



## The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum #EndChildViolence

# Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action

9, 10 and 11 May 2017 Panama City, Panama

**The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum**  
**Ending Violence Against Children:**  
**Faith Communities in Action**

**9, 10 and 11 May 2017**

**Panama City, Panama**

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**Global Network of Religions for Children**

**Arigatou International**



## FOREWORD

It is a pleasure to be able to offer you in this publication some of the outcomes of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum, a key event in the calendar of Arigatou International.

Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, convenor of the GNRC, has made an immense contribution by making ending violence against children a core focus for Arigatou International and the GNRC. In response to this problem, we all have a social and ethical responsibility to prevent all violence against children, comfort those who have suffered from it, and help heal those affected and open their lives to a hopeful future.

For the participants, the 5<sup>th</sup> Forum was a very special opportunity to get to know one another, share our views with numerous institutions, and motivate ourselves to more action and new alliances for and with children. We must be aware of the fact that millions of children live in very diverse situations of violence, facing forms of neglect and abuse which damage their lives, deprive them of living necessities and prevent them from making positive contributions to tomorrow's world.

The two motivating keynote addresses we saw helped to strengthen the spirit of constructive cooperation in the mission to build a more appropriate world for the children.

The young people who shared in the 5<sup>th</sup> Forum also met for a pre-forum, which showed us their wish to fully participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Forum with adults. Their contribution was a highly relevant part of the Forum. It is clear that they should also be part of all of our efforts for children.

In this context, we must not forget that the human child's main and decisive developmental period leading to autonomy is longer and more complex than that of any other living being.

Their first natural desirable habitat is a stable and harmonious union of their parents and family. This is the basis of their health or deterioration and also radically linked. When our societies support families, they then support the children; on the other hand, if families are unbalanced, this will negatively impact children. As such, and in entirety, the family, human society, and



economic and cultural conditions have either favorable or negative impacts on the child.

During the 5<sup>th</sup> Forum, we sought together to hold two parallel perspectives: on the one hand, remaining aware of the countless children who suffer violence in today's world, and on the other hand, of what communities of faith can provide in spirit and action in order to stop and heal the violence and abuse. As was often said at the 5<sup>th</sup> Forum, childhood and our spiritual convictions joined us together.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Forum invited us to dialogue and reflect on the painful reality of these children and the stimulus we, as faith communities, can receive to their service. We shared experiences with current practices and heard a great deal of proposed work in relation to the topics which brought us together— violent extremism, child exploitation and sexual abuse, and spirituality as part of the positive upbringing which we owe to all children.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sidney Fones".

**Rev. Mons. Sidney Fones**  
Chair, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum International  
Organizing Committee





“Pope Francis is happy to learn that the Global Network of Religions for Children together with other faith communities and multilateral institutions are engaged in addressing the challenges facing the children of our time.”

H.E. Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, President, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Holy See.



The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum  
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## PREFACE



**Rev. Keishi Miyamoto**

### ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

I am humbled to have this opportunity to once more express my gratitude and deep respect to everyone who attended the Fifth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children in Panama City, Panama in May 2017. Thank you for every contribution you made and the unique role you played. I cherished seeing over 500 people representing faith communities, governments, national and international organizations, coming from 70 nations to connect with one another and, sharing in our common humanity, strengthening our shared commitment to ending violence against children all over the world.

I hope that this report on the Fifth Forum conveys to you not only the important details of what was accomplished at the Forum, but also the great sense of excitement and inspiration that we all felt while there. Starting with the energy and spirit that the children and youth participants brought, this was no ordinary conference. I believe the Divine Presence was at work in a very special way, and I am very confident that all the participants and partners have been encouraged in their work for children.

From the discussions at the Forum emerged the *Panama Declaration on Ending Violence Against Children*—with its 10 specific commitments to children. It was unanimously adopted by all present, including leaders from all the world’s major religious and spiritual traditions. The regional plans of action carefully prepared by members of the GNRC, when fully implemented, will help countless children to grow up in a safe environment, where they can grow to their full potential. In issuing this report, we are redoubling our determination to do all that we can to end violence against children. I invite you to join us.

On behalf of Arigatou International, I would like to extend a word of special appreciation here to the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee led by Rev. Mons. Sidney Fones and to the Hosting Committee chaired by the Rt. Rev. Julio E. Murray for the outstanding leadership that steered the Forum to such a success. I am also very grateful to Ms. Mercedes Roman, who guided the GNRC work in Latin America and the Caribbean for so many years, to all the other valuable advisors and partners who have been with us for so many years, to the outstanding directors of our four global initiatives, and to all of our dedicated staff and the scores of energetic volunteers who made the Forum a reality.

I eagerly look forward to the next forum some five years from now, when we can look back and see what a great difference the commitments we pledged at the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum have made in the lives of children.

**Keishi Miyamoto**

President, Arigatou International  
Convenor, Global Network of Religions for Children



## ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is a comprehensive report of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum. It is a summary of all aspects of the Forum, including the speeches, papers presented, contributions and transcripts of messages delivered at the Forum. In this report, you will find the remarks from distinguished guests during the opening ceremony, and thereafter the keynote addresses, followed by the special session on ending violence against children. The report further details the discussions at the regional working groups and the panel discussions, the “All for Children” session, the special thematic sessions, and the closing ceremony. The report also captures the pre-meeting for children that took place on 6-8 May 2017.

The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum, held on 9-11 May 2017 in Panama City, Panama, was attended by 526 participants—leaders and members of the world’s religious and spiritual traditions, girls and boys, women and men, from 70 countries, together with representatives of governments, the United Nations, as well as international and grassroots organizations.

The report captures the affirmation of the moral imperative to protect children from harm as enshrined and protected in the teachings of all of the world’s religious and spiritual communities and in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols, discussed at the Forum. Participants at the Forum addressed the challenge of ending violence against children, especially physical, psychological and sexual violence, violent extremism, and recruitment of children into gangs. Their insights are detailed in this report.

The report also highlights the proposals from Forum participants on how to address the challenges of violence against children, including the 10 shared commitments that Forum participants made in the Panama Declaration. These commitments included listening to children with empathy and respect, ensuring all places, including religious places, are safe for all children, and reinforcing partnerships and strengthening families and local communities.



Other commitments made at the Forum include challenging all structures and practices that perpetuate violence and sexual exploitation of children, and providing education to all, including adults, about violence against children. Embracing and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and working to generate greater social and political will for legislation, policies, and increased funding of programs to protect children from violence, were also discussed, and Forum participants pledged to follow-up on these commitments.

At the end of the report are appendices such as the concept note and information about the Forum Committees. Also appended are a list of participants, the Forum program, and local and international media reports about the Forum.

**Mustafa Y. Ali, Ph.D**

Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children  
Director, Arigatou International–Nairobi







## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum, held in Panama City, Panama in May 2017, was a result of the collaborative efforts of many people, organizations and institutions. We express our deep appreciation to the members of Myochikai and Arigatou International for sponsoring the Forum. Our gratitude also goes to the members of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee chaired by Rev. Mons. Sidney Fones for organizing the Forum, and the Hosting Committee chaired by Rt. Rev. Julio E. Murray and supported by the Ecumenical Committee and the Interreligious Committee in Panama. Special thanks to the President of the Republic of Panama, H.E. Juan Carlos Varela, and the First Lady H.E. Lorena Castillo de Varela, for honoring the Forum with their presence. We thank the Government of Panama, especially the National Immigration Services of Panama, for the support offered to international participants.

We thank all the speakers and panelists for their insights. Those insights greatly enriched the discussions at the Forum. The smooth flow of the Forum sessions was made possible by very able chairpersons, co-chairs, facilitators and moderators. The facilitators of the Children's Pre-meeting are highly appreciated. Participants received a warm reception on arrival, and for this thanks go to the volunteers including students from BADI and Episcopal Schools in Panama for their time and service, before and during the Forum.

We thank the joint staff from all Arigatou International offices—Tokyo, Nairobi, Geneva, New York and the Forum secretariat in Panama: Ms. Naoko Hara, Mr. Morimasa Oka, Ms. Masue Suzuki, Dr. Dorcas Kiplagat, Mr. Abdulrahman Marjan, Ms. Farida Mugami, Mr. Yasin Lokaale, Ms. Nyambura Gichuki, Ms. Cindy Owuor, Ms. Florence Omtokoh, Ms. Sandra Yepez, Ms. Vera Leal, Ms. Carmen McSween and Ms. Isis Navarro. They all worked tirelessly in collaboration with the International Organizing and Hosting Committees to prepare for the Forum. We thank Zuno Design Studios (USA), AV Tech, Producciones Aranda, Zaga Producciones (Panama) and Forward Vision Communications (Kenya) for the technical media support provided before, during and after the Forum.

The children who graced the Forum with their presence, their creativity and focused contributions energized the Forum from the beginning to the end. We appreciate you. We thank the chaperones who guided the children throughout and supported them at every step.

The Declaration Drafting Committee members captured and presented what was agreed to by Forum participants in the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Declaration and the Panama Commitments. Special mention goes to Mr. Peter Billings, Ms. Mercedes Roman, Fr. Hector Quiros and Ms. Betsy Morán for supporting the Declaration Drafting Committee, and working on edits and translations. We also appreciate the efforts of the Japanese, English and Spanish translators and interpreters throughout the Forum. We are grateful to all GNRC coordinators, contact persons and GNRC members for their tireless efforts at the grassroots level, which have improved living environments for children all over the world. Their contributions at the Forum were very enlightening.

To all our partners, including the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence Against Children, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, ACT Alliance, UNICEF, Plan International, Norwegian Church Aid, Goldin Institute, World Vision International, Ecumenical Committee in Panama (COEPA), Interreligious Committee in Panama, Pastoral da Criança and many others space does not permit us to list here, we thank you for sharing our dream to build a better world for children and working with us side by side to make it come true.

To all our service providers, including COPA Airlines, Sheraton, Aloft, Country Inn Hotels and the Convention Centre at the City of Knowledge, we are very grateful for your exemplary service. We also deeply appreciate all of the media and press representatives who gave their time to cover the Forum and raise a cry to end violence against children.

Finally, deepest thanks to every participant of the Forum. Your contributions and commitments are deeply appreciated. We look forward to their implementation as we stay committed through action to the children of the world and our common goal of ending violence against children.

**GNRC Secretariat, on behalf of all the children whose lives will be touched  
thanks to the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum**



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## THE GNRC 5<sup>TH</sup> FORUM PANAMA DECLARATION ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

PANAMA CITY, PANAMA 9-11 MAY 2017

Challenged by the global epidemic of violence against children, we, leaders and members of the world's religious and spiritual traditions, girls and boys, women and men, from 70 countries, together with representatives of governments, the United Nations, and international and grassroots organizations, met in Panama City, Panama for the Fifth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC), from 9-11 May 2017. Building upon the GNRC's 17 years of service to the world's children, we affirm the fundamental dignity of every boy and girl.

We reaffirm the moral imperative to protect children from harm, as enshrined and protected in the teachings of all of the world's religious and spiritual communities and in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols. We believe in the power of interfaith cooperation to transform the world. We grieve the fact that half of the world's children endure physical, psychological or sexual violence. It is unacceptable that every five minutes, a child somewhere is killed in a violent act.

While our religions have been actively engaged in the service of children, we also grieve that every religion at times has been misused to legitimize, justify and even perpetuate violence against children. We are accountable for these shortcomings and ask for forgiveness. Today, we stand together to reject and speak out against all forms of violence against children in every setting.

The causes of violence against children are complex and varied. They include socio-economic causes such as poverty and social exclusion, and many other deeply rooted political, cultural and familial factors. Ending today's unprecedented violence against children calls for extraordinary and urgent collaboration among religious and spiritual communities, UN agencies, international and multilateral organizations, governments, civil society, the private sector, media—and, most importantly, with children. We honor children's unique contributions to, and insights about, ending violence.

Children thrive and grow in trusting relationships with people who love and care for them. Ideally, and for the most part, this happens within families. Sadly, it also cannot be denied that the home is the place where most abuses occur. Families need support to grow to become peaceful, safe sanctuaries.

We affirm that transformed religious and spiritual communities can offer moral teachings and model practices to prevent, heal, reduce and ultimately end violence against children.

We, the participants of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum, both children and adults, resolve to do all that we can to end violence against children.

We commit to:

1. Listen to children with empathy and respect, welcome their wisdom and gifts, and continue to work side-by-side to address violence against them;
2. Ensure that our religious places are safe for all children, and especially for the victims of violence and abuse, and vulnerable children such as those with disabilities;
3. Increase our personal and institutional commitments to take concrete actions to address the challenges voiced by children at this Forum;
4. Educate our leaders and communities about the different forms of violence against children and deploy resources to prevent and address it within and beyond our communities; educate children about human sexuality and what they can do to keep themselves safe; work to safeguard children from harmful media content and engage the media in preventing violence against children;
5. Partner with global programs such as End Violence and make the most of existing tools for addressing the root causes and drivers of the violence children face, with a special focus on countering violent extremism, gang violence, harm to children by organized crime, and sexual exploitation and abuse;
6. Strengthen local communities by offering education in positive parenting and ethical values to help families and children develop empathy, become more resilient, and grow spiritually;
7. Identify and challenge patriarchal structures and practices that perpetuate violence against and sexual exploitation especially of girls;
8. Embrace internationally agreed strategies and mechanisms to address violence against children, including the Sustainable Development Goals 16.2 on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children; 5.2 and 5.3 on ending violence against women and girls; and 8.7 on ending economic exploitation of children;
9. Strengthen cooperation and partnerships across Arigatou International initiatives, the wider religious and spiritual communities and strategic players at local, national, regional and global levels;
10. Work to generate greater social and political will for legislation, policies, and increased funding of programs to protect children from violence.

In all of this, we will strengthen our mechanisms for continuous self-evaluation and accountability to ensure our communities are never complicit in perpetuating violence against children, build child-safe institutions, and build evidence for the effectiveness of faith-based approaches to end violence against children.

Finally, we thank Arigatou International and its partners for bringing us together for the GNRC Fifth Forum. We share the conviction that we are all responsible to every child in the world. We leave here reinvigorated and inspired by the vision of a peaceful world for all girls and boys.

Issued in Panama City, 11 May 2017.





## INTRODUCTION

Arigatou International convened the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum in Panama City, Panama, on 9, 10 and 11 May 2017. The Forum was attended by 526 religious leaders, members of diverse faith communities, leaders of faith-based organizations, United Nations officials, and representatives of international and grassroots organizations from around the world. A pre-Forum meeting also brought together 64 children from around the world on 6, 7, and 8 May 2017. The theme for the Forum was: **“Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action.”**

The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum built on the work that GNRC members from diverse faith traditions had been doing since the year 2000, working for and with children, to build a better world for children. Working locally, nationally, and globally, GNRC members have addressed several of the key challenges facing children, prioritizing areas such as child rights, education, poverty, and violence. The Fifth Forum focused specifically on solutions for the challenges presented by various forms of violence against children, broken down into three sub-themes; **“Protecting Children from Violent Extremism, Gang Violence and Organized Crime”**; **“Nurturing Spirituality and Ending Violence in Child Upbringing”**; and **“Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children,”** focusing specifically on the role of faith communities in addressing these challenges—especially through interreligious cooperation.

In bringing faith communities together to address violence against children, the Forum sought to foster contributions to the United

Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 16.2 focusing on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. Other SDG targets the Forum sought to address include: ending violence against women and girls (SDG 5.2 and 5.3), ending the economic exploitation of children (SDG 8.7), keeping children safe in schools and communities, and promoting peace and non-violence (SDG 4.a, 4.7, 11.2 and 11.7).

### The Global Context of Violence Against Children

Violence against children is one of the gravest challenges facing the world today, but it does not receive attention anywhere near commensurate with its scope, scale and nature. The evidence is overwhelming. Violence is the leading cause of death and injury of children in the world. UNICEF reports several horrifying statistics. Every five minutes, a child is killed in a violent act. About 1 billion of the 2.2 billion children around the world endure different forms of physical and sexual violence, irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, race, religion or income levels. In 2012 alone, 95,000 children between the ages of 15-19 died as a result of violence.

About 120 million girls around the world (just over one in 10) have been victims of forced sexual intercourse and other sexual assaults at some point in their lives,<sup>1</sup> and this is thought to be vastly under-reported. Statistics from Save the Children are equally grim. Three out of every four children experience violent discipline at home; 85 million children

<sup>1</sup> Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence Against Children. UNICEF Sept. 2014  
[https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Ending\\_Violence\\_Against\\_Children\\_Six\\_strategies\\_for\\_action\\_EN\\_9\\_Oct\\_2014.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Ending_Violence_Against_Children_Six_strategies_for_action_EN_9_Oct_2014.pdf)



(55 million boys and 30 million girls) are involved in hazardous work; over 1 billion children live in countries or territories affected by armed conflict; and almost half of all forcibly displaced persons (24 million in total) globally, are children. Only 52 out of 197 countries have prohibited physical punishment of children in institutional care; and 14% of girls and 7% of boys under 18 years old have experienced sexual violence in institutional care.<sup>2</sup>

Even as the world is gripped by unrelenting threats related to violent extremism and organized crime, how these affect children are not sufficiently appreciated and addressed. Increasingly, important actors involved in violent extremism include vulnerable youth and children—especially in and from underprivileged and conflict-challenged areas. A recent study shows that 40% of all recruits into al Shabaab terror groups were children and youth between the ages of 15-19 years.<sup>3</sup>

In Nigeria, 1.3 million children were displaced in 2015 as a result of violent extremist attacks by Boko Haram, representing a 60% increase from the previous year. In the same year, there were 44 incidents in which children were used in suicide attacks, with girls used in some, as reported by UNICEF. A 2015 report by *Frontline* demonstrates ten-year-old boys being forced to watch videos of extreme violence—beheadings, torture and other gruesome acts—preparing them for eventual “suicide” attacks. ISIS, Boko Haram, al Qaida and other violent extremist groups are intentionally targeting children and adolescents for recruitment, and to carry out attacks in the name of religion.<sup>4</sup>

In Latin America, children and adolescents not only suffer the most from violence attributed to organized crime and gang violence; they also end up being blamed and punished for most of these crimes. In some countries, children as young as 12 can be legally incarcerated. Drug trafficking, glaring inequality, corruption and lack of opportunity have all conspired to drive many young people into gangs, drugs, prostitution and extortion. Forty-three of the 50 most dangerous cities, and 8 of the 10 most dangerous countries in the world, are found in Latin America. With a population of 7% of the global total, Latin American countries account for 30% of all murders worldwide.

In Brazil, one person under the age of 18 is murdered every hour, UNICEF reports. In Mexico, young people account for the highest number of homicides. Some 30,000 children have been forced into organized crime. UNICEF and WHO report that Venezuela ranked among the countries with the highest annual homicide rate for children and adolescents, at 20 homicides per 100,000 children.

In El Salvador, children as young as 10 are forced or persuaded to join the *Mara* gangs. In Colombia, 50% of the total number of people involved in criminal organizations are children. El Salvador, a country of 6.5 million inhabitants, reported 6,500 murders in 2014 alone—a significant number of these victims being children. Similarly high statistics are reported in Guatemala, Honduras, Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico. The consequence of recruitment into gangs and organized crime is extreme violence against children.<sup>5</sup>

Children continue to be victims of sexual violence in the most demeaning and shameful ways in incidences of sexual abuse and exploitation. The statistics on sexual abuse, harassment, rape, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography distributed via the internet and social media are extremely alarming. Indigenous territories have been constant targets of sexual violence, sexual exploitation of girls, forced early pregnancies and other threatening situations for indigenous children.

Child sexual abuse is notoriously under-reported. But based on reported cases only, 1 in 5 girls, and 1 in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse. Twenty percent of adult females and between 5 and 10% of adult males can recall a childhood sexual assault or a sexual abuse incident. Children between the ages of 7 and 13 years old are the most vulnerable. These violations, Interpol has admitted, will never be prosecuted out of existence. An ethical and values-based approach by religious leaders and faith communities is needed to help address the serious challenges children face in this area.

