rights violations and a sense of injustice and impunity among its population, where social programs for the rural community may be disproportionately under-funded and parochial, will adversely affect societal norms and what national and local government can tangibly deliver in face of legacy of a past conflict. Peacebuilding is multi-dimensional and multi-layered and, at its very basic level, must address the concerns of both the state and its population, in conjunction and in parallel with the political and socio-economic aspects of reconstruction. In its simplest sense, how can any war blighted country hope to move forward when it has former soldiers and combatants, regular and irregular, sometimes child soldiers, who are roaming unchecked in the countryside and cities; where large numbers of people have in their possession small arms and light weapons (SALW) and a culture of using their arsenal in order to survive; when police and army units are ineffectively led and unaccountable; when the intelligence apparatus is unchecked and abused; where anti-personnel landmines remain uncleared and their victims not assisted; where the basics norm of society have been denigrated over successive human rights violations and when previous perpetrators are not brought to justice, no reparations awarded and the legal regime not enforced.

In April 2010, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed

Any realistic and long lasting peace will need the consent of its population

the need for a strong political commitment by post-conflict countries and their international partners, remarking that it was the key to ensuring lasting peace in the aftermath of war. *“Peacebuilding is a complex and multifaceted undertaking. It requires significant amounts of human, financial and institutional resources”*⁹. Building upon a report in July 2009¹⁰

the Secretary-General summarised some of the factors that are significant to ensuring successful peacebuilding efforts, such as responding early and robustly after the end of a major conflict, staying engaged over the long term and tailoring efforts to the needs of each country. Indeed, at the 6389th meeting of the Security Council, held on 23 September 2010, in connection with the Council’s consideration of the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council, “The Security Council thus reaffirms that international peace and security now requires a more comprehensive and concerted approach. The Council also underlines the necessity to address the root causes of conflicts, taking in to account that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing”¹¹.

Enter to the stage - ORoLSI

Following the distribution of the Brahimi Panel’s report in late June 2007, the General Assembly, whilst reorganising Department of Peace keeping Operations (DPKO), approved the creation of the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (ORLSI) within DPKO. This comprised of Police Division (PD), the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Section, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the Security Sector Reform Unit (SSR) Unit and the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service (CLJAS).

The new Office consolidated into one management hierarchy several functional specialties, with the Head of the new Office remarking at the time of ORoLSI’s beginning that ...”with the establishment of ORoLSI, the expectation of Member States, of the Secretary General, and of DPKO’s leadership is that we be more responsive, strategic and agile in providing support and guidance in the police, justice and corrections, SSR, DDR and mine action areas”¹². ORoLSI components are as follows:

Police Division (PD)

The United Nations has deployed police officers for service in peace operations since the 1960s. Traditionally, the mandate of police components in peace operations was limited to monitoring, observing and reporting. Beginning in the early 1990s the UN police began helping to strengthen national policing capacity. Advising, mentoring and training functions were integrated into their monitoring activities. At the end of the 1990s, UN Police were called upon to provide interim law enforcement in Eastern Slavonia, Kosovo and Timor-Leste, and in 2000, the Panel on United Nations Policing and Peace Operations concluded that the role of the police in peace operations should be “to focus primarily on the reform and restructuring of local police forces in addition to traditional advisory, training and monitoring tasks”.

The police are an important element in any system of justice,



and work closely with other ORoLSI components on specific projects to strengthen security and to recreate or refurbish justice and corrections systems. The Police Division is increasing its collaboration with the Security Sector Reform Unit when called upon to reform or restructure local police forces. The number of UN police officers authorized for deployment in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions increased fifteen-fold since 1995, from under 1,170 to 15,000 in 2009. At the end of 2009 there were almost 13,000 officers deployed in 17 UN Missions.¹³

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)

The DDR Section of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions provides back-stopping support to ongoing DDR programmes in peacekeeping operations, plans new DDR programmes, and provides advice on DDR aspects of Special Political Missions managed by the Department of Political Affairs. Other core tasks include serving as an expert resource to the Secretariat, inter-governmental bodies and Member States on issues related to DDR, and disseminating lessons learned and best practices on DDR in peacekeeping. DDR is a key post-conflict activity that aims to build the confidence between the parties, reinforce the peace process, and contribute to stabilization and early recovery. Spanning the whole spectrum of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, DDR is a multi-dimensional process that cannot be undertaken by one actor alone. DPKO therefore co-chairs the seventeen-member Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on DDR, with the United Nations Development Programme

(UNDP), which aims at developing a coherent UN system-wide approach to DDR¹⁴.