The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum aimed to consolidate and enhance the GNRC’s previous efforts to address violence against children, by focusing on the unique role faith communities can and must play in addressing this crisis. Envisioning the potential of faith communities to turn around this crisis, the theme of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum was “**Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action.**”

### Solution-Focused: Thematic Areas of the Forum

The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum was solution-focused, with participants discussing, recommending for action and making commitments to work together to build a world free of violence against children. GNRC members and faith communities around the world have been taking steps to address this challenge at various

levels. The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum sought to inspire, reinvigorate, and encourage GNRC members and diverse faith communities to take even more action together, as well as to develop concrete partnerships with other stakeholders, to address violence against children. When crafting these action plans to eliminate violence against children, participants were asked to take advantage of the effective tools offered by Arigatou International’s other global initiatives: **Ethics Education for Children, Prayer and Action for Children**, and the **Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty**. It was expected that the Forum would give rise to creative new ways to bring these approaches and resources together in targeted ways to prevent, reduce, and stop recurrence of violence against children.

The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum proceedings were conducted through plenary sessions, panel discussions, expert presentations and reflections on the three key thematic areas, that the Fifth Forum Organizing Committee, chaired by Rev. Mons. Sidney Fones Infante, former Deputy Secretary General of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM), prepared, namely;

1. **Protecting Children from Violent Extremism, Gang Violence and Organized Crime: The Role of Faith Communities;**
2. **Nurturing Spirituality and Ending Violence in Child Upbringing: The Role of Faith Communities;** and
3. **Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children: The Role of Faith Communities**

Under “**Protecting Children from Violent Extremism, Gang Violence and Organized Crime: The Role of Faith Communities,**” Forum participants discussed and framed the role of religious leaders and faith communities in preventing the recruitment and participation of children into radicalized groups for violent extremism, gang violence and organized crime.

<sup>2</sup> The Child Protection Initiative (CPI), Save the Children, 2016-18 Thematic Plan

<sup>3</sup> Report by Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and Finn Church Aid, 2014 on “Radicalization and al-Shabaab recruitment in Somalia”

<sup>4</sup> Violence Against Children in Nigeria: Findings from a National Survey, 2014. Abuja, Nigeria: UNICEF, 2016

<sup>5</sup> Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States, 2015



The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum aimed to share what is already being done in these areas, and to apply Arigatou International's Ethics Education for Children, Prayer and Action for Children, and End Child Poverty initiatives to create new solutions and actions that could be deployed by religious leaders and faith communities around the world to, prevent, reduce and ultimately end the manipulation and use of children for violent extremism, gang violence and organized crime.

Under "**Nurturing Spirituality and Ending Violence in Child Upbringing: The Role of Faith Communities**," participants discussed and recommended ways in which a child's spirituality could be nurtured and promoted, in particular through positive parenting but also by the wider community, to protect them from violence and help them to develop to their full potential. The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum reflected upon and explored the role of faith communities and their leaders in supporting legal reforms to prohibit all forms of physical and humiliating punishment of children, as well as their role in fostering spirituality in children and caregivers, as a way of preventing and mitigating violence. Participants reviewed opportunities to take advantage of the Ethics Education for Children, Prayer and Action for Children, and End Child Poverty initiatives for this purpose.

Under "**Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children: The Role of Faith Communities**," participants focused on and discussed possible partnerships among faith-based organizations and communities and international organizations which address these challenges, as well as considered partnerships among or facilitated by Arigatou International's Ethics Education for Children, Prayer and Action for Children, and End Child Poverty

initiatives. Participants explored the ethical and moral imperative that faith communities not only acknowledge the existence and grave consequences of this vice, but also confront and challenge it within their communities and in the wider society.

### Forum Outcomes

The planners of the Forum specified the main outcomes shown below. This report illustrates the great extent to which these outcomes were achieved.

- a) **Learning and Sharing:** Increased understanding and appreciation of the scale and impact of violence against children as well as enhanced understanding and shared learning about effective methods for preventing, reducing and ending violence against children;
- b) **Shared Commitment and Call to Action:** Commitment to addressing violence against children and adoption of concrete plans of action by faith communities, partners and other stakeholders to prevent and reduce violence against children at the local, national, regional and global levels; a concrete new approach for GNRC members and partners to make the most of the potential synergies among Arigatou International's Ethics Education for Children, Prayer and Action for Children, and End Child Poverty initiatives to address the specific challenges of ending violence against children and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals; the issuing of a Shared Commitment and Call to Action; and

- c) **Building Partnerships to End Violence against Children:** Effective broad-based interreligious partnerships, as well as partnerships between religious and secular stakeholders aimed at ending violence against children by implementing the commitments and actions discussed at the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum.

**The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Panama Declaration on Ending Violence Against Children**, adopted unanimously by all participants, summarizes these outcomes and contains the 10 "Panama Commitments" that, since the Forum, have been guiding the action taken by participants to end violence against children.



## THE GNRC 5<sup>TH</sup> FORUM

**DAY ONE: 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

### FIRST PLENARY: OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony was led by the Interreligious Committee of Panama and chaired by the Rt. Rev. Julio E. Murray, Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Panama, President of the Ecumenical Committee, and Chair, Interreligious Committee of Panama and Chairman, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Hosting Committee. Bishop Murray, who served as the Master of Ceremonies for the session, asked the participants to “turn the Forum over to God, The Enabler of all that we do as humans.” As a special mention, Bishop Murray announced that there were 64 children in attendance at the Forum, representing the voices of other children throughout the world.



Prayers for peace were offered by 10 faith groups that are members of the Interreligious Committee in Panama. Prayers were offered in each of the following religious traditions: Baha'i (Prof. Aurora Carrasco); Buddhism (Ms. Olga Sierra); Episcopal Christianity (Rt. Rev. Julio E. Murray); Greek Orthodox Christianity (His Grace Archbishop Athenagoras Aneste); Indigenous Traditions (Belasario Lopez); Islam (Sheikh Mohammed

El Sayed); Judaism (Rabbi Gustavo Kraselnik); Methodist Christianity (Rev. Pedro Araúz) and Roman Catholic Christianity (Mons. Manuel Valdivieso and Fr. Oscar Martin).

#### Opening Messages

The prayers for peace were followed by remarks and messages from several leaders and dignitaries.



## Remarks by Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President, Arigatou International, and Convenor, Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC)



**Rev. Keishi Miyamoto** was introduced by Bishop Murray, who described him as a genuine spiritual pioneer.

Rev. Miyamoto's full remarks were as follows:

*On behalf of Arigatou International, allow me to start by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for traveling from different parts of the world to Panama for the Fifth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC). We could not have organized this Fifth Forum on such a grand scale without all of your hard work and dedication. Thank you very much.*

*I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Right Reverend Rt. Rev. Julio E. Murray, Monsignor Sidney Fones and all of our fellow religious leaders and GNRC members of the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, and to the members of the International Organizing Committee and the Hosting Committee for their tireless efforts to make this Forum in Panama possible.*

*The Buddha once said, "All people are equally my own children." It follows that there is no distinction between my child and your child. So we have to create a peaceful world for our very own children.*

*The late Reverend Mitsu Miyamoto, Founder of Myochikai, declared in Myochikai's founding declaration, "I resolve to become the base and backbone of the whole world," and devoted herself to building world peace. The late Reverend Takeyasu Miyamoto, Founder of Arigatou International, inaugurated the Global Network of Religions for Children based on his belief that "it is the responsibility of all religious people to join*

*their hands in action for children, regardless of the difference in nationality, ethnicity or religion." He continued to dedicate his whole heart to the work of Arigatou International until his passing in March 2015.*

*In 2000, Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto convened the First Forum of the GNRC in Tokyo, bringing together religious leaders from around the globe. It was confirmed that Arigatou International, called Arigatou Foundation at the time, would work to build a better environment for children, and the GNRC was officially launched at the conclusion of the Forum.*

*After the First Forum, Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto represented the GNRC at the UN General Assembly's Special Session on Children, where he made three commitments. To fulfill these commitments, Arigatou International established three more initiatives, namely, "Ethics Education for Children," "Prayer and Action for Children," and "End Child Poverty," during the next three GNRC forums, which were held every 4 years. At these forums, religious leaders from around the world discussed ways to create a better environment for children and have vigorously worked toward this goal.*

*As you are aware, this Fifth Forum is being held under the urgent theme of stopping violence against children, with commitment to the ideal of eliminating all forms of violence against children. I hope that what we say and do at this Forum will give rise to a global-scale driving force to achieve this goal.*

*I hope that during this Forum, we will be able to strengthen existing partnerships as well as build new ones, not only with religious leaders but also with the United Nations and its agencies and international organizations and NGOs. I believe that building and strengthening partnerships will lead to eliminating violence against children.*

*Looking around the world today, children are facing more and more diverse issues beyond violence. I am striving to carry the torch passed down to me from the late Reverend Takeyasu Miyamoto, and I would like to renew my commitment to building a better environment for children, together with you. I hope I can count on your support in this endeavor.*

*I also want to highlight that many children and young people from Latin American countries and beyond are with us today. I had a chance to speak with the participants of the Forum Pre-meeting for Children, and I asked them to participate in this Forum with full confidence in themselves. This is because I believe that children and young people, as they participate in the initiatives of Arigatou International, will be our hope and driving force in building a world without violence against children. Throughout this Forum, I would like to strengthen the GNRC as a network that encourages action not just for, but with, children. I would like to request all of you to join in actively in the discussions over the next three days.*

*I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my prayer that the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum will yield many fruitful results with the blessings of the divine presence.*

*Thank you very much.*



## Message from H.E. Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, President, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Holy See



The message from **Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran** was presented by His Excellency Bishop Rafael Valdivieso, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Chitre, Panama.

*In the name of this Pontifical Council, the Office of His Holiness, the Pope, for promotion of cordial relations with followers of other religions, I am pleased to convey the greetings and good wishes of Pope Francis to you as well as to all the participants of the Fifth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC), held under the theme: Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action.*

*Pope Francis is happy to learn that the Global Network of Religions for Children together with other faith communities and multilateral institutions are engaged in addressing the challenges facing the children of our time.*

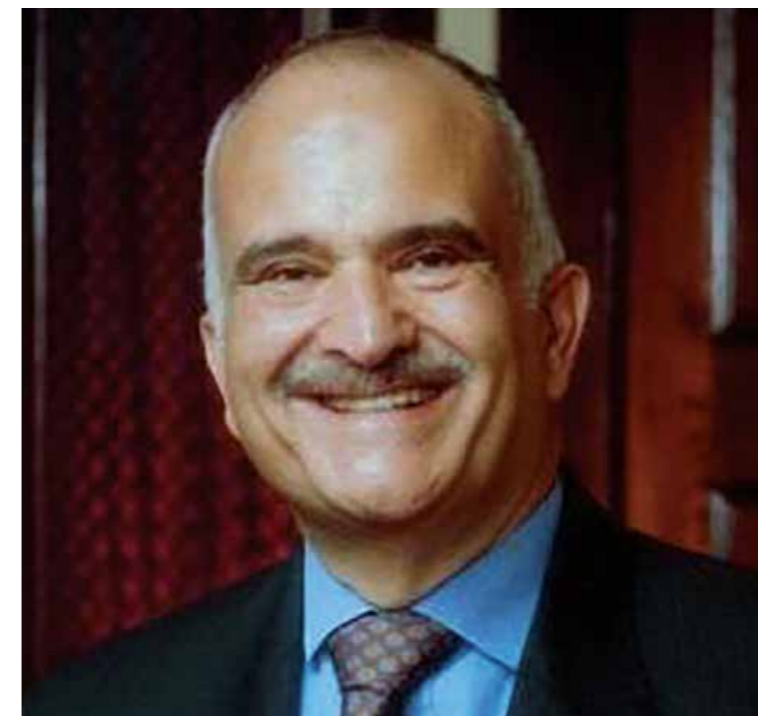
*The Pope affirms that the children are the greatest blessing God has bestowed on men and women. He has also expressed his concern about the sufferings and hardships that many children undergo today. "From the first moments of their lives, many children are rejected, abandoned and robbed of their childhood and future. There are those who dare to say, as if to justify themselves, that it was a mistake to bring these children into the world. This is shameful! Let's not unload our faults onto the children, please! Children are never a 'mistake.' Their hunger is not a mistake, nor is their poverty, their vulnerability, their abandonment—so many children abandoned on the streets—and neither is it their ignorance or their helplessness...so many children don't even know what a school is. If anything, these should be reasons to love them all the more, with greater generosity. How can we make such solemn declarations on human rights and*

*the rights of children, if we then punish children for the errors of adults?" (Pope Francis, General Audience, 8 April 2015).*

*It is heartening to note that leaders and members of diverse religious communities, leaders of faith-based organizations and representatives from international and grassroots organizations have gathered together in Panama City from around the world to discuss and design a plan of action to prevent and eliminate violence against children. Therefore, it is our duty to guide and transform the hearts of our followers to respect the sacredness of human life, especially the lives of children.*

*With these sentiments, and as a pledge of goodwill and friendship, Pope Francis invokes upon all gathered an abundance of divine blessings!*

## Message from H.R.H. Prince El Hassan bin Talal, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



**Prince El Hassan bin Talal**, in a video message, dwelt on violence against children in the Levant region. He emphasized the significance of reconstructing Syria as the epicenter of conflict in the region. He reminded everyone about the humanity of children and the need for organizations to collaborate to address children's issues by looking at their lives in totality—looking at the linkages and nexus among all aspects, e.g. the nexus between food on the one hand and education and health on the other hand. He reported that 14 million children were affected by conflict in Syria and said we must salvage the situation as much as possible by integrating refugee children into educational systems in host countries. In his message, Prince Hassan urged the international community to "Wage Peace Together" to save the Syrian children, whom he feared would be a lost generation if nothing is done. The following is an excerpt from his remarks.



*“Six hundred and twenty five (625) children were killed last year in Syria and this is the first solid figure that we are getting since these figures were recorded by UNICEF starting in 2014. Children who were 15 years old, of course 13 years old only a few years ago, 5 years ago, when this war started are now in their late teens. The question is, have they outrun the conflict? Are they not affected by psychosocial challenges? Are they not affected by the realities that are brought out?”*

*Today we have to talk about a lost generation, but let us try to salvage as much as is humanly possible through the integration of Syrian refugee children into existing educational systems in host countries. Let us try in short to change the world’s attitude and that of our own from moving to thinking and talking to doing on the ground.”*

### Message from Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary, World Council of Churches (WCC)



**Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit**, in a video message, urged faith leaders to help children to grow up to be able to use their gifts for a better world. Below are his full remarks.

*“It is really my privilege as General Secretary of the World Council of Churches to greet all of you as we gather in Panama these days. We are gathered to discuss, how can we prevent and protect children from violence? You are religious leaders, you are representing religious values and communities. Churches are committed to children. And we as WCC want to support our churches in having this focus. We know that many children are suffering from violence. We know that happens in zones of war and armed*

*conflicts. Children most often are those who suffer the most. We also see that in areas of famine and drought. Any other problems we experience as human beings, children experience them and it is even worse for them. We can do a lot together as religious leaders and as religious communities to protect children from violence, and also from violence they experience in their own homes. We should do our best. We should help our children to grow up so that they can use their gifts for the benefit of everybody for a better world.”*

### Message from Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF



**Mr. Anthony Lake** noted that violence occurs in every community and religious leaders are best placed to speak against it. He added that the year 2017 had already witnessed almost one billion girls and boys experiencing physical, sexual or psychosocial violence in conflict zones, schools, at homes and the internet. He called upon the world’s religious and spiritual leaders to come together to end violence against children. The following is an excerpt from his remarks.

*“Through your influence and action, faith leaders can help bring an end to the global epidemic of violence by working with political leaders to develop programs and services to prevent violence and support children who have been victimized; by telling parents and caregivers that when they hit a child they are hurting more than that child’s feelings, they are harming her future because violence has a lasting impact on a child’s developing brain, and by reminding your communities that violence must never be considered normal, it is an aberration, a huge hindrance to humanity’s progress.”*



## Remarks by Rev. Mons. Sidney Fones, Chair, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee



**Rev. Mons. Sidney Fones** focused on the essential role of the family in early childhood development. He stated, "In order to develop, human beings need a much longer early period of safe, stable bonding than any other species; and this is the family. Whatever assists the family, assists the child."

He reiterated that the Fifth Forum would explore two key areas: acknowledging the countless children who suffer due to violence, and defining the role of religious communities in ending violence against children. He added that religious leaders have a moral duty to protect their communities from violence by offering spiritual and social guidance. The following is an excerpt from his remarks.

*"The Fifth Forum seeks to make us reflect and dialogue among ourselves on the painful reality which abused children face across the world. The Forum also offers a platform for participants to share their experiences and practices in relation to the theme, "Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action."*

## Official Opening Address by H.E. Juan Carlos Varela, President, Republic of Panama



It was a privilege for Forum participants to hear from **President Juan Carlos Varela of the Republic of Panama**. President Varela emphasized the central place of children, noting that protecting them from all forms of violence was not only a noble cause but an urgent one. He described child protection as a "survival task" in that "without children, we will have no tomorrow."

President Varela lamented the level of violence against children, the impact of which on society as a whole he described as irreparable.

He attributed violence against children to societal negligence and said that to solve it, governments, civil society organizations, religious leaders and communities must all work together. President Varela's remarks were highlighted by the following inspiring commitment.

*"My government is committed to participating with all governments and faith-based religious leaders and communities in the fight to end violence against children. Panama will give its best for the world."*



## SECOND PLENARY: KEYNOTE ADDRESSES



The second plenary comprised keynote addresses on the theme and sub-themes of the Forum. The plenary was co-chaired by **Rabbi Diana Gerson**, Program Director, New York Board of Rabbis, and **Prof. Anantanand Rambachan**, Professor of Religion, Philosophy and Asian Studies, Saint Olaf College.

To re-emphasize the goal of the Forum and children's place in the world, Rabbi Gerson quoted the former US president, Abraham Lincoln, who said, "No man stands so tall, as when he stoops to help a child."

### Opening Keynote Address by Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

In her keynote address entitled, "The State of the World's Children," **Ms. Marta Santos Pais** pointed out that non-violence is a value shared by all religions. She decried the fact that for too many children life is described not as a dream but as a nightmare. Quoting Pope Francis, she described violence against children as "a plague, a hidden scream that should be heard by all of us"<sup>6</sup> and stressed that we must break this invisibility.

Ms. Santos Pais noted the opportunity to accelerate progress towards ending violence provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: in particular SDG target 16.2 which calls for an end to all forms of violence against children, as well as the targets on child trafficking, child labour



and child marriage, and promoting safe and non-violent schools and peaceful communities. She stressed that the commitment of religious leaders and communities will be vital to making progress towards the SDGs.

Emphasizing the important role religious leaders play in bringing an end to violence against children, Ms. Santos Pais said, "they command extraordinary moral authority. They serve as role models of compassion, solidarity and justice, helping to bridge differences, foster dialogue, and influence positive social and behavioral change. They can help promote respect for the principle that no religious teaching or tradition justifies any form of violence against children."

Ms. Santos Pais also stressed how religious leaders and communities can "raise awareness of the impact of violence on children and work actively to change attitudes and practices; ensure respect for the human dignity of the child and promote positive examples from religious texts that can help bring an end to the use of violence against children; sensitize children about their rights and promoting non-violent forms of discipline and education; and strengthen the sense of responsibility towards children amongst religious and community leaders, parents and teachers."

In her closing remarks Ms. Santos Pais noted the crucial importance of listening to children and ensuring their participation, "As children powerfully remind us, we must bridge the gap between commitments and action; the world needs to be filled with empathy and a shared sense of responsibility for children's care and protection. With your strong support, and partnering with young people, children's dream of a world free from fear and from violence can become a reality!"

<sup>6</sup> [http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/story/2017-03-18\\_1541](http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/story/2017-03-18_1541)



## Keynote Address by Children



The 64 children participating in the Forum from around the world selected Ms. Stella Odong from Uganda and Mr. Marcos Jaffe from Panama to represent them at the opening plenary. The two young speakers reminded all the participants that children are not only the future, but also the present, and as such need full protection and care. They spoke of forced marriage as a type of violence against girls which causes them to lose their dignity, with every likelihood to face domestic violence inside their so called “homes.” “Sexual violence causes me terrible dread,” declared Marcos Jaffe.

They talked about the selling of drugs within schools. Stella said she felt saddened by the fact that children are rarely heard, and their opinions ignored, especially for girls who suffer the most in the event of violence. “We have many things to say, so I’d like to ask you to hear us, so you will understand the things happening to us and stop them,” said Stella.

The children noted that bullying and sexual exploitation were the most widespread forms of violence against children globally, while in Latin America and the Caribbean, recruiting children into organized crime was more rampant. They observed that recruitment of children into violent extremism posed the greatest challenge in the Middle East. They recommended the passage and enforcement of relevant laws and greater engagement of religious leaders to make sure violence is stopped so they could live in peace and harmony. The children asked to be treated as human beings who have their rights protected. To them, “Loving one’s neighbor” and saving one life is equivalent to saving all humanity. Marcos Jaffe said that one of the best things he could do in the world is to follow his faith and help the children of the world.

Stella’s symbolic gesture—getting down on her knees, and begging the participants on behalf of all the children of the world to stop violence against children—moved many in the audience to tears.

*“The thing that has impacted me the most is the physical and emotional violence against children. For example, girls that are forced to marry. Child marriage affects children both in physical and emotional ways, and this impacts their lives, feelings and dignity. Most of the girls drop out of school because their parents forced them to marry, to get money. For instance in Uganda, more especially in my own village, out of 10 girls, 8 are married, and this means that just 2 stay in school. The girls don’t study, they don’t work and they don’t have money to buy food and clothes. Many of their husbands are drunkards and many girls experience domestic violence in their own houses.”*

Stella Odong, child participant from Uganda.

*“Something that was horrible to know was about the use and exploitation of children for the sale of drugs within schools and other forms of abuse and exploitation of minors. The sexual violence against children causes me terrible dread; because for us this violence can include and in turn, it is a door that can lead to all the possible types of violence: physical, emotional and sexual. Sexual violence is one of the types of abuse that occurs in all parts of the world and is depicted in various forms such as child marriage, trafficking in persons, child pornography and sexual exploitation that people mistakenly call child prostitution.”*

Marcos Jaffe, child participant from Panama.

## Keynote Address by H.E. Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras



**H.E. Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga’s** address was entitled “The Role of Faith Communities in Ending Violence Against Children.” Cardinal Maradiaga revisited Mons. Fones’ emphasis on the importance of the family in protecting children from all forms of violence. He



also put emphasis on the role of education not just in stopping violence, but achieving the ultimate goal of “well-being,” “resiliency,” “a life that has meaning.” Calling for safe schools, he recommended the promotion of education that equips children with the resilience to rise above violence and even trauma. He asked the participants to give children emotional support, help them to gradually increase their capacity to face and learn from problems and mistakes, make their own mistakes, help them to feel and express their emotions, and more importantly educate them by example, especially about appreciating diversity, and encouraging them with optimism, bringing out the virtues people have so they can overcome evil, because love overcomes evil.

He reminded all present that, “children have a special place in the heart of God.” He offered tips for building resilience in children, shown below.

**Tips for Building Resilience in Children:**

- **Give the little ones emotional support**  
*Having people you can trust, support and want is critical to developing the strength needed to deal with adverse situations*
- **Let them deal with problems and mistakes**  
*To rescue them from these “small” adverse situations does not allow them to learn strategies of resolution and coping and to maintain control in the face of stress. Instead, let them learn to see problems as challenges that they can solve, and not as threats*
- **Let them slowly make decisions. In this way they develop the capacity to decide appropriately in adulthood**
- **Help them recognize the emotions they feel, and let them feel them**  
*Show them positive and constructive ways of expressing these emotions. Emotions are natural for people, they should not see them as negative; help them know emotions, help them control them. And serve as an example. In the face of adverse situations, it is important that you transmit to them a positive and reconstructive*

Cardinal Maradiaga referred to one of the Church’s documents, saying that “Welcoming children, for they will inherit the kingdom of God,” emphasizes among other things the important role of prayer and parents’ role in passing on spirituality to children. “We are all sons and daughters of the same God; we are called to be brothers and sisters—the path is dialogue,” he concluded.

During the Question & Answer time that followed the keynote addresses, a child from Honduras asked for assurance from Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga that the church would not support draft legislation in that country to increase punishment of minors, as scapegoats for crime. The Cardinal offered a definitive response, “By no means.”

**Rabbi Gerson** concluded the session by pointing out the importance of including courses on child rights in religious education as a step towards ending child violence.



*way of reacting. You will teach them by your example that it is possible to overcome these situations*

- **Help them find, nurture and develop their strengths**  
*All people have strengths, and being able to develop them is the basis of each person’s unique strength. Educate them in optimism and help them see the value of the positive*
- **Look for the good things of each day, the positive of the problems, etc**
- **Help them to believe in themselves and to have a healthy self-esteem**
- **Love them for who they are and not for what they do**
- **Develop their responsibility by giving them homework. It will teach them how much they can contribute and make them see how, although they are not responsible for everything that happens, they are for their actions, what they do in response to events**
- **Create a communication climate where you feel comfortable. Use words and help them use words**

H.E. Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras.



## THIRD PLENARY: SPECIAL SESSION ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



The special panel on *Partnerships to End Violence Against Children—Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action* was moderated by **Mr. Kul Gautam**, Chair, Prayer and Action for Children, and Former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations.

Mr. Gautam was introduced by Rt. Rev. Julio E. Murray. In his introduction to the panel, he decried the failure to eradicate violence against children, stating that the violence is so pervasive and pernicious that it is more difficult to fight than other challenges such as child health issues. He maintained that world leaders had found it easier to address health issues than violence because, with health, the “enemies” were simpler to single out, “bacteria.” He encouraged all present to look within and be accountable for ending violence against children.

### Introductory Remarks

**Dr. Susan Bissell**, Director, Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children, offered the introductory remarks at the session. Dr. Bissell focused on partnerships to end violence against children, especially the potential roles that faith communities can play by partnering with governments, UN agencies and other civil society organizations. She described the work of the recently launched initiative, the Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children, and how it is already working with faith-based and other actors to address violence against children.

Dr. Bissell described violence against children as an epidemic that had made the world too violent for children to live in.

She described the family as the most important place for child safety, which must offer a peaceful and safe sanctuary to every child. Other key points she made included:

- While parents sometimes leave their children in search of a livelihood, most of them around the world love their children and want to do what’s best for them.
- All children need a one-to-one relationship with a caregiver who loves and understands them.
- Small hearts can be broken in early childhood, leading to a cycle of poverty and broken families.
- “Happy family” can be a myth that abusers hide behind, because children are most likely to experience sexual violence not at the hands of a stranger, but rather at the hands of a family member, or someone close to the family.
- Neglected children suffer from “Toxic Stress.”

In regards to the above, Dr. Bissell called for greater support to help families to remain whole, while also helping them acquire parenting skills and access social protection in the form of financial assistance to alleviate poverty.

As to what faith communities can do, she proposed the following:

- Help keep families together.
- Encourage non-violent upbringing of children, especially children with disabilities who are twice as likely to be abused.
- Call upon leaders to address digitalization, which despite serving useful purposes, has distanced children from face-to-face interaction with parents.
- End violence against children by pressing for political will, sustainability of efforts, and stronger collaboration.





*“Reach out to parents and caregivers and help them to ‘communicate’ with their children. We are in crisis mode here, ladies and gentlemen. Our world is increasingly digitized or ‘online.’ That is an amazing development and a sign of progress. Our increasingly digital world is specifically referenced in the new Sustainable Development Goals, in the Agenda 2030, which you have already heard about. In that same universal agenda there are specific references to ending violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect, trafficking, torture, child marriage, FGM/C and child labour.”*

Dr. Susan Bissell, Director, Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children.

### Panel Discussion: “Partnerships to End Violence Against Children”

After the introductory remarks by Dr. Bissell, there was a panel discussion featuring:

- **Mr. Ted Chaiban**, Director, Programme Division, UNICEF, New York
- **Rev. Adam Russell Taylor**, Lead, Faith-Based Initiative, World Bank Group
- **Dr. Kezevino Aram**, Co-Moderator, *Religions for Peace* International, President, Shanti Ashram, India, President, Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children
- **Rev. Hidehito Okochi**, Chief Priest, Kenji-in Temple and Juko-in Temple
- Children’s Representatives: **Ms. Sara Dayana Ariza** and **Mr. Siranjeevi Rangaraj**

#### Mr. Ted Chaiban



**Mr. Ted Chaiban** highlighted some of the successes UNICEF had realized in the past by partnering with faith communities to address

violence against children in different parts of the world. He mentioned a guide developed to promote Christian-Muslim relationship in Egypt. This guide is founded on the pillars of peace and love and is currently used throughout the Middle East. He added that, together with *Religions for Peace*, a second set of Guidelines aimed at protecting children from online sexual abuse would be launched very soon.

Other countries where UNICEF is working with faith communities to protect and support children include: Barbados, where religious leaders have been supported to develop a protocol to prevent and report violence against children; Nigeria, where faith leaders are working to reintegrate women and girl victims of abductions by extremists, so far reintegrating more than 2,000 women and girls; and Cambodia, where UNICEF is working with Buddhist faith leaders on issues of child protection.

Mr. Chaiban stated that faith communities could do the following to end violence against children:

- Call on all members of society to no longer tolerate violence against children; break the silence and report violence.
- As religious leaders, challenge the harmful norms that condone physical violence and corporal punishment against children; teach by modeling and by raising awareness about the harm such punishment causes children.
- Join the prayer and action for children movement, and support the #EndViolenceAgainstChildren campaign.

- Call on all governments to use social welfare, juvenile justice and other systems to work with faith communities to address violence against children.
- “Shine a light, take an action, make a difference.”

In his closing comments, Mr. Chaiban stressed the need for the Forum to capture the recommendations from the children, and for the GNRC, UNICEF, religious leaders and others to continue to listen to children and engage with them continuously, speaking out on every issue of violence against children so that nothing remains hidden. He urged all to be the change they would want to see, exemplified in their own personal behavior—the way each person acts and works. Additionally, he asked that the children at the Forum be empowered to continue to work with partners, going from words to action.

#### Rev. Adam Russell Taylor



**Rev. Adam Russell Taylor’s** comments focused on what he termed the World Bank’s two ambitious, but achievable goals: to end

extreme poverty globally by 2030, and to promote shared prosperity in every country. He noted how these goals clearly involve Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 (SDG 16.2), which focuses on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

Rev. Taylor expressed the conviction that only a social movement could end violence against children, insisting that faith and religion should be at the center of this effort. Citing the global commitment made by the World Bank to reduce inequality among the bottom 40% of countries in the world poverty index, he reported that today 60 out of a total of 83 countries had reduced inequality. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, inequality had been reduced by 50%. Rev. Taylor noted that when people are poor, they feel polarized and marginalized, suffering a constant feeling of powerlessness.



He stated that he saw poverty as a cause and consequence of violence and suggested, among other measures, social protection, increasing resilience and focusing more on early childhood development as some of the actions that the World Bank could take in cooperation with faith communities to end

extreme poverty, thereby enabling the World Bank to achieve its goals.

Rev. Taylor concluded with a call to enlist victim/survivors to be part of the solution to ending violence against children, and for all present to strive to strengthen the movement to fight violence against children.

#### Dr. Kezevino Aram



whole human family," Dr. Aram emphasized the central role of the family as the place where human bonds are formed; quoting Mahatma Gandhi, who said, "Faith does not admit of telling alone." She further added that religious leaders must commit to awareness-building to protect and reclaim open spaces for trusting cooperation in cohesive communities, which must go beyond information provision to touching the heart, leading to action of the heart, soul and hands (conscientization). She asked of adults to take the time to 'unlearn' and really listen and learn from children. She stated that it was not lost on her that to succeed in ending violence against children, long-term investment is required, since it takes a huge leap of faith and commitment to work with children for decades.

Dr. Kezevino Aram, citing other SDG targets that include an end to violence against women and girls (SDG 5.2 and 5.3), keeping children safe in schools and communities, and promoting peace and non-violence (SDG 4.a, 4.7, 11.2 and 11.7), suggested various practical means and actions to achieve these SDGs. These included making use of the community in which children live such that the community becomes a space and source for providing resources. Noting that all religious traditions have a vision of "the

Dr. Aram fielded a question from a participant named Jimmy, who asked about young people's decreasing participation in religion, which is making them hard to reach and engage. She said that young people hold a mirror up to adults, and that adults should not shy away from what they see, but speak out and speak up. She urged religious leaders to be role models and to find newer tools to reach out to children while equipping and empowering them to learn to work together.

#### Rev. Hidehito Okochi



suffering from cancer and much anxiety, yet their voices go unheard, as the government declares the radiation under control. He viewed this as a form of "structural violence," saying that, in his view, everything is interconnected.

Rev. Okochi decried the rampant levels of discrimination, prejudice, and sexual exploitation, which he said were also avoided topics in social discussion. "The pre-eminence of economic growth as society's main value represents the death of religion," he noted.

Citing a Bangkok meeting in April 2017, which stressed that consideration for the anxieties and suffering of the victims was critical, Rev. Okochi asked for the silent voices of child victims to be heard, and also said more work was needed to understand what makes some parents abuse children.

He concluded by urging religious leaders to show forth the power of sacred teachings and faith, and proposed a greater involvement of children as a solution to ending violence against children.

Rev. Hidehito Okochi, shared his perspectives about the issues of violence against children from his position as a Buddhist Priest. He emphasized the importance of social involvement to address the challenge of violence against children. Rev. Okochi observed that the Fukushima explosion in Japan had led to the suffering of children, many of whom are

#### Children's Representatives

The children participating in the Forum were represented on the panel by Ms. Sara Dayana Ariza from Colombia and Mr. Siranjeevi Rangaraj from India. They presented some recommendations to religious leaders, faith communities and the international community that have potential to end violence against children.

Their recommendations included: provision of safe space for victims to live and to share

their experiences; formulation of strict laws that protect children from violence at all levels; spreading awareness about the value of empathy and ethics in education; education of parents on how violence harms and damages children's future; support for child victims to overcome trauma and violence; partnerships with police and law enforcement agencies to help abused children; and assistance for children who suffer in the streets to get education and learn ethical values.





The children offered three compelling messages that had emerged from the children pre-meeting:

“We kneel down and beg you to please stop violence against us.”

“Be attentive and listen whenever children need you to... what may be little to you may be a lot to us.”

“We are a seed, please take care of the seed. It is not a dream, it is a plan.”

Ms. Sara Dayana attributed children’s self-harm to feelings of insecurity and having no one to talk to, saying this can also lead to suicide or violence. Mr. Rangaraj remarked that teaching children early enough can become a remedy to foster children’s resilience against involvement in violent acts.

Dr. Bissell summed up the panel discussion by urging all participants to focus on steps they could take to make themselves accountable

and take ownership of the commitments being made at the Forum. She called for “collaboration at an unprecedented level,” further urging the participants to translate moral indignation into action.

The session chair, Mr. Gautam, concluded the session by challenging the participants to together start a movement to end violence against children.

### PARALLEL SESSIONS: REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS

The focus of the regional working groups was aligned with the Forum’s three sub-themes. The regional working groups each met twice during the Forum. The goals of these sessions were:

- Enhanced networking among GNRC Members
- Deeper understanding of the situation of violence against children in each region
- Identification of priorities for protection of children from violence in each region

- Defining of methods and strategies to address the diverse forms of violence
- Development of simple plans of action

The regional discussions were facilitated by the following persons:

1. Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms. Mercedes Roman and Ms. Lizia Lu
2. Europe: Ms. Ismeta Begić and Ms. Laura Molnar

3. Africa: Sr. Agatha Chikelue and Sheikh Ramadhan Aula
4. Asia: Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne and Dr. Chintamani Yogi
5. Middle East Group 1: Fr. Abdo Raad
6. Middle East Group 2: Ms. Dorit Shippin

The discussions at the Forum were the foundation for the development of specific regional action plans, which can be seen in Appendix VI of this report.

### Regional Working Group Discussions

#### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Children in the Latin America and the Caribbean region suffer all forms of violence, the most rampant being gang violence, sexual abuse and exploitation, and corporal punishment in learning institutions. In collaboration with other stakeholders, GNRC members proposed to address the violence by strengthening capacities through knowledge

management and sharing, training on spirituality and prevention of violence, creation of a platform for sharing, mapping of current resources, and competency development through participation in forums, seminars, workshops. **(See Appendix VI for more details on the regional action plan.)**





MIDDLE EAST



The Middle East is one of the most conflictual regions in the world today. Participants from this geographical region met in two separate groups to discuss the issues most relevant to them.

The enduring conflict in the Middle East has led to the emergence of terrorist groups, discrimination, prejudices, and other forms of violence against adults and children. Lack of official statistics on the different forms of violence against children across the region was noted. Violence against children in the region was attributed to factors such as high poverty levels in communities and high illiteracy levels among parents and grandparents.

Participants proposed identifying moderate religious reference-people from each religion to work with to address the various forms of violence, including violent child up-bringing,

sexual abuse and exploitation, violence leading to child poverty, physical and psychological abuse in schools, and radicalization and violent extremism among children and youth.

Participants also proposed to seek partnerships with private companies and business people to empower the poor, among other strategies.

GNRC members from Israel proposed scaling up the Massa~Massar "The Journey" peace education program, which provides young people with an opportunity to meet and develop trusting relationships. This interfaith program invites Jewish, Christian and Muslim Israelis, aged 15-17 years, on a six-day journey of discovery, both of their own national, religious and spiritual identity, and the identity of other groups. **(See Appendix VI for more details on the regional action plan.)**

AFRICA



The participants identified many forms of violence against children in the region, including sexual abuse and exploitation, harmful traditional practices, corporal punishment, recruitment and enlisting of children and youth into violent extremism, and poverty itself as a form of violence. The team proposed to build

the capacity of religious leaders, parents and teachers to address these various forms of violence and to mobilize resources. They also proposed to engage children through arts and sports. **(See Appendix VI for more details on the regional action plan.)**

EUROPE

The European participants, facilitated by Ms. Laura Molnar and Ms. Ismeta Begić, performed a prior contextual analysis of violence against children, which revealed that more than 1 million people arrived on Europe's shores in 2015 as a result of conflicts and other causes. Twenty percent of parents admit that corporal punishment is a way to educate children. The causes identified include lack of information and education, alcoholism and drug abuse, and the lack of role models in parents. Other

causes are poverty, organized crime, and cultural traditions and attitudes.

In Serbia, for instance, among cases of violence against children registered at the centers for social work, 44.3% are cases of neglect in the family, physical violence 27.2%, psychological abuse 23.0%, and sexual abuse 1.8%. In all Eastern European countries, parents are emigrating to Western Europe for better jobs, leaving their children with relatives or





in social centers. Most of those children have serious emotional problems, leading to a high suicide rate.

Children with disabilities or developmental disabilities are also exposed to a high risk of domestic violence. Sexual exploitation and abuse of children, early marriage and pregnancies, gender-based violence and discrimination, and cyber bullying were also found to be common. For instance the game

“blue whales” played by children in Russia has led several teenagers to commit suicide.

The members proposed to work with experts and partners to conduct trainings on non-discrimination to help reintegrate migrants and to train journalists on proper reporting on this topic. They also agreed to tackle the other forms of violence against children using targeted methods. **(See Appendix VI for more details on the regional action plan.)**



#### ASIA

Participants from the Asia region observed that various forms of violence against children cut across the region. They saw violence as a product of poverty, naming forms such as corporal punishment at home, child sexual abuse, bullying, neglect and child labor. The participants proposed to carry out health-promotion activities such as immunization, provision of books and school uniforms/clothes, and holding Ethics Education sessions for children and training teachers on the same. They also proposed to promote greater community and parent engagement with children. Such activities are to target students from less-privileged backgrounds like the slum areas, low income families, private school children and Madrasah students.

*Chaupadi Pratha*, which can be translated as “menstruation taboo,” has led many young girls

and women to suffer social restrictions during their menstrual cycle. Members proposed to fight for policy legislation and enforcement of laws to protect girls and women. Awareness campaigns, networking, social mobilization and health and education support were some of other measures proposed.

Among other things, they also proposed continuous peace education sessions as part of formation for teachers, parents and children.