United Nations Mine Action Service

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is the focal point for the coordination of the UN effort to eliminate landmines and explosive remnants of war and to mitigate their impact on people's lives. UNMAS is one of 14 UN entities that make up the "UN Mine Action Team." The coordinating role that UNMAS plays promotes effective and efficient use of resources, prevents duplication of efforts and ensures that services are prioritized and targeted. And in that role, it is responsible for leading the monitoring of progress against benchmarks set in an inter-agency mine action strategy for 2006-2010.

The strategy includes goals such as reducing death and injury by 50 percent, expanding freedom of movement for at least 80 percent of the most seriously affected communities and developing national mine action institutions. UNMAS also builds security and national capacities and enables development. It also ensures that UN peacekeepers can safely deploy in war-torn nations without undue risk or threat from mines and unexploded ordnance¹⁵.

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) also collaborates with 13 other UN departments, agencies, programmes and funds to ensure an effective, proactive and coordinated response to the problems of landmines and explosive remnants of war. UNMAS chairs the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, which brings together working-level representatives of the UN organizations involved in mine action to develop or revise policies and strategies, set priorities among UN players, and share information. UNMAS also coordinates meetings of standing committees, which were created when the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty went into effect in 1999, and the Steering Committee on Mine Action, which brings together UN mine-action, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mine-action coordination centres managed by UNMAS are also responsible for public information and community liaison operations, victim assistance initiatives; collection of landmine and casualty data, provision of technical advice on destruction of landmine stockpiles, quality management for mine-action operations, and the destruction and removal of explosive remnants of war, which comprise unexploded ordnance (bombs, mortars and other explosives that do not detonate on impact but remain volatile and dangerous) and abandoned explosive ordnance, which are unused explosives left behind by armed forces.

Security Sector Reform Unit

Security Sector Reform (SSR Unit) focuses on building effective, accountable and sustainable security sectors that operate within a framework of the rule of law and respect for



mobilization and planning for projects and programmes. CLJAS also designs the justice and corrections components of new field missions and evaluates the achievements and challenges of existing missions¹⁷.

The way forward

The creation of ORoLSI was a substantial move forward towards the broadly integrated team approach recommended by the Brahimi Panel, helping to empower DPKO by providing support to the rule of law and security institutions in post-conflict and politically fragile environments, thereby facilitating fundamental improvements in the strength and sustainability of the rule of law and of security institutions in the host State after a DPKO-led or other relevant Mission has left the country. Long-term peace consolidation and development are key to strengthening justice and security foundations in post-conflict peacebuilding settings. This should be within a contextual framework which works towards locally sustainable peace with justice and security that is pursuant with international human rights, norms and standards.

ORoLSI compliments DPKO and the wider Organisation of the UN by assisting multi-dimensional peacekeeping operations. By participating through the life-cycle of United Nations operations, on-going initiatives and activities, ORoLSI's respective components try and ensure, either singularly or collectively, dependant on the task(s) in hand, that personnel are deployed in a timely and effective manner. ORoLSI will continue to focus on working methods and practices, by managing growth and change, building coordination with implementing partners, in field operations and elsewhere within the United Nations. Additionally, the Office has close ties and working relationships with bilateral and international partners, as well as Governments and the recipient nations themselves. This extends to the formulation of an "exit strategy" for peacekeeping as it attempts to be the natural link by bridging the gap between immediate post-conflict situations and that of longer term development.

"The Office provides strategic advice and guidance at United Nations headquarters and to United Nations field operations. In close collaboration with other members of DPKO, the Department of Field Support (DFS) and the rest of the United

human rights. To this end, the SSR Unit in ORoLSI brings together a small number of multi-disciplined specialists to provide a focal point and strategic SSR resource for DPKO and its peacekeeping operations, for other United Nations actors and for national and international partners engaged in supporting SSR.