They noted that cyber bullying, as well as addiction to pornography, video games and social media, are emerging and growing into different forms of violence against children in the world today. Members proposed to educate children and teachers on internet safety and cyber security. **(See Appendix VI for more details on the regional action plan.)**



## WELCOME DINNER

The Welcome Dinner, hosted by Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President, Arigatou International, was graced with the attendance of **H.E. Lorena Castillo de Varela**, First Lady of Panama. She spoke passionately about violence against children, condemning the high levels of discrimination that refugee children experience in host countries. The First Lady lauded the GNRC for organizing and bringing together faith leaders and other key stakeholders to jointly discuss the vital issue of children's security. She called for equal treatment of children irrespective of social status, race, religion or any other differentiation. She emphasized the power of love in children's upbringing and treatment, stressing that "love conquers all."



ARIGATOU  
INTERNATIONAL | GNRC  
for Children

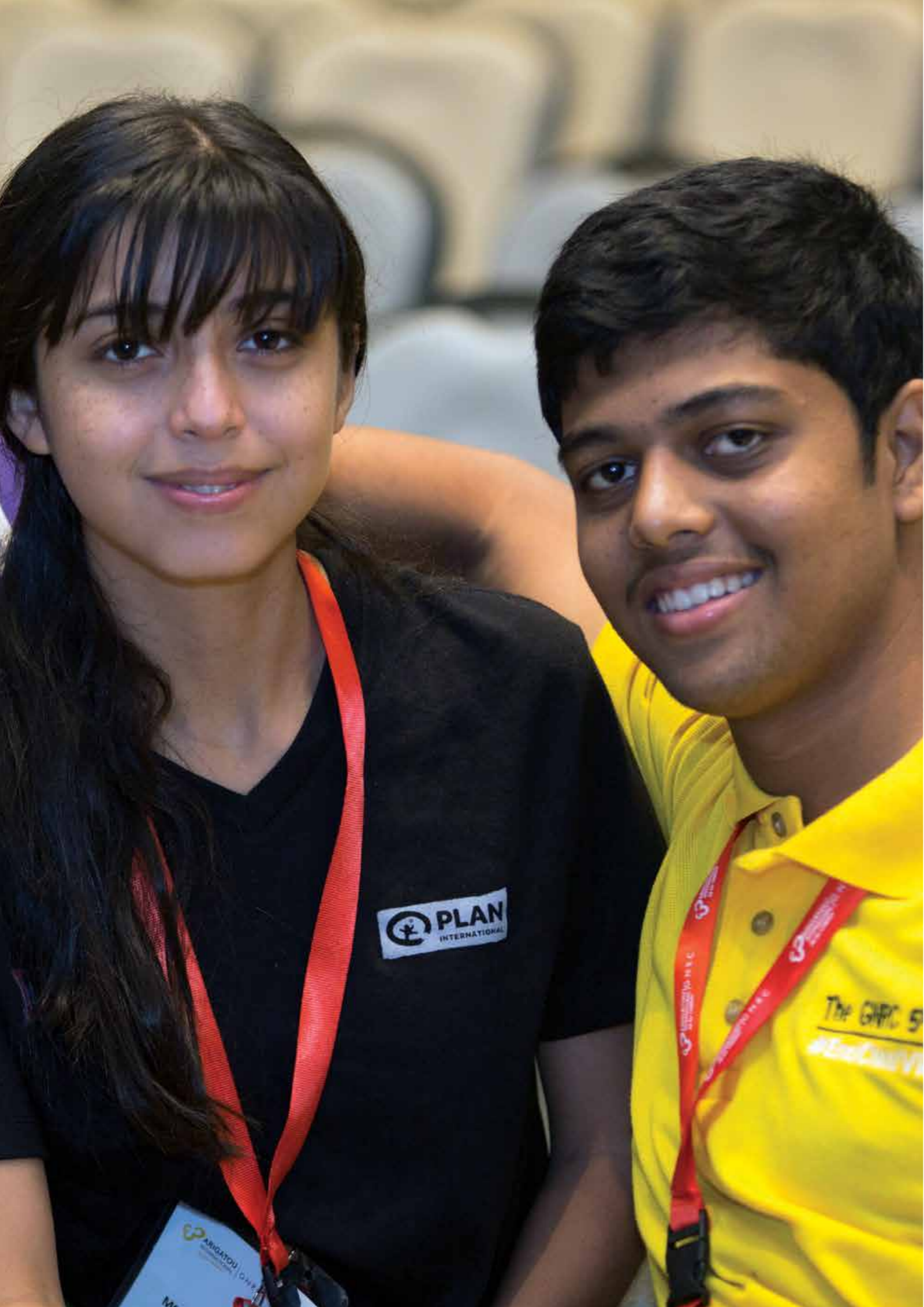
st Children: Faith Communities in Action

Panam  
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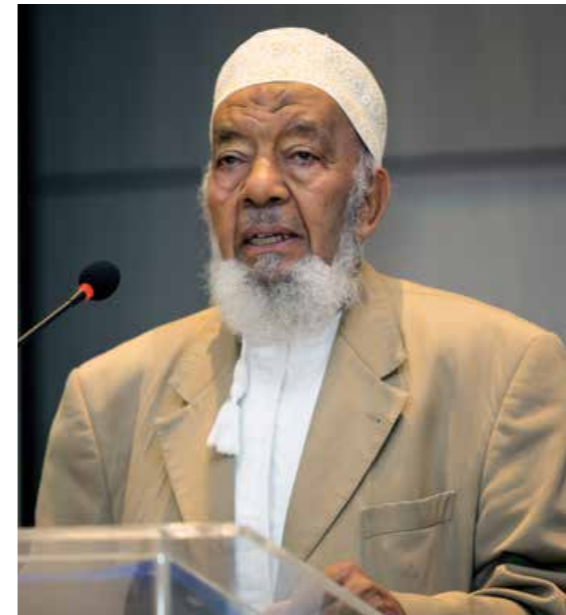




## DAY TWO: 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017

### FOURTH PLENARY: THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS

Rt. Rev. Julio E. Murray introduced the session co-chairs, Prof. El Busaidy, Chairman, Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims, and Ms. Marie Dennis, Co-President, Pax Christi International.



Co-chairs Prof. El Busaidy and Ms. Marie Dennis introduced the session, outlining the three thematic keynotes. Each keynote address was preceded by a children's presentation on that theme.

#### Keynote Address on Sub-theme 1: "Protecting Children from Violent Extremism, Gang Violence and Organized Crime: The Role of Faith Communities"

The children said that their presentation, which started with a song, aimed to make participants understand that children need love more than material things to be happy, and a support system in order to grow. They defined happiness as being loved and loving others.

feel a sense of accomplishment. They added that young people are in their formative years and violence against them has terrible permanent, lifelong impacts. The children cited violence at home and "lack of God and spirituality in the home" as key factors that lead to a culture of violence among children.

**Mr. Mohammed Yusuph** from Tanzania and **Ms. Raquel Sherman** from Panama, who spoke on behalf of the children, said they were appalled that children were forced to kill others to gain gang membership, saying such children often felt the lack of a better way to

**Fr. Juan Luis Carbajal Tejada**, Executive Secretary, Pastoral de Movilidad Humana, from the Episcopal Conference of Guatemala, delivered the thematic keynote address on the first theme. Fr. Carbajal Tejada's speech focused on the suffering of boys and girls in





the Latin American and Caribbean region, who he said are far too often being trafficked, and are crying out for justice. Fr. Carbajal Tejada said that pain in children leads them toward

violent extremism. He stressed that violence must never be used as an excuse for committing more violence, and called for a reform of prisons and the youth experience inside them.

*“At this stage of humanity, we should not boast of having the best armies and weapons; but the best examples of peace, solidarity and justice. At this stage of humanity, religious principles must bond and weave together a colorful and diverse texture.”*

*“He who sows violence, condemns it and at the same time pretends to justify it, does nothing more than deceive himself and carry upon himself the moral responsibility of the immense damage done to innocent people.”*

Fr. Juan Luis Carbajal Tejada, Executive Secretary, Pastoral de Movilidad Humana.

### Keynote Address on Sub-theme 2: “Nurturing Spirituality and Ending Violence in Child Upbringing: The Role of Faith Communities”

Led by **Mr. Saul Orefice** from Panama and **Ms. Patricia Cortez** from El Salvador, the children opened the session with a dramatization of a scenario on “Decisions,” depicting domestic violence in the home, characterized by lack of family support for kids to go to school. The dramatic scenes they presented included a child forced into child labor, becoming isolated

from healthy friends, and seeing his sister become a drug addict. Timely intervention helped the father to recover from alcoholism and allowed the boy, but not the sister, to go to school. Later the boy helps his sister to get into a drug rehabilitation center. The children then summarized the presentation by saying “we are all one, do not be silent, and let our

voices be heard.” Children need associations and institutions to protect their rights, they said. They offered to teach adults how “To always be happy for no reason; to be busy with something; and to know how to ask for what you want. We are shining lights, we light up everywhere we go.”

**H.G. Dr. Barry Morgan**, former Archbishop of Wales, emphasized the importance of nurturing spirituality in children in all settings as a means of addressing violence against children. He reminded participants of the numerical strength of people of good will, the shared principles of compassion, justice and love, and the inherent belief in the dignity of each person, which render religion a powerful force for carrying out good. He also noted that

religious people had failed and must confess their own shortcomings and ask for forgiveness. “God knows what it is like to be a child. God himself became a helpless baby, dependent on the care of others. God used children to teach adults how to behave.” Similarly, he quoted the Quran, “He was weak like us, with tears and smiles.”

H.G. Dr. Morgan recited part of a Gibran poem: “Speak to us, of children... your children are not your children; they come through you, but not from you, and though they are with you, they belong not to you, you may give them your love, but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts; you can seek to be like them, but seek not to make them be like you.”

*“As adults, we can learn from children and enable ways in which their strengths and gifts can contribute to both churches and wider society. We need to listen to them, enter into dialogue with them, for they too matter as children are made in God’s image. We therefore need to celebrate the gifts we receive through them. To listen is to respect them and by implication, it teaches them to respect others. Listening too is a means of resolving conflict and finding solutions.”*

H.G. Dr. Barry Morgan, former Archbishop of Wales.





### Keynote Address on Sub-theme 3: "Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children: The Role of Faith Communities"



The children's representatives **Ms. Mariam Duque** from Panama and **Mr. Aly Kadoura** from Panama said they perceived sexual violence as the worst form of violence against children. They cited a lack of education on ways children could protect themselves, a lack of support for victims, and a lack of communication between parents and children as the major contributing factors.

**Dr. Alaa Murabit**, UN High-level Commissioner on Health, Employment and Economic Growth, was the keynote speaker. She stated that religious communities have too often refused to lead and be accountable on this issue. She noted that, historically, very few in the international community have stood up vocally against sexual abuse and exploitation of children, observing that it has always been tolerated, with various justifications, new tolerated "causes" such as migration. She pointed out that religious communities have social, economic, and political influence

they must use, not just staying within their own congregations.

Dr. Murabit cited a broader cause of sexual violence: patriarchal societies delegitimizing women and girls. She emphasized the need to have places of worship become truly places of solace, safety and comfort, and gave the following specific recommendations for religious institutions and communities:

- Set an example regarding treatment/ leadership positions of women; faith communities must stand for equal education/employment for girls
- Be courageous and speak about these topics at worship services and offer support
- Use places of worship as community resources, lend these as safe spaces to victims/survivors at their most vulnerable times
- Influence media coverage of this issue, for instance disallow use of terms such



- as "child prostitution" because children do not know neither understand what is happening to them
  - Create mechanisms that help faith communities to be transparent on this issue, as well as mechanisms of consequences for those who conceal/hide or do not demonstrate their responsibility; make progress measurable
  - Use existing structures/programs such as organizations like the Malala Fund that champion education of girls
  - Make religious-source grant funding conditional on proven support for/safety for children
  - Join together to create political leverage; for example, demanding a new High Commissioner on Child Safety and Protection
- Finally, she urged each person to individually own their responsibility and be accountable for their personal influence.

## PARALLEL SESSIONS: THEMATIC PANEL DISCUSSIONS

### SUB-THEME 1 — Protecting Children from Violent Extremism, Gang Violence and Organized Crime: The Role of Faith Communities

#### Session Moderators

1. **Dr. Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño**, Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
2. **Imam Dr. Rashied Omar**, Research Scholar of Islamic Studies and Peace Building, University of Notre Dame, Coordinating Imam, Claremont Main Road Mosque, Cape Town, South Africa





**Panelists**

1. **Mr. Antti Pentikäinen**, Executive Director, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (NRTP)
2. **Dr. Amr Abdalla**, Senior Advisor on the Reform of Education in Muslim Societies Project, International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), Washington, D.C
3. **Dr. William Vendley**, Secretary General, *Religions for Peace* International
4. **Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi**, Director, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
5. Children's Representatives – **Mr. Mohammed Yusuph** and **Ms. Raquel Sherman**
6. **Ms. Janet Arach**, Member, GNRC–Uganda, Youth Representative



**Mr. Antti Pentikäinen** reflected upon the state of violence against children in the world today, characterized by over 1 billion children living in countries or territories affected by armed conflict, over 10 million children having been forcibly displaced from the comfort of their homes—with the Middle East, North and the Horn of Africa being some of the worst affected regions in the world—and children as young as 8 having been recruited to join violent extremist groups. In light of this, he maintained that “we have failed,” as faith communities, governments, international organizations and CSOs, to prevent this situation.

He urged faith communities, governments, international organizations and civil society organizations to work together to address the situation and nurture the hope that our children will one day live in peace, in a world free of violence. Saying, “God is watching,” Mr. Pentikäinen asked all present to be committed to the common purpose and advocacy. “Faith

**Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi** highlighted the scale and impact of violence against children with respect to violent extremism in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia. Dr. Elsanousi observed that children participate in violence only in failed societies, citing a bad environment, lack of education and poverty as some of the factors that contribute to children participating in violence.

Based on his experience and observation, he explained that religious communities have capacity, access and acceptability by the communities they are working for and so are able to effectively address violent extremism. He noted that children are always a target for recruitment to violent extremist groups and so he called for safe places for children in places of worship as a preventive measure and for the building of trust between religious leaders and communities. He underscored the central place of family intervention, especially with mothers, and asked all to see children

**Dr. Amr Abdalla** gave a sense of the breadth and scale of violent extremism and its negative impact on children in the areas where he works, noting that there is substantial work that has been done by religious organizations and faith communities, offering unique acceptance and support to orphans who would otherwise be so vulnerable to violent extremist groups’ machinations.

Observing that elites take Madrassa as offering archaic education, Dr. Abdalla suggested

groups should not seclude children, there is a need for children to be more engaged,” he emphasized. He attributed susceptibility to violent gangs to failing life circumstances, noting that a commitment to the right things in life was important and adding that words actually do matter.



as the solution and not the problem, giving opportunity to children to be heard and to be involved.

Another solution to protecting children from violent extremism proposed by Dr. Elsanousi was the enacting of laws by governments to punish parents who neglect their children.

that religious communities in partnership with governments and civil society organizations embrace Madrassas since they are the one place where orphans are taken care of and without them, these children would be lost. He spoke of the need for balance, instead of looking down upon them.

Dr. Abdalla encouraged faith leaders to remain aware of the negative views they hold, keeping in mind that they do not have all the answers but need to work with others and at the same time





rely on the holy books which have provided signs and guidance on how to work with all groups. He said that faith communities have unique legitimacy and thus can offer services which others cannot. He noted that a changed world depends on religious leaders.

According to **Dr. William Vendley**, religions are misused, leading to misunderstanding of other religions. Thus, religious organizations should shape their action around sharing peaceful truths from scripture and preventing children from suffering from exploitation and violence. He noted that religion deals with life's questions, so deep that they challenge us, and hence all need to understand their role. He remarked that the role of religious communities in protecting children from violent extremism should involve partnerships with other organizations, both religious and secular. He highlighted three special roles of religious communities in this regard:

- (a) Be Themselves – “Religion links human dignity with the common good. We should find hope, be unbreakable and always willing to forgive.”
- (b) Be in Action – “Religious leaders need to engage young people and make them stakeholders. There is need to ask all



- leaders to be players in the extreme winds of violent extremism.”
- (c) Be in Partnerships – “We should seamlessly match spiritual, moral and social assets, noting that the greatest scaling capacity of our communities is to bring together the youth for the common good.”

Children’s representatives **Mr. Mohammed Yusuph** and **Ms. Raquel Sherman** focused on the issue of blaming and criminalizing youth for the lack of security in communities, despite adolescents and youth being the most impacted by violent extremism, gang

violence and organized crime. To transform the public opinion of “youth as perpetrators of violence” to “youth as part of the solution,” Mr. Mohammed Yusuph proposed that faith communities, governments, international organizations and civil society organizations



need to give children an environment to express their views and a conducive learning environment. Governments also need to enact strict laws which protect children against any form of violence. There are many causes which force children to engage in bad behavior, he stated, arguing, “No one is born a criminal.” Ms. Raquel Sherman

stated that children should not be seen as the problem but as the solution, and also said that families should support and encourage their children. Children should not only be heard but understood as well. She stated that young people can be agents of change if they are engaged.

**Ms. Janet Arach**, a GNRC member from Uganda and a former child soldier, spoke out about her own traumatic experiences while in the enslavement of the commanders of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) at the age of 12. Today, she is leading the way for former child soldiers to reclaim their dignity. She narrated her ordeal at the hands of her abductors and her family’s anguish to the point of giving up, even preparing for her burial. Janet talked about her training as a rebel and how that impacted her childhood at a tender age, worsened by the rejection and stigmatization of the community that she experienced upon her return—but said this has not deterred her from fighting to be a better person and fighting for fellow women and young girls who went through the same ordeal.



Ms. Arach urged leaders not to wait but to step in and deal with any potential triggers of violence as soon as they are noticed to prevent



escalation into full-blown violence. She also asked faith leaders to advocate for laws which protect victims of violence and make places of worship centers of psychosocial support for

During the Question & Answer Session, the perception that young people are easily swayed by their peers into joining violent gangs was reflected. The panelists responded or made comments about the issue in varied ways. Ms. Amanda Rives attributed part of the problem to generational issues and asked for understanding and learning to live together.

Ms. Rives said that the time had come for faith leaders and governments to come together and implement policies. Mr. Shah Bukhari noted that children were drowning in a world with no hope, hence need to come up with ways to reinstate the young people back into the society.

victims of violence, noting that, "We all have a responsibility to accept and not stigmatize those who have been subjected to violence."

The panelists then offered some final reflections. Dr. Vendley spoke of the need to think globally, as all communities are vulnerable, and to think clearly about where the global community is headed. Dr. Elsanousi called for more spaces for scholars to engage with the issue of violent extremism and gang violence in order to develop a deeper understanding. Mr. Pentikäinen said there is hope when we know we can be forgiven by those we have failed, so we therefore must be honest and humble enough to ask for forgiveness.

In her concluding remarks, Dr. Arosemena de Troitiño asked the faith leaders to acknowledge themselves as key actors, and to know that they can influence policies, and thus should always speak out about public policy.

## SUB-THEME 2 — Nurturing Spirituality and Ending Violence in Child Upbringing: The Role of Faith Communities

### Session Moderators

1. **Dr. Nelson Arns Neumann**, Coordinator, Pastoral da Criança
2. **Rev. Dr. Nicta Lubaale**, General Secretary, Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC)

### Panelists

1. **Ms. Georgina de Villalta**, Global Movement for Children in Latin America and the Caribbean
2. **Prof. Harold Segura**, Regional Director of Church Relations and Christian Identity for Latin America and the Caribbean, World Vision International
3. **Ms. Rosalina Tuyuc Velásquez**, President of CONAVIGUA, Member, Continental Network of Indigenous Women of Americas, Guatemala
4. Children's Representatives – **Mr. Saul Orefice** and **Ms. Patricia Cortez**
5. **Mrs. Sheran Harper**, Trustee & Worldwide Trainer for Mothers' Union





**Prof. Harold Segura**, a panelist from Colombia, observed that religious communities, in many cases, were direct or indirect promoters of violence against children in the family. Borrowing from the “triangle of violence” as defined by Johan Galtung, Prof. Segura stated that an effective inter-religious forum seeking to end violence against children was one that recognized religions are also to blame for structural, cultural and direct violence. For instance, children are affected when religious communities foster religious intolerance, leading to faith-based confrontations, or when they reject others that do not profess their own beliefs.

“Once children learn such conduct at home, in school or places of worship, they repeat and internalize it as part of their culture. The same happens when religious communities promote violent and demeaning upbringing patterns endorsed by religious principles,” he said. “Compassion and charity bring us together. We need to regroup in order to fight violence against children through love.”

He stressed the need for religions to self-challenge, which may necessitate changing the teaching of faith to focus more on promoting values and life practices drawn from the universal principles, instead of doctrines, dogmas and beliefs.



Secondly, he urged participants to develop spiritual training programs that contribute to the self-protection of children such as spirituality linked to the sense of life, the development of social skills to coexist in diversity, self-esteem connected to the sense of relevance, the mission of life, altruism and social justice, among others. He suggested adoption of the ecological framework model, which requires that actions to eradicate violence against children occur at all four levels (individual, immediate relationships, community, and society) to ensure concrete intervention. He offered a *Hadith* from Islam: “None of you will believe until you love for your brother what you love for yourself.”

*“A religious doctrine fulfills its purpose if and only if it translates into a source of life, harmony, wellbeing, reconciliation and peace. If the doctrines we teach are generating violence, or are contributing to creating disparate and unfair societies, then it is time to examine those doctrines, because they are only valid if they contribute to our personal and social life.”*

Prof. Harold Segura, Regional Director of Church Relations and Christian Identity for Latin America and the Caribbean, World Vision International.

**Ms. Rosalina Tuyuc Velásquez** of the Mayan Culture observed that the culture of spirituality has always proved to help in easing pain and sorrow for the victims of war and extreme violence. She called upon religious leaders to listen and give advice to children, saying that no single culture or religion encourages violence, and urged that attitudes not be based on superiority. She called for an attitude change amongst religious leaders.

Describing the Mayan Culture as a spiritual belief with the appreciation for land and water, and not a religion, Ms. Tuyuc said, “For there to be peace, there has to be harmony between human beings, nature and life.” She urged the participants to teach love, respect and understanding to children from a very early stage, noting, “We need to be human for



humans.” Ms. Tuyuc urged religious leaders to strive to “invest” in children and in their spirituality and not merely “spend” on them.

**Mr. Saul Orefice** from Panama and **Ms. Patricia Cortez** from El Salvador represented the children on the panel. Mr. Orefice urged children to be agents of change. He declared, “We should all avoid doing wrong because we know it is wrong from the heart, not just because there are laws.” Ms. Cortez decried the fact that adults do not listen to children, thus leaving them behind. She insisted that violence should not be tolerated, saying that even violence without visible marks is still violence.

**Mrs. Sheran Harper**, a panelist from the Republic of Guyana, made a presentation on effective strategies in supporting families to end violence against children at home based on her work with the Mothers’ Union. She condemned corporal punishment and other forms of violence that are considered by many as part of normal parenting, yet were in fact a profound disrespect of gifts from God, our children.

She reported effective strategies used by the Mothers’ Union: (1) a Positive Parenting Programme which reaches remote communities in over 20 countries worldwide; (2) a “Stamp It Out Campaign” that focuses on child safety and protection as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; (3) nurturing spirituality; (4) literacy and financial education; and (5) advocacy, especially taking advantage of international days recognized by the UN.

During the past decade or so, Mothers’ Union has embarked on a Church and Community Mobilization Process, which envisions the church working in and with communities to empower them and change negative mindsets.

Mothers’ Union also creates and provides faith resources for communities to end violence in all its forms. Resources published so far are “Relationships Matter” and “Out of the Shadows.”





**Ms. Georgina de Villalta** from El Salvador called for a partnership with boys and girls to stop and prevent any form of violence against them. She said that religious leaders have a responsibility to talk to public officials and engage all stakeholders in the fight to end violence against children by encouraging dialogue at all family levels.

**Mr. Hassan Fawaz** from Lebanon blamed economic disparity among nations as the main reason for most of the ongoing violence, adding that children should be encouraged to accept diversity and couples should be prepared well for marriage through counselling.

**Sh. Ibrahim Lethome** from Kenya condemned retrogressive cultural practices like Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGMC) in the name of religion.

**Swami Atmapriyananda** from India noted that some practices in Hinduism encourage acts that can make children lose trust or turn away from religion and asked faith leaders to be more careful.

In closing, the co-moderator **Rev. Dr. Nicta Lubaale** said that no one should normalize evil acts, but should instead condemn and refuse to socially accept them. "We should interact with our faith in a deeper manner," he declared.

### SUB-THEME 3 — Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children: The Role of Faith Communities.



#### Session Moderators

1. **Ms. Silvia Mazzarelli**, Regional Head of Child Rights Policy and Programming, Plan International
2. **Ms. Bani Dugal**, Principal Representative to the United Nations, Baha'i International Community, United States

#### Panelists

1. **Ms. Dorothy Rozga**, Executive Director, ECPAT International
2. **Sr. Denisse Pichardo**, O.P, Dominican Order of the Altagracia
3. Children's Representatives – **Ms. Mariam Duque** and **Mr. Aly Kadoura**
4. **Ms. Corina Villacorta**, Regional Director, Plan International Americas
5. **Mr. Christo Greyling**, Senior Director, Faith – Advocacy and External Engagement, World Vision International

The panel discussion on "Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children" was moderated by **Ms. Silvia Mazzarelli**, Regional Head of Child Rights Policy and Programming, Plan International, and **Ms. Bani Dugal**, Principal Representative to the United Nations, Baha'i International Community.

**Ms. Dorothy Rozga** described ECPAT International as a network of civil society organizations and coalitions working in 86 countries worldwide with the sole mission of ending sexual exploitation of children, specifically focusing on trafficking of children for sexual reasons; the proliferation of sexual





abuse images online; pornography including the streaming of live sex shows of children; and ending forced early marriages.

Ms. Rozga decried the horrific images appearing online of children forced to perform sex acts or being sexually tortured, saying between 30 and 40% of such images are created by parents and 70% by someone within the child's circle of trust (parents, family, relatives, family friends, teachers, coaches, caregivers or guardians). In this regard, Ms. Rozga said that if the society

The children on the panel, **Ms. Mariam Duque** and **Mr. Aly Kadoura**, mourned the fact that adults were reaping profit from violence against children, noting that while children may have a role to play in their own protection, the better solution is to collaboratively work together.

**Ms. Corina Villacorta** from Plan International explored the gender dimensions of sexual violence against children, stating that girls and boys experience violence in different ways based on how they are viewed and valued by society. She observed that sexual violence against children and adolescents is influenced not only by structural political and economic factors, but also by social and cultural patterns. Discriminatory social norms, prejudices and unequal power dynamics between men

wants to prevent child sexual exploitation it needs to reach out to families, homes, schools, institutions of care and communities. She observed that religious leaders and faith-based communities, in the world over, possess "religious assets" which can be utilized to prevent child sexual exploitation.

Ms. Rozga further added that, collectively, religious communities represent the world's largest movement, including up to 80% of the population in some countries and thus, ECPAT believes that, in order to prevent child sexual exploitation, at scale, actions on the part of religious communities and leaders are imperative.

Some good practices she cited included parent education, the introduction of child safeguarding policies in schools and institutions, and awareness raising. She also directed participants' attention to the Terminology Guide, which avoids such terms as child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism and the like, because a child cannot be a prostitute—but rather is exploited in a situation of prostitution.

and women contribute to sexual violence in some societies. Ms. Villacorta added that sexual violence against girls and women is a manifestation of the patriarchal culture about sexuality which translates into abusive dynamics to the extent that when a woman is married she becomes "owned by the man."

Ms. Villacorta perceived an inequality between men and women that influences the vulnerability of children to sexual violence and in turn reinforces gender inequality. She called for shared responsibility among all the actors in society. She spoke of the need to "break the silence" surrounding violence against children, especially sexual violence against girls, recognize the problem of pedophilia, and take action for its prevention and respond to cases.

*"The effective implementation of the new Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 requires strong and multi-stakeholder partnerships. From Plan International, we urge all faith leaders around the world to take action to join us in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, and eliminate all harmful practices against boys and girls."*

Ms. Corina Villacorta, Regional Director, Plan International Americas

**Mr. Christo Greyling** from World Vision stressed the central role of the church as the one place where children should be safe and victims of abuse are accepted without stigma. "If we fail this, we fail God," Mr. Greyling said. He turned toward the two children on the panel and asked for forgiveness on behalf of the church and faith leaders for having failed to protect children.

Mr. Greyling said that faith leaders should not be instrumentalized by mobilizing them but should be catalyzed to act on behalf of children, noting that the work of child protection becomes effective only when faith leaders vocationalize it. According to him, once catalyzed, faith leaders and faith communities are driven from within their faith perspectives to respond. He shared about a process called "CoH – info at stand" developed by World Vision through which deeply embedded cultural or religious practices that make

children vulnerable to sexual abuse and all forms of violence against children are identified. Mr. Greyling proposed that a response strategy should comprise three elements: Prevent, Respond and Restore. He emphasized the building of trust between faith communities and other players such as the police, ministry of justice, and other formal actors to protect children against sexual violence.

During the panel discussion as a whole, the following proposals were made for ending sexual exploitation and abuse of children: evidence-based work; a multi-sectoral and multi-social response; setting up of helplines to support victims; helping offenders to also feel safe as a way to achieve reformation, keeping in mind that offenders themselves need empathy since most of them have been victims before; and more research to build greater understanding of the issues.



## FIFTH PLENARY: ALL FOR CHILDREN

### Working with Faith Communities and Partners to End Violence Against Children through Arigatou International's Initiatives



The “All for Children” session was devoted to sharing about Arigatou International’s four initiatives and how partners can work with them. These are: the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC); Ethics Education for Children; Prayer and Action for Children; and the Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty (End Child Poverty), directed by Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe; Ms. Rebeca Rios-Kohn; and Rev. Fred Nyabera, respectively.

The session was chaired by **Rev. Mitsuo Miyake**, a Shinto minister from Japan who is Chief Minister and President of the Konko Church of Izuo. The session began with a video message from **Prof. Perez Esquivel**, an Argentine activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, who expressed his gratitude that today the world could embrace a plurality of different forms of belief in the understanding of life, a view that is becoming more widely adopted. He felt that the gathering of religious leaders from 70 countries to discuss

children’s issues represented a very strong hope for humanity. Prof. Esquivel wished all the participants peaceful deliberations about ending violence against children globally.

Introducing the session, Rev. Mitsuo Miyake explained that Arigatou International is a non-profit organization which strives to bring



people from all walks of life together to build a better world for children. He added that Arigatou International’s motto is “All for Children,” and said that the organization draws on universal principles of common good to offer compelling new ways for people of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds to work together on children’s issues. He then mentioned the four initiatives of Arigatou International and introduced the respective directors.

**Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali**, Secretary General, GNRC, described the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) as a global-scale interfaith network of organizations and individuals specifically dedicated to securing the rights and well-being of children everywhere. Dr. Ali explained that GNRC members come from the world’s major religions and many other spiritual traditions. “We share a commitment to making the world a place where every child can enjoy not only the right to survive, but also



to thrive, making positive contributions of his or her own to a world of peace and dignity for all,” he declared. To help participants better understand the GNRC’s work at the grassroots level, Dr. Ali welcomed several GNRC members and coordinators from around the world to shed some light on their work (pages 59-64).

**Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe**, Director, Ethics Education for Children, described the vision of the initiative and emphasized the multiple ethical challenges that children still face: a lack of mutual understanding and respect that leads to violence; a need for children to be empowered to work with adults to build a world that is fit for them; a need to support



religious communities with affirming diversity by creating spaces for children to learn to be open and respectful towards others; and a need to contribute to peaceful coexistence in a world where extreme ideologies are spread. She described the flagship programme, *Learning to Live Together, an Intercultural and Interfaith Programme for Ethics Education*, launched in 2008 in close collaboration with UNESCO and UNICEF. It is designed for use by educators and facilitators in formal and non-formal education to foster values and spirituality in children and help them to learn to live together. She described the strong ethics education framework of the programme, which places the child at the center of the learning process, with a child rights approach, allowing child participants to nurture values like respect, responsibility, empathy and reconciliation. She explained how the framework is also accompanied by learning processes and methodologies that, in research, have been



proven successful in fostering skills in learning to live together.

In the last 10 years, she said, *Learning to Live Together* had directly reached around 28,000 children and more than 2,000 facilitators had been trained in more than 33 countries. The manual has been translated into 11 languages. The Ethics Education for Children initiative also partners with religious communities, ministries of education and social affairs to place interfaith and intercultural learning at the

center of education. In coming years, priority will be given to promoting ethics education in early childhood and for families, as well as to enhancing participation by children and youth in preventing violence, hatred and exclusion. The initiative hopes to strengthen its partnerships with faith communities, civil society organizations and governments. Ms. Uribe invited participants to partner with Arigatou International to foster ethics education for children.

**Ms. Rebeca Rios-Kohn**, Director, Prayer and Action for Children, described this initiative as a movement connecting people of faith and goodwill who are committed to working together for a better world for children, anchored in the principles of “Learning to Share: Values, Action, Hope,” and focused on the ethical imperative to end violence against children. She mentioned that the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children launched in 2008, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum of the GNRC held in Hiroshima, aims to encourage religious leaders and people of faith from diverse religious traditions to work towards improving children’s lives through prayer and actions that benefit children.



interreligious dialogue and collaboration with both faith-based and other like-minded organizations working for children.

**Rev. Fred Nyabera**, Director, Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty, described the End Child Poverty initiative as a multi-faith, child-centered, global initiative that mobilizes faith-inspired resources to overcome poverty affecting children. He described how, through the efforts of Arigatou International, the initiative is working toward a world free of child poverty, by addressing both the human and structural root causes of poverty. “We accomplish this by promoting theological reflection and action; interfaith advocacy and lobbying; and supporting grassroots initiatives that alleviate child poverty,” he explained.

Each year on November 20, on Universal Children’s Day, the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children is celebrated—to date in over 90 countries—serving to raise the status of children and promote and protect their rights by commemorating the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. The World Day includes a wide range of activities such as prayer services, vigils, and educational workshops involving children, families, teachers, government leaders, religious and community leaders, as well as innumerable volunteers. The Prayer and Action for Children initiative has grown to become a year-round program focused on ending all forms of violence against children through

poverty; and promote sustainable livelihoods and empowerment of women care-givers and families affected by poverty.”

“Poverty is one of the most extensive forms of violence in the world, and child poverty is perhaps the most brutal and unforgiving form. Poverty is the underlying cause for millions of preventable child deaths each year. Violence against children and poverty are interlinked and it is not possible to fight one without addressing the other. Not only does poverty exacerbate violence, but violence can perpetuate poverty. It is not possible to end child poverty if violence persists,” he said.



Speaking further about End Child Poverty, Rev. Nyabera explained, “We mitigate the root causes of poverty in the human heart, through theological reflection and action. We address structural causes of poverty, through interfaith advocacy and lobbying for social and policy changes. And we support and accompany flagship and replicable grassroots projects that aim to: enhance quality education and school retention of children affected by poverty; transform violent conflicts that exacerbate

Rev. Nyabera further described the linkage between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ending child poverty and violence against children. “The SDGs provide a platform for faith communities to engage in action towards the realisation of a world free of child poverty and violence against children. This framework additionally provides a rational pathway to link child poverty to violence against children and actions to address both.”

### Testimonies About Grassroots Work

**Mr. Larry Madrigal**, GNRC–El Salvador, was asked to discuss how working with the Arigatou International initiatives helped ending violence against children. He said that the situation of violence against children in El Salvador and its neighboring countries, Honduras and Guatemala—the so-called Northern Triangle of Central America—was one of the worst situations in recent history.

Mr. Madrigal clarified that the initiatives of Arigatou International were great opportunities for connection and action, which helped to put complex realities and different actors, in a human dimension, with possible solutions. “In El Salvador, to work with these initiatives has meant prioritizing the well-being of children

and youth in a context that normally criminalizes, punishes or kills them,” Mr. Madrigal said.

He informed the participants that the GNRC was established in El Salvador in 2004, as part of the effort to understand and prevent the increasing involvement of young people in the gangs (Maras) and organized crime. According to Mr. Madrigal, the GNRC is a platform of hope where interaction between different entities, methods, spiritualities, and people occur. At the same time, people learn new ways of interfaith relationships through their interactions.

He reported that GNRC–El Salvador has adopted Arigatou International’s Ethics





Education for Children programme as its essential educational program to generate conscientization in safe spaces that promote ethical decisions in the day-to-day difficult contexts of children. GNRC–El Salvador works with children and with adults, social groups and key institutions who, through the shared life in special workshops, are building shared values of respect, empathy, responsibility and reconciliation. He offered quotes from a child and a facilitator in the Ethics Education programme to illustrate the impact of the program. Sixteen-year old Nahum Nahuta said, “At GNRC I have learned that people are my brothers and sisters, people with ‘Humanity’ as the common name and then with different traditions from which to learn.” Dorita, a programme facilitator, said, “Before I only saw my pain and my anger. Now I realize that others are suffering the same or worse, and that when we join together, we can resist and grow.”

Mr. Madrigal also said that Arigatou International’s Prayer and Action for Children initiative had allowed GNRC–El Salvador to

build consensus with stakeholders about raising awareness of the rights of the child. “It’s about joining forces to ‘think with heart’ about the serious problems of our childhood and to propose actions with a deep reverence and transcendence,” Mr. Madrigal said. He quoted Archbishop Oscar Romero, killed in 1980, who said, “If it were not for this prayer and this reflection, with which I try to keep myself united with God, I would be nothing more than what St. Paul says: ‘a clanging cymbal’.”

Mr. Madrigal concluded his remarks saying, “I have the firm conviction that we can embody a valuable opportunity in El Salvador, in harmony with what was said by the late Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto during the GNRC Third Forum in Hiroshima, “a great opportunity to re-examine the original spirit of the GNRC, ‘prayer and practice,’ and to renew our commitment as people of faith, to make even greater progress, for the well-being of all the children of the world.”

**Mr. Yusuph Masanja**, GNRC–Tanzania, spoke of how working with the Arigatou International initiatives enhances children’s and youth’s full participation and empowerment. After expressing his gratitude for the opportunity to work with Arigatou International, Mr. Masanja asked the participants to take a deep breath,

“to breathe in the sufferings of children including the 30 innocent lives of students lost in a car crash last week in Tanzania. And gently ... let’s breath out compassion, kindness and wellness to the children worldwide,” he guided. He listed the benefits of working with Arigatou International as follows.

*“Working with Arigatou International exposed us to a wider pool of resourceful networks and partnerships that has made it possible for us to enhance children and youth empowerment in Tanzania.*

*These Arigatou Initiatives: GNRC, Ethics Education for Children, End Child Poverty, Prayer and Action for Children... all of them, have enabled our child-centered program known as Peace Clubs to grow to what it is today, the National Peace Club Network in Tanzania.*

*These Peace Clubs integrate the teachings from the Learning To Live Together manual, to further young people’s participation. It is through these Peace Clubs that we see more than 2,500 members every year becoming agents of change and are scaling up our positive influence in Tanzania.”*

He pointed to the current statistics which show that youth account for one out of every six people worldwide, saying this has led GNRC–Tanzania to respond by designing a Youth Mentorship Program to empower young people with knowledge, skills, tools and “repair” skills. He added that many young people today suffer from depression, and as a result, they tend to resort to antisocial behavior, and join violent groups. He explained that the Leadership Mentoring Program acts as a solution-focused therapy for socio-economic challenges and psychological crises among young people in Tanzania. Mr. Masanja further added that the program works to restore hope, courage, values, determination and happiness.

Among the activities they had engaged in since 2001 were ethics education, the Leadership Mentoring Program, national peace prayers, peace caravans, peace dialogues, preventing and responding to violent extremism, gender mainstreaming, and good governance. To demonstrate the success of their work, Mr. Masanja screened a two-minute video showing success stories from the youth who



participated in the mentorship program in 2016. **(To see the video, see Appendix VII for a list of online multimedia resources from the Forum.)**

“This is what we do: listening, it’s a skill, not something to assume children or adults can do. It is something we need to learn, teach and practise in order to master it. All that the children and youth are asking for is your attention,” Mr. Masanja concluded.