The SSR Unit, where requested and in close cooperation with other DPKO entities, provides support to SSR processes, primarily at sector-wide and political-strategic levels, including: facilitating national SSR dialogues after conflict; providing support for processes leading to reform of national security policies, strategies, plans and architectures; articulation of security sector legislation; strengthening management and oversight capacities, as well as national SSR coordination bodies; facilitating the provision of holistic and coherent United Nations support and assisting in the mobilization of resources for SSR (both human and financial); and monitoring and evaluation of SSR programmes and projects¹⁶.

Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service

The Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service (CLJAS) was established in 2003 to support United Nations peace operations in implementing their rule of law, justice and corrections mandates. Working closely with other ORoLSI components and concerned entities throughout the UN system and the international community, CLJAS advises, provides guidance and supports field missions on matters related to justice and corrections and assists with staff recruitment, resource





Nations family, OROLSI's components at United Nations headquarters concentrate on planning field activities, developing guidelines and operating procedures, offering technical specialized assistance, screening and deploying personnel and identifying and disseminating best practices and lessons learned, as well as assisting in generating the necessary projects and funding. In addition, UNMAS manages a multi-million dollar trust fund dedicated to mine action'.¹⁸ The Secretary-General's 2009 Report on Peacebuilding has now brought one of the main elements of peacebuilding to the forefront - that national ownership is essential. The harsh realities of previous and existing UN missions have underlined that 'one-size' does not actually 'fit-all' and from the very outset there must be clarity about the mandate and the desired outcomes of such intervention. It has been of paramount importance that the UN enter in to each new Mission with a specific plan, coordinated with national authorities and interested and affected actors. The scope of the pertinent peace agreement, the relative strengths and weaknesses of the national, regional and local authorities to engage, the degree of volatility on the country and the desire and capacity of other partners all create a specific dynamic to support the enabling provision of basic safety and security. The five sectors that fall within this remit of OROLSI in the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO): police, justice and corrections, mine action, security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration are crucial in this respect to work hand in hand with military, human rights and humanitarian actors to ensure a coordinated response in the immediate phase of post-conflict.

Conclusion

Peacekeeping is evolving in its modus operandi and has undergone significant changes, both practically and theoretically, over the last sixty years plus. Traditional peacekeeping operations have been overtaken, but not supplanted, rather added to, by complex peacekeeping missions. Peacebuilding in a post-conflict arena has been an increasingly important

element and interwoven series of viable security conditions which are fundamental to creating a sustainable peace. With the demise of the likelihood of a super-power nuclear confrontation, international relations has witnessed the exponential growth in the deployment of peace-keepers in direct response to the break-down of states and intra-state conflict. Security governance offers a crucial opportunity to link, phase, sequence and optimise the various components of post-conflict peacebuilding. Taken collectively and holistically, integrated and long-term approaches in post-conflict interventions help to tailor solutions that are appropriate to this new context. Cooperation and confidence building in post-conflict societies facilitates ways to better understand and think at the local level and builds mutually reinforcing local and national ownership. The decision to create OROLSI recognises this challenge and offers the crucial and unique mechanism to integrate different actors and approaches in the peacebuilding nexus. Ultimately, the delivery of the OROLSI sectors in the early-post conflict phase will assist the Security Council in facilitating and achieving peacekeeping mandates which are more focused, integrated and sustainable.

* **Mr. David Brazier** is currently working as the Special Assistant to the Director at UN Mine Action Service; he served 5 years with the United Nations in a variety of roles within Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and Department of Field Support (DFS).