**Ms. Ismeta Begić**, GNRC–Bosnia and Herzegovina, shared about how working with the Arigatou International initiatives supports and enhances interfaith collaboration in her organization while identifying key aspects and examples in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

She talked of the formation of a women’s association for interreligious dialogue in the family and the society “Mozaik,” which began its activity in 2012. The aim was to help women of different religious orientations—Roman Catholics, Orthodox Christians and Muslims—from communities that are inspired by the principles of faith to which they belong, to be agents of positive change for a better life for all children, youth and adults.

Ms. Begić was introduced to Arigatou International by Ms. Marta Palma, former GNRC Coordinator for Europe, whom she met in 2012 in Sarajevo during a seminar, and mentioned that the Learning to Live Together (LTLT) manual is now available in Bosnian. She described how Ms. Palma had introduced her to the initiatives and activities of Arigatou International and the GNRC. With support from Prayer and Action for Children, their organization celebrated the World Day on

20<sup>th</sup> November, followed later by a workshop for 50 children and a roundtable for parents on the topic of “positive parenting”—activities which they have continued to implement each year since then, and have gained good recognition in their community.

Ms. Begić highlighted several activities which they had so far implemented including a roundtable in 2016 on “Mechanisms in Community to Prevent Violence Against Children,” which was attended by representatives of religious communities, mental health centers, representatives of World Vision BiH, Save the Children, Medies, 500 children from all elementary schools in Visoko and 150 parents; a common prayer attended by a total of 250 participants comprising children, adults, and representatives of religious communities; and celebrating international days such as the International Day of Peace and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) under the End Child Poverty initiative. Other important activities she mentioned were the quarterly seminars for 50 young people from 14 to 18 years of age on strengthening religious activism and volunteerism in the community, which aim to motivate the youth to join the work of the organization.

The activities are carried out in cooperation with all the initiatives of Arigatou International and elementary and high school students from Visoko, and are supported by religious communities, the Center for Social Work, the Center for Mental Health, Visoko Municipality, and World Vision BiH.

Ms. Begić made a special request to Arigatou International to support her in strengthening the LTLT methodology because of the potential for change that it has.

She concluded her presentation by thanking the staff of the GNRC Secretariat in Nairobi and Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali for the high-quality cooperation over the years.

**Mr. Gopal Vijayaragavan**, Head, Youth Leadership Programme, Shanti Ashram, and Contact Person, GNRC–India, discussed how working with the Arigatou International initiatives adds value to the work of his organization, citing key aspects and examples from India.

He mentioned his organization’s journey with GNRC began in 2000 at the GNRC First Forum, and highlighted the following key achievements over the ensuing 17 years.

Global resource—Local action: Working together and with the GNRC has been a rich experience across India which is so diverse with its multi-cultural and multi-religious settings. India initially was a field testing site for LTLT, and today it is one of the most active countries utilizing the LTLT methodology. About 110 young facilitators have completed their basic training, 21 have done the advanced training, and India has 4 trainers who have successfully completed the International Training of Trainers.

Global issues—Local solutions: In the year, 2012 after the GNRC 4<sup>th</sup> Forum, he stated his organization dug deep into the major issues

that affect human life and well-being around the globe. Identifying that child poverty was one of the biggest challenges that needed to be overcome, they initiated the India Poverty Solutions program. The program recognizes the potential that children and young people have and helps them channel it to transform the world around them through prayer and collective action. The common goals are to:

- Unite the children and youth of India to work together and fight child poverty and prevent child marriages by empowering boys, girls, families and religious communities
- Highlight in society that everyone has something to contribute to make our country a better place, be it time, spirit, talent or money
- Facilitate the development of transformational leadership skills among children and young people



India Poverty Solutions brings together partner institutions of GNRC–India in 6 cities. Nearly 100,000 volunteers belonging to the major faith traditions of India work hand in hand with each other to bring about effective yet simple solutions for this dreaded challenges of child poverty and child marriage.

The number of children reached by the programme increased from 4,188 in 2012



to 58,237 in 2016. In this period, the children themselves raised and contributed over \$13,000 towards the aim of ending child poverty. Also, in the last five years the network expanded from 40 to 98 partners across the country who support and work along with GNRC–India in this programme.

Next, Mr. Gopal presented a testimony from a child volunteer.

*“Hi, my name is Swasthika, and I have been one of the ambassadors of the India Poverty Solutions programme for the past five years. Others like me are also active participants of this innovative initiative where we first discuss together and deeply understand the impact of child poverty on us and those around us. We start by saving money with the help of mud piggybanks and then put all our efforts together to implement solutions to reverse child poverty.”*

*All of us together have taken up this responsibility to care for each other to ensure that we live in a more just and peaceful world. We know that responsibility is not an option; but a fundamental ethical value, and it needs to be treasured in our hearts and minds from the time we begin to form relationships with others and with the world around us.”*

Mr. Gopal concluded his presentation with a short video on activities of India Poverty Solutions. (To see the video, see Appendix VII for a list of online multimedia resources from the Forum.)

### Launch of the Interfaith Guide to End Child Poverty



End Child Poverty launched *Inspire. Act. Change: An Interfaith Guide to End Child Poverty*, intended for dissemination via End Child Poverty online spaces and observances such as the International Day for the Eradication

of Poverty (IDEP) on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 as well at GNRC regional meetings. The guide will also be translated into Spanish, for wider use by the GNRC members and partners in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

During the launch, an introductory video about the Guide was screened and copies were disseminated to the GNRC coordinators/contact persons as well as other partners. An online version of the Guide was made available at the End Child Poverty website and the Arigatou International online platform,

together with the introductory video, on the same day of the launch. It has also been featured on the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities (JLI) website. (To see the video, see Appendix VII for a list of online multimedia resources from the Forum.)

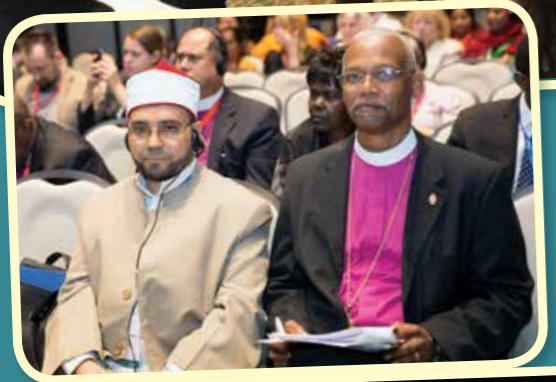
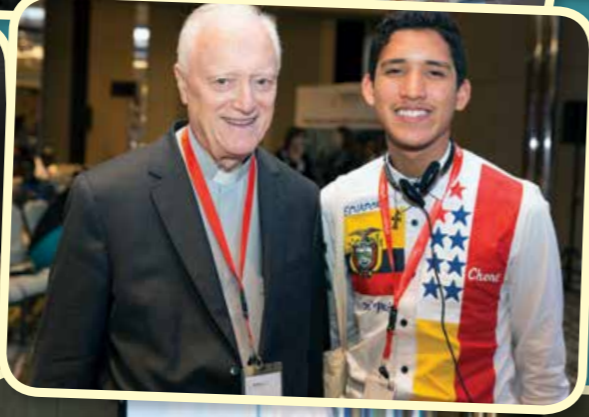
### CULTURAL EVENING



The cultural evening, organized by the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Hosting Committee, was held at the Convention Center at the City of Knowledge. The folkloric music group from the Panama Canal Authority entertained guests throughout the evening. There were also performances

by a group of children from the community of San Miguelito, who are members of GNRC–Panama. The guests were treated to a series of cultural music performances from all the different cultures of Panama, showcasing Panama’s diversity.







Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communi



**DAY THREE: 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

**PARALLEL SESSIONS: SPECIAL THEMATIC SESSIONS**

Three special sessions were conducted under the themes shown below.

**“The Nexus Between Child Poverty and Violence Against Children”**



**Facilitators:**

1. **Rev. Adam Russell Taylor**, Lead, Faith-Based Initiative, World Bank Group
2. **Rev. Fred Nyabera**, Director, End Child Poverty, Arigatou International – Nairobi

**Panelists**

1. **Prof. Alberto Quattrucci**, Secretary General of Peoples and Religions, Community of Sant'Egidio
2. **Mr. Richard Morgan**, Specialist on child rights
3. **Bai Rohaniza Sumndad-Usman**, Founder, Teach Peace Build Peace Movement

The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Special Session, “The Nexus Between Child Poverty and Violence Against Children,” aimed to provide space for dialogue and reflection, and to shape a convergence of ideas related to addressing child poverty and violence against children. It juxtaposed these in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and

the role of faith communities in providing adequate and effective action and response.

Panelist **Prof. Alberto Quattrucci** specifically emphasized the importance of education in averting violence against children and child poverty. He also highlighted several forms of violence facing children; particularly



naming bullying, abduction, living on the streets, recruitment as child combatants and child trafficking; and called for increased efforts by faith communities to protect and prevent children from these experiences. Prof. Quattrucci highlighted the unique strengths of cultural diversity, including religious traditions, in forming a “cultural rainbow” within society.

**Mr. Richard Morgan**, the second panelist, pushed for violence against children to be recognized as an integral part of the discourse on ending child poverty. Mr. Morgan noted that physical violence against children takes place in families all across the income spectrum, and that the attitudes toward this violence tend to be more permissive in families with less access to socio-economic resources. Furthermore, he said, different forms of violence against children tend to be overlooked because they are not easily quantifiable.

Mr. Morgan gave various real-life scenarios—such as children from Syria being forced to harvest potatoes, up to 10 kg to 20 kg each day, with only a 10-minute break and under constant beatings—as an example of the negative impacts of child labor on children’s health and wellbeing. He reiterated that child poverty and violence against children impact the child’s spirit, body and mind and influence how a child perceives herself or himself. “Children develop feelings of shame and inferiority,” he said.

Mr. Morgan also argued that addressing the economic challenges which give rise to violence against children and child poverty demand that faith communities address inequalities. “In our faiths, we instinctively have the desire to create space where children are listened to, treasured and valued. Societies regard children as the most precious within our human family and to them we have an obligation,” concluded Mr. Morgan.

Peace Build Peace Movement, which works with peace missions in conflict areas and indigenous communities, that families in underserved communities tend to focus less on their children’s social and emotional development, eventually leaving children susceptible to joining armed groups. She shared an encounter with one mother who asked her, “How can we teach peace and love to our children if all they have seen their entire life is war, hatred and hardship?” Her answer was this: “The reality is, we cannot control the negative elements in our society, and the challenges that have been in our midst, but

what we can take control of is our own homes and our own families. We have to do our best to create our own peace zones—our own safe zones for our children.”

She reported that, through their Schools and Communities of Peace Heroes Formation Program, the Teach Peace Build Peace Movement has been working hand in hand with families to create a strong foundation for their children’s emotional and social development, leading to noticeable behavioral change among the children.

*“As I end my message, let us look at the person beside us and say, What are we going to do now? Then give him or her a response, let’s unite for our children.”*

Bai Rohaniza Sumndad-Usman, Founder, Teach Peace Build Peace Movement.

The second segment of this Special Session comprised three simultaneous group discussions on: (1) Generating political will for combatting child poverty and violence against children; (2) The role of faith communities in behavior change and interventions to combat poverty and violence; and (3) Ways to strengthen collaboration between faith communities and other actors. The group discussions were facilitated by Dr. Nelson Neumann, Rev. Dr. Nicta Lubaale and Ms. Laura Molnar, respectively.

Under “Generating political will for combatting child poverty and violence against children,” participants made several observations and recommendations including: Faith communities raising their prophetic voice, addressing corruption and engaging in what is happening in the society; dialogue between the faith institutions/faith communities and both the victims and perpetrators; addressing the huge barrier between the rich and the poor since inequalities make it difficult to overcome violence against children; urging governments to devote at least 2% of development funding

to addressing child poverty; and the need to change the perspective of the young people, so that they do not see the poor as a problem.

“The role of faith communities” was proposed to entail: ensuring children are respected and valued, value formation and reformation, strengthening responses by building bridges across faiths so that there is unity of purpose, teaching children how to help themselves and being pastoral, among others.

Group facilitator Rev. Dr. Lubaale emphasized the role that faith communities have in generating political change to address poverty not just in the political arena but also in schools, institutions, homes, community, family and administrative sectors. He also spoke of a friendly approach with the state and a “systematic media approach” aimed at restoring “gender equality” and “generational equality,” leading to transformation of “change of the behavior of silence.” He asked all to be a voice of the voiceless and a part of the political power that engages prophetic action leading to change. He asked faith leaders to analyze



**Bai Rohaniza Sumndad-Usman**, also a panelist, said she had come to the realization that poverty, as Gandhi said and Mother Teresa reemphasized, is indeed the worst form of violence, since it gives children the feeling of

being unwanted, neglected, unloved, uncared for and forgotten by everybody.

Ms. Sumndad-Usman observed, based on the experience of her organization, the Teach



their sacred writings with deeper significance for how they address child poverty and violence against children, but most importantly to teach children to help themselves.

To “strengthen collaboration between faith communities and other actors,” the participants proposed that faith communities should engage with economic powers, have a joint coordination of processes so that interventions are holistic, engage young people in all activities and processes to address child

poverty, and engage mainstream and social media to advocate against child poverty.

Co-facilitator **Rev. Adam Taylor** urged the faith communities to work together to end child poverty and violence against children. Quoting an Ethiopian proverb, “When spider webs unite, they can entangle a lion,” Rev. Taylor said violence against children and child poverty are like a lion that devours children. He asked faith leaders to strengthen their collaboration with governments, the World Bank and other such actors.

### “The Role of Ethics Education in Strengthening Families and Nurturing Spirituality in Children”



#### Facilitators:

1. **Dr. Kezevino Aram**, Co-Moderator, *Religions for Peace* International, President, Shanti Ashram, India, President, Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children
2. **Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe**, Secretary General, Ethics Education for Children, Director, Arigatou International – Geneva

#### Panelists

1. **Dr. Melanie Swan**, Global Advisor for Early Childhood Development, Plan International
2. **Imam Dr. Rashied Omar**, Research Scholar of Islamic Studies and Peace Building, University of Notre Dame, Coordinating Imam, Claremont Main Road Mosque, Cape Town, South Africa

3. **Prof. Anantanand Rambachan**, Professor of Religion, Philosophy and Asian Studies, Saint Olaf College

4. **Prof. Enrique Palmeyro**, Global Director for Scholas Ocurrentes

This session aimed to reflect on the role of Ethics Education for Children in nurturing spirituality in early childhood through family engagement. Co-facilitator **Dr. Kezevino Aram** emphasized that family remains the natural environment where children grow, thrive and develop. Positive family engagement and child-upbringing skills are vital to ensure that children and parents/caregivers develop a secure emotional attachment; children enhance their self-concept and self-esteem, and develop socio-emotional qualities and healthy relations with others by growing in an atmosphere of happiness and affection, allowing them to safely and fully develop emotionally, physically, cognitively and spiritually.

According to Dr. Aram, there is not an international commonly agreed definition of the family. Changing demographics and socio-economic cleavages, as well as increasing conflict dynamics that force families to disintegrate, have also contributed to the changing definition of a family.

Where people become parents relatively later in life, families tend to be smaller. Still, in some places in Africa, Latin America and South and Southeast Asia, where unemployment is also high among youth, there is a relatively high birth rate and early pregnancy. Children become parents and are forced to grow up prematurely to be able to take care of their children, and are therefore prevented from enjoying their childhood.

In this context, Dr. Aram stressed that faith leaders have a responsibility not only to help shape the children's ecosystem but also to do it in the way that allows them to harmoniously grow.

Panelist **Dr. Melanie Swan** addressed the question of why childhood is such an important period for children's learning of ethical values and key skills. She said that children learn from the moment they are born, and they learn through interaction, making early childhood the most important developmental phase in life since it is the period of most rapid learning, development and “brain-building.”

Dr. Swan explained that parents and other family members are such important actors in early childhood since children learn not only physical and cognitive skills, but also social and emotional skills (such as sharing, resolving conflict without violence, regulating their own emotions), which are the foundations for learning, wellbeing and their ability to form and maintain respectful relationships with others as they grow into adult life.

According to Dr. Swan, there is a genetic component to some traits (such as empathy) but moral values (beliefs about what is right or wrong), ethical values (such as respect or compassion) and pro-social behaviors are mostly learned. While there is mixed evidence about how children learn about prejudice, it is known that it can also be learned early. She mentioned three key parental factors that influence children's learning: what parents actively teach the child; the quality of the parent-child relationship; and the parents' role as models.

Dr. Swan highlighted the key external and internal factors in the family that foster or hinder parent's abilities to be warm, sensitive and responsive caregivers, capable of providing a positive upbringing and nurturing ethical values and pro-social behaviors, as listed on the next page.





- To what extent parents understand the rights and capabilities of a child, how they think they should raise their children (links with religious and cultural beliefs)
- The social norms and expectations in the community about what “good parenting” means
- The psychological wellbeing of the parents and the quality of the couple’s relationship, as well as parent’s time available for positive interactions with the children
- The parents’ relationships with others, and how through observing these, children are socialized into gendered norms and expectations

Dr. Swan explained that underpinning many of these more immediate factors are structural and social issues such as: poverty, societal violence, conflict, emergencies and displacements, which are all risk factors for increased levels of family stress, domestic violence, time poverty and depression among caregivers. She said that organizations need to come to the table with humility, admitting that they are not coming in with all the answers about the best ways to parent but coming in as partners.

**Dr. Rashied Omar**, another panelist, addressed the question of the impact of Islamophobia on the positive upbringing of Muslim children, and how it influences the identity formation of children in early ages. He referred to statistics which indicate that since the beginning of 2017 more than 2,000 Islamic centers across the United States have been vandalized.

According to Dr. Omar, children live at the cutting edge of this reality and they are not unaffected by the toxic Islamophobic environment they are currently experiencing. A growing number of scholars, including the French social scientist, Olivier Roy, agree that young immigrant Muslims living in North America and Europe experience acute identity crises which arise from the two cultural worlds in which they live—their homes and the broader society.

One in two American-Muslim children aged 5-9 feel conflicted about being both Muslim and American. As an example of this, Dr. Omar shared the comments of a six-year-old girl, as shown on the next page.

*“I don’t like to tell people I am a Muslim. I tell people that I’m a Muslim in the mosque, but I only tell my best friend [at school].”*

And the comments of a five-year-old learner who said:

*“People in the United States hate Muslims, because they are bombing and killing Muslims in Afghanistan.”*

This toxic environment makes young Muslims susceptible to extremist viewpoints of Islam. In this context, according to Dr. Omar, religious leaders should foster values that help children deal with negative prejudices and respond in non-violent ways.

Dr. Omar emphasized the need for religious leaders to nurture young people with an inclusive spirituality. Muslim religious leaders should inculcate and nurture a vision and understanding of Islam as a balanced and life-affirming religion.



In terms of how religious communities can nurture a spirituality that promotes inclusiveness, respect and reconciliation, Dr. Omar pointed to the importance of understanding that true spirituality is primarily measured by how the various acts of worship empower the person to interact with and live alongside fellow humans beings.

He asked that religious communities seek to create spaces to foster anti-racism and anti-bigotry and involve young Muslims. It is also important to make young people aware that

Islam is a culture-friendly religion, and that sound and healthy cultural values and practices should be embraced, stated Dr. Omar. As for the role of families, they must not be insulated; we need to equip them to navigate through these difficult times of Islamophobia.

The growing phenomenon of Islamophobia is engendering a fertile ground in which radical extremism can thrive, lamented Dr. Omar, quoting the writer John L. Esposito, from his book *Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam*, “If foreign policy issues are not addressed



effectively, they will continue to be breeding ground for hatred and radicalism, the rise of extremist movements, and recruits for the bin Laden's of the world."

Panelist **Prof. Anantanand Rambachan** noted that faith traditions have great wisdom, but urged that they also be humble to admit they don't have all the wisdom, hence the great need for religious traditions to learn from research in child development and child psychology in order to be able to distinguish practices that foster healthy children and families from those that dehumanize and violate the wellbeing of the child.

Using the example of corporal punishment, Prof. Rambachan noted that some religious communities contest laws that inhibit this practice because in some cases the use of corporal punishment is based on certain interpretations and theological views of human nature. He emphasized the importance of a deep self-examination in the religious traditions to avoid these types of so-called "discipline" based on a certain theological understanding of the "fundamental problem" of humans.

He said that a more optimistic view of human nature, a view that emphasizes the inherent goodness of human beings, can lead to different child upbringing practices in the family—practices that will not depend on fear or pain to nurture and to raise children

Responding to a question on the role of religious communities in nurturing values that foster pluralism in children from an early age and how religious leaders and communities can support families, particularly parents and other caregivers in this task, Prof. Rambachan illustratively discussed the difference between religion as a "marker" of identity and as a "maker" of identity. At the heart of this distinction is the view that when religious traditions serve only as marker of identity, they become a sort of "tribal flag" that distinguishes the person from others holding different identities. Religion as a marker of identity is not intrinsically a virtue, explained Prof. Rambachan.

Religion as a maker of identity, on the other hand, he said, pushes one to consider what this identity means instead of just holding it up

as an identifier. Asking oneself what it means implies questioning what it means on one's relationship with others.

Prof. Rambachan noted that, even in sacred texts, all religious traditions have a sort of "despised other" or "unequally regarded other," in relation to the way the religious identity is professed.

He maintained that nowadays we live in a society where respect for the other is based upon what he called "unequally distributed attainments," which means we value those who are wealthy because wealth is not equally shared and we value those who are powerful because not everyone enjoys power.

Panelist **Prof. Enrique Palmeyro** discussed the factors in the community, and particularly in schools, that affect the acquisition of values and the possibility for children to nurture their spirituality. Prof. Palmeyro referred to Pope Francis' First Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* ("The Joy of the Gospel"), which reflects on the joy of receiving the Christian faith and the joy of sharing it.

According to Prof. Palmeyro this joy comes with a responsibility to see the reality, and in the present times, social exclusion is part of our reality. Dr. Palmeyro continued by quoting Pope Francis.

*"Today we also have to say 'thou shalt not' to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion. (...) We have created new idols. The worship of the ancient golden calf (cf. Ex 32:1-35) has returned in a new and ruthless guise in the idolatry of money and the dictatorship of an impersonal economy lacking a truly human purpose."*

H.H. Pope Francis.





To answer the question of how schools can help families to foster spirituality in children and how nurturing values from early childhood can help children live free from violence, Prof. Palmeyro shared the experience of the foundation, Scholas Occurrentes, whose objective is to

integrate students, from public and private schools and from all religions, to guide them in their commitment to the common good. The vision is to transform the world into a classroom without walls where all children are integrated and coexist in peace.

### “Combating Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children”



#### Facilitators:

1. **Rabbi Diana Gerson**, Program Director, New York Board of Rabbis
2. **Ms. Rebeca Rios-Kohn**, Director, Prayer and Action for Children, Director, Arigatou International – New York

#### Panelists

1. **Ms. Dorothy Rozga**, Executive Director, ECPAT International
2. **Mr. John Carr**, Senior Expert Adviser for Online Child Safety for ECPAT International, Member of the Executive Board of the UK Council on Child Internet Safety and Member of Europol's Expert Platform and the UK's ICANN Public Safety Working group
3. **Rev. Que English**, Founder, Not On My Watch! Safe Haven Network International, Chair, NYC-Faith-Based Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence

Introducing the session, the facilitators noted that the prevalence of online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) has been on the rise in recent years. In 2010, the National Center

for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in the United States reported collecting 13 million images of child sex abuse material (CSAM). Three years later, in 2013, they collected 24

million CSAM images. Technology that makes it easier to distribute CSAM, such as webcams, peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing, and untraceable browsers, is also growing more prevalent.

The panel included two CSEA specialists, Ms. Dorothy Rozga and Mr. John Carr, and two religious leaders, Rev. Que English and Rabbi Diana Gerson, who actively address this issue in their communities.



**Ms. Dorothy Rozga** mentioned the different types of sexual exploitation children face online including computer-generated child sexual abuse/exploitation material and online grooming of children for sexual purposes. The latter involves abusers communicating with children over the internet in order to establish relationships with them that lead to various forms of sexual abuse, such as forcing children to perform sexual acts in front of a webcam. She also talked about online sexual extortion of children, which occurs when an adult blackmails a child with self-generated sexual images in order to demand sexual favors or money under the threat of sharing the material.

She noted that usually there are intermediaries, such as a child's family member or people from the child's community, who force the child to "perform" in front of a webcam. Ms. Rozga referred to the sobering statistics about online child exploitation, which show that 270,000 out of the 1.8 billion total images uploaded daily are

child sexual abuse images. She noted that 38% of abusers in child abuse images are the child's own parents, and 10% are other relatives of the children.

Ms. Rozga provided a ray of hope by sharing about the WeProtect organization, a global multi-stakeholder response to combating online child abuse and exploitation. WeProtect's model of national response for preventing and tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse, advocates the following measures:

- Strong government leadership
- Trained, victim-focused, and dedicated police, judges and prosecutors, a multi-agency system to manage and rehabilitate child sex offenders to prevent their reoffending, and image databases to reduce the risk for repeated investigations of child sexual abuse material by law enforcement



- End-to-end support for CSEA victims to help them cope with the immediate impact of their abuse and recover from the harm experienced
- A national education program to raise awareness of CSEA that empowers children, young people, parents, guardians, caregivers and practitioners with information, space for children to offer ideas and influence the development of CSEA-related practices, and support systems for people with a sexual interest

- Procedures to enable the timely removal of child sexual abuse material when a company confirms its presence on its service and child safety considerations integrated into appropriate corporate policies, procedures and processes
- Ethical, informed and balanced media coverage of CSEA that is sensitive to the victims' dignity and rights.

**Mr. John Carr** observed that as soon as internet access becomes widely available in a certain area, certain crimes including the exploitation of children, increase. It is not possible, he claimed, for traditional policing to cope with the billions of photos being circulated globally. He highlighted one helpful program created by Microsoft, called Photo DNA. The program allows law enforcement agencies to create a unique "digital fingerprint" of a child abuse image, and the program is able to tell if similar images are new or a copy.



Mr. Carr concluded by noting that not all internet website owners and managers are helping in the fight against online exploitation of children. He pointed out that ICANN allows

the creation of domains that distribute child abuse materials, and should take measures to end this practice.

**Rev. English** spoke about how online exploitation victims can be abused in any location with an internet connection and a webcam or a mobile phone. Social justice, she said, represents "the action taken when righteous anger and love collide, creating healing in our communities." God requires

us to not only speak or write about justice for children, but also to do justice out of merciful love, she added.

Rev. English discussed about 'Not On My Watch! Safe Haven Network International,' which she founded after realizing the need

for an international movement to address the international issue of sex trafficking and online sexual exploitation of children. She noted the importance of collaborating with elected officials, public safety officers, service providers, and others.

She explained that to date, Not On My Watch had educated over 300 houses of worship

representing thousands of individuals on how to become safe havens for victims and survivors. She warned that it is through silence that evil prevails. She encouraged faith communities to network with other houses of worship, develop relationships with the "movers and shakers" of their wider communities, and continue to educate and create awareness through any means possible.

**Rabbi Diana Gerson** said when children are given access to the internet, they are given access to the world, and at the same time the world accesses them.

Rabbi Gerson called on all people of faith to help victims of online exploitation by using their "moral voice," creating safe spaces for children, and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions. She added that religious traditions should be thought of "as a resource, and not as a roadblock."





## SIXTH PLENARY: COMMITMENT AND CALL TO ACTION



Participants gathered in plenary again for the Commitment and Call to Action session, where they unanimously adopted the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Panama Declaration on Ending Violence Against Children and members of the GNRC from different regions committed to the Plans of Action they had prepared during the regional meetings. The session was chaired by **Mons. Sidney Fones**, former Deputy Secretary General of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM), from Chile and **Sheikh Ibrahim Asmani Lethome**, Secretary General, Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR), from Kenya.

Representatives from the various GNRC regions presented their respective plans of action, starting with Africa, represented by **Sr. Agatha Gladonald Chikelue** from Nigeria, followed by Europe represented by **Ms. Laura Molnar** from Romania. The Asian region's Commitment and Call to Action was presented by **Ms. Kavitha Vijayaraj**, **Ms. Kriti Shree Giri** and **Ms. Cherie**

**Ann Smita Pereira** from Sri Lanka, Nepal and India, respectively.

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) shared about gang violence and organized crime especially in the central parts of Latin America and the Northern Triangle Countries. The presentation was done by **Ms. Lizia Lu** from Panama, who was also the Coordinator of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Secretariat based in Panama City. Finally there were commitments from participants from the Middle East, presented respectively by **Fr. Abdo Raad**, GNRC Contact Person for Lebanon, and **Ms. Dorit Shippin**, Member, GNRC-Israel. **(See Appendix VI for more details on the regional action plans which emerged from the commitments made at the Forum.)**

A presentation of the **Churches' Commitments to Children** from the World Council of Churches was made by **Dr. Agnes Abuom**. Dr. Abuom read the three commitments to

children made by the church through the World Council of Churches: to promote child protection through church communities, promote meaningful participation by children and adolescents and raise church voices for intergenerational climate justice, supporting initiatives for and with children and adolescents.

After the presentation of all the commitments to action, the attention of the plenary turned to the draft declaration. The members of the Declaration Drafting Committee presented the draft declaration to the plenary. Rt. Rev. Bishop Julio E. Murray read out the draft declaration and Sheikh Lethome moderated discussion and then received the plenary's endorsement of the Declaration.

Members of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Declaration Drafting Committee were as follows:

1. **Sheikh Mohamed Sohaib Al-Chami**, the Grand Imam of Aleppo, Syria
2. **Dr. Kezevino Aram**, Co-Moderator, Religions for Peace International, President, Shanti Ashram, India, President, Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children
3. **Rev. Mons. Sidney Fones**, Chair, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee
4. **Rabbi Diana Gerson**, Program Director, New York Board of Rabbis
5. **H.G. Dr. Barry C. Morgan**, former Archbishop of Wales
6. **Rt. Rev. Julio E. Murray**, Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Panama, President of the Ecumenical Committee, Chair, Interreligious Committee in Panama, Chair, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Hosting Committee
7. **Rev. Hidehito Okochi**, Chief Priest, Kenji-in Temple and Juko-in Temple
8. **Prof. Anantanand Rambachan**, Professor of Religion, Philosophy and Asian Studies, Saint Olaf College
9. **Ms. Mercedes Roman**, Advisor, GNRC-Latin America and the Caribbean
10. **Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali**, Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) and Director, Arigatou International – Nairobi

The committee was assisted by members of the Arigatou International Secretariat, namely:

1. **Mr. Atsushi Iwasaki**, Arigatou International – Tokyo
2. **Mr. Peter Billings**, Arigatou International – Tokyo
3. **Dr. Dorcas Kiplagat**, Network and Programs Coordinator, Arigatou International – Nairobi



## ROUNDTABLE WITH PARTNERS

The roundtable discussion among Arigatou International partners was held over a two-hour lunch period on the last day of the Forum. It was attended by 24 people from organizations which collaborate with Arigatou International as well as the top leadership of Arigatou International.

**Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali**, Secretary General, GNRC, welcomed the roundtable participants, describing the tradition of Forum roundtable meetings and inviting them to share their thoughts on how best Arigatou International and partners can move forward and take action following the Forum. He referenced the urgent need to increase awareness about the scale and scope of violence and put it before the global public. He also spoke about the GNRC's strong regional commitments to take action on the specific themes of the Forum.

**Rev. Keishi Miyamoto**, President of Arigatou International, expressed his deep appreciation for the kind support that the partners had extended Arigatou International's work on children. He noted that Arigatou International aspires to facilitate a wide range of effective, well-coordinated actions taken at various levels in cooperation with local GNRC members. Rev. Miyamoto expressed the hope that the organizations represented at the roundtable, working together, would make a tremendous difference in the lives of children, and that their conversation would be a significant first step, opening a door to whole new dimensions of partnership.

**Dr. Katherine Marshall**, Executive Director, World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD), lauded the World Bank's recently renewed commitment to working with religious communities, citing the enormous potential of enlisting the 85% of the world population who consider themselves religious in the fight

against violence. Dr. Marshall offered ten points for the group's consideration:

- Embrace the human "right" approach and not "charity" while fully understanding poverty including its definition, dimensions, and factors
- Governance matters, adding a voice to the issue of corruption
- Partnership is essential
- Gender equality to ensure special attention to girls which also helps to build stronger bridges between religious and secular actors who consider religious sector to be lagging behind in gender equality
- Must understand and grapple with the "forces of evil"
- Strengthen connections between the national/regional/local
- Robust determined efforts must be made to support the most marginalized
- The priority of priorities must be education
- Support the family
- Sense of urgency, as children grow and develop quickly

**Mr. Christo Greyling**, Senior Director, Faith – Advocacy and External Engagement, World Vision International, emphasized the need for religious efforts to address the root causes of both violence and poverty, especially by "changing the hearts and minds" of their community members to take a stand in support of children. He highlighted the "biggest human disaster since 1945," the current migrant and refugee crisis, in which countless children are said to be facing death within the next few weeks. He recommended that religions and people of faith should engage with the G7

initiative on this issue. He recalled the powerful phrase "no child left behind" from the UN Declaration "The World We Want."

**Ms. Amanda Rives**, Regional Advocacy Director, Latin America and Caribbean, World Vision International, stated that she was profoundly moved by the opening interreligious prayer and deeply encouraged by the Forum about all that can be accomplished, working together. On the pernicious issue of organized crime, she stressed that interreligious cooperation is the only way to make a breakthrough.

**Mr. Andrew Claypole**, standing in for Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, appreciated the inclusion of the relevant SDGs in the Declaration. On follow-up, he noted that those SDGs already have accountability processes for governments: each country must annually declare progress at the high-level political forum in New York. Religious leaders and faith-based organizations have a critical role to play in those processes, and should be strongly encouraged to get involved to make sure that children, and especially ending violence against children, are featured in those country accountability reports.

**Ms. Liza Barrie**, Chief of Civil Society Partnerships, UNICEF, pledged to inform her colleagues about the Forum outcomes, for instance the Panama Declaration, which she said was very strong. She flagged the issues of gender and proselytization as the key impediments to certain organizations in further expanding cooperation with religious communities.

**Prof. Alberto Quattrucci**, Secretary General of Peoples and Religions, Community of Sant'Egidio, maintained that the most skeptical people about the power of religion are, in fact, inside the religions. He said dialogue is

not enough; communities alone can integrate themselves; it can't be done to them by institutions. The poor should not be thought of or spoken of as clients of charity, but as a community to work with; it must be recognized that the poor have great power and dignity to help one another. The value of the common good, ethical values, must be clearly declared: this is what religious and spiritual communities are called to do. He proposed keys to follow-up, including: rather than speaking just of each organization's own activities, to ask for help; to cooperate, communicate clearly with each other; to network and work together and connect with one another to capture synergies.

**Rev. Adam Taylor**, Lead, Faith-Based Initiative, World Bank Group, appreciated that the Declaration mentioned the challenges of "poverty" and "social exclusion." He said, although the World Bank does not have dedicated organizations for children's issues, this actually creates opportunities to connect with various related segments of the Bank. He also recommended engaging with the Bank's processes every five years to develop plans and partnerships, inviting all those present to become involved. He noted that a new secretariat for the Bank's "moral imperative to end poverty" initiative is being established, and he expressed the hope that there would be a strong connection between the GNRC work and that initiative.

**Dr. Agnes Abuom**, Moderator, Central Committee, World Council of Churches, invited cooperation and partnerships at the grassroots level on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. Other key issues she cited include preventive advocacy, post-conflict restoration, HIV/AIDS, changing the socialization of boys/men, and exposing all forms of violence against women and girls and breaking the taboo against speaking about it in religious communities. She stressed the need to promote positive masculinity.



**Ms. Corina Villacorta**, Regional Director, Plan International Americas, cited the necessity of distinguishing the situation of girls and boys, and proposed that Arigatou International consider changing the term “Children” in the name of the “Global Network of Religions for Children” to “Girls and Boys.” Applying the lens of gender reveals the unique horrors that girls experience,” she asserted. Regarding the dynamics between secular and religious organizations; she recalled the comment about the theme of “family” as a concept with both common ground and great contention, and urged secular NGOs and religious organizations to work together to counter the polarization around the concept “family.” She also stated that social media is dangerously fueling certain false ideas about what gender equality is.

**Rt. Rev. Julio E. Murray**, Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Panama, President of the Ecumenical Committee, Chair, Interreligious Committee in Panama, and Chair, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Hosting Committee, emphasized the impact that the Forum would have in ensuring Panama itself issues a national government plan to counter violence against children, citing the commitment that the president and first lady had expressed at the Forum. On follow-up, he stressed that mere “change” is not enough, because there can be regress. Instead, lasting “transformation” is required, and for this to happen, positive visions of respect, inclusion, tolerance, and inclusion of the marginalized must be offered: what will these areas actually look like when “transformed”? He declared that, despite how profound the Forum itself was, the real opportunity for bold, smart, profound transformation is what comes next.

**Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi**, Director, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, noted the rare privilege of having such strong children’s participation at the Forum. He

informed the group about an interfaith school his organization had opened in a dangerous area in Africa, and spoke about the need to demonstrate the tangible benefits of education in countering violence. He noted the powerful existing actions of religious groups, such as a Sufi organization in Nigeria, in opening schools, and the protective role they play in keeping children safe from recruitment into violence, etc. He recommended that flagship examples of religious action, such as these, should be highlighted at future forums.

**Ms. Dorothy Rozga**, Executive Director, ECPAT International, pledged to work with Prayer and Action for Children to organize the next Buddhist Leaders Meeting on Ending Child Violence in Southeast Asia. She recommended that Arigatou International obtain one or two specific commitments from each partner present, and then plan to track and celebrate the results in five years at the next Forum. At future forums and meetings, she stated that more emphasis must be given to survivors—enabling them to meet with and support one another, and giving them spaces to share their powerful stories of overcoming. Regarding countering the “forces of evil,” she noted violence against children is a crime, is illegal: thus, bridges must be built with the good people of law enforcement and religious communities should work closely with them. She also stated that the “girls” problem will never be solved unless the “boys” problem is solved. For instance, one of the most troubling problems is that boys in many places find it more taboo than girls to talk about the abuse or violence they have suffered.

**Ms. Silvia Mazzarelli**, Regional Head of Child Rights Policy and Programming, Plan International, recommended that Forum follow-up be as concrete and specific as possible about what happens at the country

level because leaving it at the regional level is too abstract. On partnership, she noted that government decision-makers are best influenced when secular and religious organizations come together to advocate for a common cause.

Dr. Ali briefly reprised some of the commitments and comments the participants had made, as well as takeaways for Arigatou International. A few of them are listed below.

- Sharing the Forum Declaration around the world
- Networking and communication
- Engaging with the 5 year plan of the World Bank’s Moral Imperative
- Participating in the WCC Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace
- Promoting positive masculinity
- Better specifying how girls and boys are affected differently by violence
- Forging country partnerships and engaging religious leadership in country-level plans and accountability processes
- Promoting legislation that helps prevent and address violence against children
- Reinvigorating the GNRC Middle East
- Engaging more strongly with government decision-makers



## SEVENTH PLENARY: CLOSING CEREMONY AND FORUM DECLARATION



The closing plenary was moderated by **H.L. Bishop Dr. Method Kilaini**, Bishop of Bukoba Diocese, Bukoba, Tanzania, and **Ms. Rosalina Tuyuc Velásquez**, President of CONAVIGUA and Member of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of Americas, Guatemala.