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- 2 Townhall Presentation, 19 February 2009, UN Headquarters, Annual Review of Global Peace Operations, Center on International Cooperation, New York University.
- 3 United Nations General Assembly, *An agenda for Peace; Preventive Diplomacy, Peacemaking and Peace-Keeping*, Report of the Secretary General pursuant to the statement adopted by the Summit Meeting of the Security Council on 31 January 1992, un Doc.A/47/277-S/2411 (17 June 1992), para. 21.
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- 5 United Nations, 'Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations,' A/55/305-S/2000/809, 21 August 2000, paras. 14, 39, 40 and 42.
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- 10 Security Council, Statement by the President of the Security Council, S/PRST/2009/23.
- 11 Security Council, Statement by the President of the Security Council, S/PRST/2010/18, 23 September 2010.
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- 14 Internet, United Nations Peacekeeping, *Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI)*, p3.
- 15 Internet, United Nations Peacekeeping, *Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI)*, p4.
- 16 Internet, United Nations Peacekeeping, *Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI)*, p5.
- 17 Internet, United Nations Peacekeeping, *Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI)*, p5.
- 18 Internet, United Nations Peacekeeping, *Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI)*, p2.

On the Interna

15-17 January 2011

Rajasthan, India

First International Conference of the South Asian Society of Criminology and Victimology (SASCV)

The T.M.C. Asser Institute organizes a summer programme in close cooperation with the OPCW (the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons), the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, the BWC-ISU (Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs) and the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). The objective of this one-week summer programme is to raise interest among the younger generation in pursuing careers in disarmament and non-proliferation as part of the larger process of enhancing stability and security in the world.

More Information: <http://www.sascv.org/conf2011/>

31 January 01 February 2011

Berlin, Germany

Protection of National Critical Infrastructures in Europe

The European Seminar brings together stakeholders at all levels of government, private sector and NGOs to exchange ideas and good practices on topics such as cross-sectoral interdependencies and Critical Infrastructures identification and protection. Case studies and discussion rounds will propose measures to strengthen the EU's prevention, preparedness and response to threatened infrastructures. Moreover, participants will have the opportunity to network with experts and stakeholders from all areas of crisis management from all over Europe and arrange new international cooperation models.

More Information: www.europaeische-akademie.eu/en/events/veranstaltung/european-critical-infrastructure-protection.html

02-03 February 2011

Paris, France

6th Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy

Counterfeiting and piracy is a global problem that affects us all. It threatens the health and safety of consumers, deprives national economies of vital tax revenues; emboldens criminal organizations and erodes respect for intellectual property rights.

This Sixth Global Congress aims to build cooperation to enhance public awareness – and concerted action – to successfully confront these problems. It seeks to create a better understanding of the elements fuelling the trade in illegitimate goods and to develop sustainable solutions to stop it.

Discussion will be wide-ranging – from the growing menace associated with internet trade to the role of corporate responsibility in nurturing respect for IP. It will be anchored in the theme of the Congress, to find sustainable solutions that take account of the role and rights of stakeholders, as well as the cost to them, of fighting counterfeiting and piracy.

More Information: <http://www.ccapcongress.net/>

International Agenda

28 February 02 March 2011

Brussels, Belgium

EWI's Eighth Annual Worldwide Security Conference

The Eighth Annual Worldwide Security Conference (WSC 8) will: continue EWI's tradition of articulating new goals for global security and the steps needed to achieve them; aim to stimulate progressive improvement in the way global security is managed and reviewed; bring together leading policy makers, specialists, business executives, community leaders and journalists from around the world for debate and networking.

More information: <http://www.ewi.info/wsc8>

07-08 March 2011

Melbourne, Australia

Young people, risk and resilience: The challenges of alcohol, drugs and violence conference

Young people who experiment with alcohol and other drugs, whether legally or illegally obtained, may unwittingly compromise their safety and wellbeing or the safety and wellbeing of others. Evidence suggests that young people who use alcohol and other drugs are more likely to participate in other high-risk activities, and to be involved in violent and traumatic incidents such as assaults. Inexperience and peer influence undoubtedly contribute to these harms. In addition, use of alcohol and other drugs can increase young people's risk of committing crimes and lead to early involvement in the criminal justice system.

More information: <http://www.aic.gov.au/en/events>

17-22 April 2011

Las Vegas, U.S.A.

8th International Conference on Asian Organized Crime & Terrorism

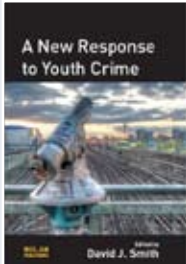
Alien Smuggling, Counterfeit Products, Credit Card Fraud, Cultural Do's and Don'ts, Cyber Crimes, Computer Forensics, Document Fraud, Domestic/International Terrorism, Email Forensics, Gaming, Asian Gangs, Organized Crime, Human Trafficking, Identity Theft, Intelligence Gathering & Information Sharing, Money Laundering, Narcotics Trends, Networking, Regional Trends, Undercover Techniques, Youth Violence and Explosives.

More information: <http://www.icaoct.com/>

Challenging Ideas

A New Response to Youth Crime

David Smith - Willan (2010)

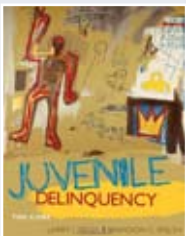


Antisocial and criminal behaviour involving children and young people have been a cause of heightened public concern in England and Wales for more than a quarter of a century. It has been the subject of numerous policy papers, research studies and academic assessments as well as extensive newspaper, radio and television coverage. This has set the context for an ever expanding volume of legislation seeking to amend and improve society's official response. Yet despite a massive injection of resources into the youth justice system the results achieved have been unimpressive, reoffending remains a persistent problem and the general public appears to have little confidence in the youth justice system. The time is ripe therefore for a new look at the problem of youth offending and government and society's response to this. This book accompanies the Report of the Independent Commission on Youth Crime and Antisocial Behaviour which is to be published 2010. In it leading authorities in the field, from a variety of different disciplines, review youth crime and different responses to it, focussing particularly on England and Wales but also analysing for comparative purposes the nature of responses in other parts of the world, especially Canada. It will be essential reading for practitioners, policy makers, students and others with an interest in addressing one of today's most intractable social problems.

- Amazon editorial review

Juvenile Delinquency: The Core

Larry J. Siegel, Brandon C. Welsh - Wadsworth Publishing, 4 edition 2010



In under 500 pages, Siegel and Welsh's "Juvenile Delinquency, 4e" helps readers understand the nature of delinquency, its causes, and current strategies being used to control or eliminate its occurrence. The authors review recent legal cases, research studies, and policy initiatives. A new boxed feature emphasizes success stories in intervention, while career profiles offer invaluable insight into related jobs—from those who live them every day. Completely current, the Fourth Edition offers enhanced coverage of emerging policies and programs, juvenile hate crime, social reaction and labeling theories, learning problems and delinquency, gangs, drugs, and capital punishment for juveniles.

- Amazon editorial review

Juvenile Crime (Issues That Concern You)

Heidi Williams - Greenhaven Press 2010



Each title in this colorful series discusses an issue that either is part of students' lives or is likely affecting someone they know. Presenting multiple sides to current issues, each title distinguishes itself through its dedicated focus on concerns that today's middle and high school students deal with regularly, such as underage drinking and obesity.

- Amazon editorial review

for Challenging Times

Youth Crime

Jacqui Bailey - Wayland (Publishers) Ltd 2011

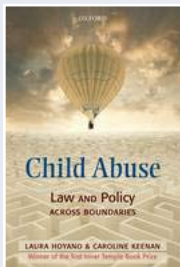


Each book in this series explores an issue that may affect young people's lives. The books are aimed directly at children and provide support to them and also to parents and teachers. This book includes statistics about crime today and in the past. The book explores what youth crime means, why it happens, the types of crime young people commit and the repercussions they may face. What we can do about youth crime is also covered and includes advice on how to be safe and how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

- Amazon editorial review

Child Abuse: Law and Policy Across Boundaries

Laura C.H. Hoyano, Caroline Keenan - Oxford University Press, USA 2010



There is universal agreement that 'something must be done' about child abuse, that the legal and policy frameworks established for the protection of children are inadequate. Time and again this is brought home by cases that reveal major failures in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse suspects. There is much less clarity about what qualifies as child abuse and what should be done about it. Failings in the law are often invoked by politicians and the media at times of crisis, when a societal response is demanded. The presence of new legislation on the statute book or the creation of rules and protocols which professionals must follow is one socially acceptable sign that the problem has been recognized and that an effective response has been implemented. Are these ad hoc responses helpful? If not, what should be done to address the current weaknesses in the protection of children?

This book looks across legal and geographical boundaries to consider the law and policy on child abuse. It examines the whole process of child protection, from complaint investigation to prosecution, and analyzes the legal disciplines of criminal, family, tort and evidence law as they bear on child abuse cases. Material is drawn from over 75 jurisdictions, including major empirical research in the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Throughout the book's focus is on achieving a coherent program for reforming the law and practices responsible for child protection. Its contribution to policy debates was recognized by the Judges of the 2008 Inner Temple Book Prize who, in awarding it the prize for outstanding legal scholarship, heralded it as a 'masterly book on a hugely important subject', one that will 'make an outstanding contribution to the formation and understanding of legal policy'.

- Amazon editorial review

Cybercriminalité et contrefaçon

Eric Przystwa - FYP éditions 2010

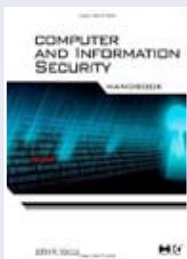


Cybercrime is a global phenomenon. Millions of individuals, like companies, are lured by cyber-scams or counterfeits. But what about the reality of this phenomenon? This book provides an insight into the challenges of cybercrime by showing the ongoing challenges for key players and users.

- Amazon editorial review

Youth and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Agents of Change

Stephanie Schwartz - United States Institute of Peace Press 2010

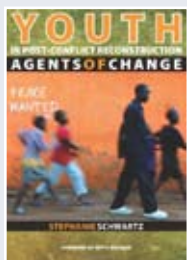


Although much has been written about cases of children as soldiers and slaves in recent conflicts, these cases are but one example of the impact of conflict on a subset of the youth population. In *Youth and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Agents of Change*, Stephanie Schwartz goes beyond these highly publicized cases and examines the roles of the broader youth population in post-conflict scenarios, taking on the complex task of distinguishing between the legal and societal labels of child, youth, and adult. In the post-conflict population, youth constitute a reservoir brimming with potential energy, ready to be channeled for good or ill. What causes some young people to return to the life of a fighter while others choose to work for a better future? And what can domestic and international actors do to help youth move toward an education, work to support their families, and become active contributors to building peace and reconstructing their countries? *Youth in Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Agents of Change* uses three cases of post-conflict reconstruction: Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Kosovo to explore how youth affect the post-conflict reconstruction process, and how domestic policy, NGO programming, international interventions, and cultural contexts may change that role. The hypotheses drawn from these comparisons will be useful both in guiding future research on youth's role in post-conflict reconstruction and in helping reconstruction actors facilitate the youth population's transition from war to peace.

- Amazon editorial review

Youth Gangs and Community Intervention: Research, Practice, and Evidence

Robert Chaskin PhD - Columbia University Press 2010



Although a range of program and policy responses to youth gangs exist, most are largely based on suppression, implemented by the police or other criminal justice agencies. Less attention and fewer resources have been directed to prevention and intervention strategies that draw on the participation of community organizations, schools, and social service agencies in the neighborhoods in which gangs operate. Also underemphasized is the importance of integrating such approaches at the local level. In this volume, leading researchers discuss effective intervention among youth gangs, focusing on the ideas behind, approaches to, and evidence about the effectiveness of community-based, youth gang interventions. Treating community as a crucial unit of analysis and action, these essays reorient our understanding of gangs and the measures undertaken to defeat them. They emphasize the importance of community, both as a context that shapes opportunity and as a resource that promotes positive youth engagement. Covering key themes and debates, this book explores the role of social capital and collective efficacy in informing youth gang intervention and evaluation, the importance of focusing on youth development within the context of community opportunities and pressures, and the possibilities of better linking research, policy, and practice when responding to youth gangs, among other critical issues.

- Amazon editorial review

Ambani

Khuluma

Dulavula

Praat

Bolela

Bua

Speak

Thetha



*Need more help?
Try these useful contacts*

- ▶ South African Police Service: 10111 (*Free call*)
- ▶ Childline:0800 055 555(*Free call*)
- ▶ Women Abuse Helpline:0800 150 150 (*Free call*)
- ▶ SAPS Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit
(*Head Office, Pretoria*):.....012 393 2363

Speak out against abuse!