### Closing Remarks by Distinguished Participants

**Sheikh Mohamed Sohaib Al Chami**, Grand Imam of Aleppo, Syria, declared that the human being is different from all other creations in the sense that humans are the same in all stages of development; one cannot make a distinction between the stages. The future is demonstrated by children, the present by the youth, and experience is demonstrated by adults. If you interfere with the human development cycle, you destroy the future, Sheikh Sohaib warned. He added that as adults, we cannot give youth what we do not have, and emphasized the need to care for the entire society, in a way that the older generation extends her wisdom and

experience to the youth and then youth direct their communication to the children, leading to one strong chain of interconnectedness and learning from one another.

Sheikh Sohaib reiterated that, to bring about an end to violence against children will require the elimination of wrong attitudes about violence among older people, and asked all to keep in mind that those who love, harvest love, and those who hate, harvest hatred. He asked adults to be good role models for children. Sheikh Sohaib gave examples of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) showing much love and



concern for children. He described one incident where, while the Prophet (PBUH) was walking up to a stage, a child came to him. He hugged him and took him to the stage with him. You will never succeed if you do not pay attention to children, Sheikh Sohaib said. A second example was when children jumped onto the

Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) back and he delayed, making those with him so irritated, asking why he was taking too much time. The Prophet (PBUH) explained that he was waiting for the children to come down, since he did not want to hurt them.

Sheikh Sohaib encouraged the participants not to despair, but to remain optimistic, noting that the future was bright. He asked everyone not to forget the children of Syria and Iraq, who were experiencing so much suffering. He attributed their suffering to the distance that people live from their values and God. He emphasized the need to focus on the family, saying that when the family is stable, then children would grow up well. He also urged a greater focus on human principles, noting that religion should not divide but unify people. "I request Christian leaders to go back to their Christian values, Jews to do the same, Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus and other religions to also do the same," he concluded.

**Dr. Agnes Abuom**, Moderator, Central Committee, World Council of Churches, gave a presentation entitled, "Rescuing, Restoring and Rebuilding the Intergenerational Web of Life," in which she used an African adage:

"When the forest is growing, it does not make noise; but when it is drying up, being cut up, you hear lots of noise."

"We are gathered here because the web of life is fractured...wounded... and there is too much noise, especially from our children who are mutilated, abused, killed and violated every day," she said.

"It is therefore important that the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum has brought the children to remind us of their cry in the wilderness and our urgent call to rescue intergenerational linkages within the web of life," Dr. Abuom explained. She viewed the GNRC Forum as a stop on the journey



of justice and peace—a station to connect, reconnect and appreciate the gravity of the pandemic, the urgency for partnerships and action as well as the need for people of faith to commit and recommit to end modern-day slavery and barbaric acts against children. She



noted that the impact of violence on children is a devaluation of God's image in our children and a denial of their dignity and rights as human beings.

Dr. Abuom proposed that the SDGs must be given a "child's face," to ensure sustainable

social transformation, and called upon faith leaders to listen carefully to what God expects of them and to what the call and cry of children is. She urged all present to act appropriately and include children as equal partners who have solutions that need to be unlocked.

**Dr. Alaa Murabit**, UN High-Level Commissioner on Health, Employment and Economic Growth, noted that to accept others' opinions can only be possible with God-given humility.

Dr. Murabit advised the participants to widen the scope of work to continue re-engaging in interpreting the scriptures. She stated that women deserved respect not because of any roles they play in their homes or society but because they are human beings, and urged all to understand that God is the only one who can judge anyone.

She made the following recommendations:

- Start with ourselves as faith leaders, because leadership should be earned by the kind of leadership a religious leader offers
- Make use of existing resources and structures to address violence against children
- Give women space in faith platforms as a way to demonstrate inclusivity.



### The Children's Presentation

The children's presentation began with a call to awaken humanity on the issue of violence against children. Envisioning a world where children could approach a stranger without any apprehension and fear, the children asked the participants to take a moment, close their eyes and imagine, really visualize a world where a child's house becomes a home, where children can go to schools with a nurturing environment rather than a torturing one, where a child can go to bed peacefully without worrying about

committing a crime because of a criminal organization, and where every child can have a positive childhood. With regards to what they can contribute to the fight of ending violence against children, they had this to say:

- "As children, we would like to support and contribute to the creation of virtual, friendly and secure platforms where we can find information about different types of violence



and how they can be prevented and addressed."

- "We can create groups and meet in places where we can communicate and express our problems with freedom and be able to enjoy with other children just like us, where they feel an atmosphere of trust and protection."
- "We would like to participate in campaigns against violence and give talks to other young people about violence, as they themselves can detect and stop it in their community and also in places where they can denounce, in order to gradually change our environment."
- "We can use the means we have to raise our voices and help other children realize that they are not alone but have people who care about them despite the distance."

They then committed themselves to the cause of ending violence against children in the following manner:

- "We commit to sharing and disseminating the conclusions, agreements, and recommendations of this Fifth Forum, especially with the religious leaders of our communities."
- "We, children, commit to working with you to end all forms of violence against children around the world."

The children argued strongly that children and young people should be given an opportunity to work with adults, for the following reasons: young people can give dynamic ideas to religious leaders, which can attract more young people to God's service; the need to work together so that their voices are heard and reflected in laws; the need to create safe spaces for children where they can talk about their problems and share their stories freely; and the need to develop appropriate programs in schools to help children understand how their actions affect others among other reasons.





**H.G. Archbishop Felix Machado**, Archbishop of Vasai, India, dwelt on the central role of the family, making reference to Pope Francis' message of 2014-15 about the family, urging participants to uphold the beauty, unity and sanctity of marriage. He called for the accompaniment of married couples so that they could become vessels of compassion, loving guides, full of understanding and respect. He said that the family should be viewed from a broader perspective to include grandparents, who connect the family to the rest of the world and whose stories help to build the values of children.

H.G. Archbishop Machado decried the attitudes of people of the current generation who view extended family relations as an interference, thus leading to exclusion and isolation. Excerpts of his remarks follow.

*"The family is the place where children learn to socialize because it is the first place where children come face to face with others to listen, to share, to support, to respect, to help and to live together. It is in the family that we first learn to live our life on this planet earth, beyond the limits of our own little house. It is in the family that we are taught to break away from our naturally egoistic tendencies by learning to live together with others, others who merit our attention, who desire our gentleness and our affection. Without this day to day family living we would not learn our social link. The family can also be a protagonist of an integral ecology, because the family is the first basic and social cell of society.*

*The family can also be a school where persons are formed to promote peace-building. It is in the context of family that integral development of every person and all people is achieved because, unless we seek the good of one and all, peace is placed in jeopardy. Respect for the rights of every human person, especially those of children, is the foundation of peace. Of course, there are always rights and duties, flowing directly and simultaneously from the human person's very nature."*

**H.L. Bishop Dr. Method Kilaini** then announced the formal issuance of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Panama Declaration on Ending Violence against Children.

## Tribute to the Late Mr. Shozo Fujita



The late Mr. Shozo Fujita  
Secretary General, Arigatou International

Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, GNRC Secretary General, in wrapping up the Forum, shared about the recent passing of Mr. Shozo Fujita, former Secretary General, Arigatou International. As he spoke, photos captured during the Forum were shown on the screen, and he invited participants to envision a world free of violence against children, in memory of Mr. Fujita.

*"At this juncture, it is now my solemn duty to share with you some very sad news. With sorrow in my heart I must announce to you the recent passing of Mr. Shozo Fujita, who left us after a valiant battle with illness after serving as Secretary General of Arigatou International for 17 years.*

*All of us who knew him well would agree: No one worked harder for children than Fujita-san. We will truly miss his kind and gentle spirit, his complete devotion, and his wonderful example of the practice of gratitude.*

*So, as we near the end of this inspiring Forum, complete with the many commitments we have made, let us go forth from here and work as hard as he did, giving our all to end violence against children everywhere. Please join me in a moment of silence for Mr. Fujita. Let us envision a world free of violence for children, in honor of his memory."*



## CLOSING INTERFAITH PRAYER FOR PEACE

The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum came to a close with an Interfaith Prayer for Peace. Rt. Rev. Julio E. Murray encouraged participants to proceed silently from the final plenary to another hall, where they participated together, each in his or her own sacred way, in a time of prayer for children and for world peace. Amid the solemnly observed silence, prayers were offered one by one by representatives, including children, from the following religious traditions: African Tradition – Orunmila Ifa, Baha’i,

Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Indigenous Tradition - Mayan, Islam, Judaism, and Shintoism. With the offering of each prayer, volunteers added one more giant puzzle piece to the wall. Prayer by prayer, the pieces fit together, gradually bringing into view a “mural” depicting joyful participants of the Fifth Forum. The Interfaith Prayer for Peace brought the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum to a fitting conclusion with a spirit of hope.





## Closing Interfaith Prayer for Peace



### African Tradition – Orunmila Ifa

Religious Leader: **Alexandre Silveira Souza**, Chaperone, Rede Afrobrasileira Sociocultural, Coordinator, GNRC–Brazil



### Baha'i

Religious Leader: **Mr. Abdiel Gonzalez**, Comunidad Baha'i, Panama



### Buddhism

Religious Leader: **Ven. Galkande Dhammananda**, Academic, Lecturer, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka



### Christianity

Religious Leader: **Sister Esperanza Valmeo Principio**, Maryknoll Sisters, Peru



### Hinduism

Religious Leader: **Swami Atmapriyananda**, Vice Chancellor, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, India



### Indigenous Tradition – Mayan

Religious Leader: **Ms. Rosalina Tuyuc Velásquez**, President of CONAVIGUA and Member of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of Americas, Guatemala



### Islam

Religious Leader: **Sheikh Mohamed El Sayyed**, Imam, Centro Cultural Islámico de Panamá, and member, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Hosting Committee, Panama



### Judaism

Religious Leader: **Rabbi Gustavo Kraselnik**, Comunidad Judía Panama, and member, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Hosting Committee, Panama



### Shintoism

Religious Leader: **Rev. Kazuhiro Motoyama**, Chief Priest, Tamamitsu Shrine, Japan







## THE CHILDREN'S PRE-MEETING



### Overview

Prior to the start of the main Forum, 64 children from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America gathered on 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Panama City to learn from one another and prepare for participation in the Fifth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC).

Participants in this children's pre-meeting were aged 14-17, representing diverse cultural and religious traditions, who are actively involved in the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) in their respective countries. Five of the children also came from two Arigatou International partners, Plan International and World Vision International.

The aim of the pre-meeting was to provide a friendly space for children to get to know each other, learn from each other's experiences and

become acquainted with the themes and sub-themes of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum. During the pre-meeting, opportunities were created for children to: (1) express their views in matters that affect them and their communities; (2) share what they had discussed during the pre-Forum country consultations and to learn about the consultations that were organized in the other countries; (3) explore the themes and sub-themes of the Forum, exchange opinions and views; and (4) elaborate recommendations and prioritize what to present at the Forum and plan for it.

Children and young people were welcomed as full and equal participants at the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum, in adherence to the principles of Arigatou International concerning the rights of children and their participation in decisions that affect them.

### Proceedings

Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe, Director, Arigatou International – Geneva, and Secretary General of the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children, welcomed the children to the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum. Ms. Uribe invited the following guests to convey a special welcome to the children and their chaperones: Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, Secretary General of the Global Network of Religions for Children and Director, Arigatou International – Nairobi, Rt. Rev. Bishop Julio E. Murray, Chairman, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Hosting Committee, Mr. Aly Kadoura, a child from the hosting country; and Ms. Maria Cristina Perceval, Regional Director, UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean.

During the pre-meeting, children were accompanied by a diverse team of six experienced facilitators.<sup>7</sup> Parallel to the children's pre-meeting, the chaperones also had a meeting, guided by three experts<sup>8</sup> on child rights and children's participation, to learn more about child protection and participation, and their role as chaperones.

A child protection focal point, Ms. Patricia Horna, Regional Coordinator on Child Participation, World Vision International Latin America, was chosen to accompany and support the children throughout the pre-meeting and Forum.

<sup>7</sup> Ms. Masue Suzuki - Japan, Arigatou International – New York, Ms. Nageeba Hassan - Uganda, GNRC Contact Person for Uganda, Ms. Nyambura Gichuki - Kenya, Arigatou International – Nairobi, Mr. Patricio Cuevas-Parra - Chile, World Vision, Mr. Suchith Abeyewickreme - Sri Lanka, Arigatou International – Geneva, and Ms. Vera Leal – Portugal, Arigatou International – Geneva.

<sup>8</sup> Ms. Mercedes Roman from Ecuador – Advisor for GNRC–Latin America and the Caribbean; Mr. Andres Guerrero, Chile/Switzerland, and Ms. Laura Molnar, GNRC–Romania.





### Day One: May 6, 2017

The morning of the first day featured an initial exploration of the Forum's theme. The children first explored the concept of violence by sharing words associated with it and the types of violence that exist in their communities. The facilitators briefly introduced some key information on the different types of violence in order to create a common understanding of the topic and its terminology.

The afternoon was dedicated to learning about the social context by visiting a local project named *Movement New Generation*. This project is at the heart of a vulnerable area severely affected by violence, particularly gang violence. It runs diverse initiatives such as dance, sports, after-school support and technology and includes a dining room with a healthy food concept. It welcomes children and youth from the community and aims to be a safe space for children to grow, develop and nurture values, develop knowledge, attitudes and skills that prevent and support them in making ethical decisions that can protect them from violence and drug use problems affecting the community.

Back at the venue, participants reflected on what they learned from their visit to the *Movement New Generation* center. Some children shared that, despite living just a few blocks away from the project, they had no idea about its existence. "I will be more attentive from now on," one child promised. While some children appreciated the challenges that children faced everyday around the world, others felt the wish that they could have done more good during the visit.

Participants further explored the Forum theme in small groups. In the groups, they made a world map identifying the types of violence affecting children and youth at the intra- and inter-personal levels and later shared the outcomes with their country members. The session concluded with participants presenting their findings on the various similarities they shared as strengths.

The children's main reflection was that violence happens across the globe, irrespective of the country or one's social or economic context. They also noted that some types of violence are more prevalent than others.

### Day Two: May 7, 2017

Day two began with a re-cap, where participants spoke a lot about the visit to the *Movement New Generation*. They also reflected on their similarities as strengths to use to bring about the change needed to end violence against children around the world.

Day two focused on the Forum's sub-themes: "Protecting Children from Violent Extremism, Gang Violence and Organized Crime"; "Nurturing Spirituality and Ending Violence in Child Upbringing"; and "Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children." Participants in groups keenly explored the effects and causes of violence.

Lack of education, lack of safe space for children and lack of resources to tackle violence were some of the factors pointed out as causes of violence. Poor governance, unemployment, corruption, lack of role models, peer pressure and social discrimination were also mentioned. Participants also stressed that lack of religious leaders to guide the community and lack of a parent or a guardian to guide a child may lead to poor behavior in a child. Children also underlined that the causes can be exacerbated

depending on the gender, socio-economic factors and the context in which one is born such as with a disability or as an orphan.

As for the consequences to violence, children stressed physical, psychological, cognitive (due to malnutrition), emotional and spiritual damage that is irreversible, distrust, and loneliness, which leads to children being vulnerable to gangs, trafficking or exploitation, among others.

The sessions concluded with the introduction of the Forum to the children, including the agenda and the various ways they could look forward to participating at the Forum. Groups were formed in preparation for the various children's presentations to take place during the Forum.

The day ended with a cultural evening organized and led by the children with the support of the facilitators. The cultural evening provided an opportunity for the children to share their countries' traditions and cultures through music, dance, poetry, videos, food, and other means.





### Day Three: May 8, 2017

Day three of the pre-meeting focused on reflections on what different faiths say about children and how they should be protected irrespective of their color, race or religious affiliation.

During the closing session, children had the opportunity to engage in dialogue with

Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President of Arigatou International and Convenor of the GNRC. Children wrote things they had learned from the pre-meeting on pieces of paper shaped like flower petals. One by one, as they put the petals in place, the children created a flower of inspiration for Rev. Miyamoto. Some of these comments are listed below.

#### Children's Comments About the Pre-meeting

- "I have learned about the different types of violence"
- "I have learned how we can all contribute to ending violence against children since we all have and can have a voice"
- "I have learned how we can work together to transform our communities"
- "Sharing ideas and learning about other's realities has broadened my scope on ending violence against children"
- "I have learned how to listen to others"
- "I have learned that if we unite our voices we shall make a difference"
- "We shall not let our voice get lost and that change is needed in all countries of the world and therefore we cannot continue watching this situation and not act"
- "We do not need to talk the same language or have the same culture to talk, walk and work together"
- "We are not to judge before knowing the root causes"
- "Teamwork is key to success"
- "I have learned about different cultures of the world"
- "I have learned that diversity doesn't separate people"
- "I have learned a lot from the diversity of opinions and points of view"
- "It was an eye-opener to understand the violence affecting children around the world"
- "I have learned that children and youth in the world do matter"

The pre-meeting ended with a visit to the Panama Canal.

### Looking Ahead from the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum in Panama A Message from Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President, Arigatou International

First of all, on behalf of Arigatou International and as Convenor of the GNRC, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the valuable contributions not only of all Forum participants, but also of many other supporters of Arigatou International, to the success of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum held in Panama in May 2017. Each successive GNRC forum has built upon what has been achieved by GNRC members and supporters around the world. In this sense, I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude in particular to Ms. Mercedes Roman, who has dedicated herself to the mission of the GNRC since the very beginning of the GNRC in the year 2000 and has been instrumental in making the GNRC in the Latin America and Caribbean region what it is today. Without her great contributions and long-term service as GNRC Coordinator for the region and as an Advisor, the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum in Panama would have never even taken place.

If religious people of different faiths come together in prayer and practice to work for children in collaboration with international organizations, governments and NGOs, we can make a major difference in the lives of children around the world. This was the conviction and aspiration of the late Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto, Leader of Myochikai and President of Arigatou International, when he proposed the idea of a worldwide interfaith network for children and inaugurated the GNRC at its first forum in 2000. I believe that the more than 500 participants, including children, who gathered from around the world for the 5<sup>th</sup> Forum made a very good start with the firm commitments set out in the Panama Declaration. Now, it is up to all of us to work together to deliver on those commitments, to create tangible outcomes in ending violence against children in the months and years ahead.

The real success of every GNRC Forum depends on how we follow up on the commitments made in the Forum. Our challenge here is how each of the Forum participants, now back in their home contexts, can translate the Panama commitments into concrete actions and then link and connect all of these actions taken by GNRC members, supporters and partners at various levels around the world, in order to make a real difference overall. In other words, even the smallest action in the smallest village can be part of the global initiative for children that we share. And we welcome and encourage action by the children themselves, as active protagonists who can offer the full benefits of their wisdom and unique capabilities to the work of the whole. Arigatou International will not only continue to work with the Forum participants, but also invite GNRC members, supporters and people of all walks of life to join us in the moral imperative to put an end to violence against children.







## APPENDICES

### Appendix I

#### GNRC 5<sup>TH</sup> FORUM CONCEPT NOTE

#### ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: FAITH COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

##### 1. INTRODUCTION: THE GNRC 5<sup>TH</sup> FORUM

Every five years, Arigatou International holds a Forum of its Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) initiative. The 5<sup>th</sup> Forum will take place on 9, 10 and 11 May 2017 in Panama City, Panama. Five hundred and twenty six religious leaders, members of diverse faith communities, leaders of faith-based organizations, United Nations officials, and representatives of international and grassroots organizations from around the world are expected to attend the Forum. A pre-Forum bringing together 64 children will take place on 6, 7, and 8 May. The theme for the Forum is: “**Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action.**”

The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum will build on the work that GNRC members from diverse faith traditions have been doing since the year 2000, working for and with children, to build a better world for children. Working locally, nationally, and globally, GNRC members have addressed several of the key challenges facing children, prioritizing areas such as child rights, education, poverty, and violence. The 5<sup>th</sup> Forum will focus specifically on solutions for the challenges presented by various forms of violence against children, broken down into three sub-themes. These are: “**Protecting Children from Violent Extremism, Gang Violence and Organized Crime**”; “**Nurturing Spirituality and Ending Violence in Child Upbringing**”; and “**Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

**of Children.**” The role of faith communities in addressing these challenges—especially through interreligious cooperation—will be the main focus of the Forum.

In bringing faith communities together to address violence against children, the Forum can also foster contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG16.2 focusing on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. Other SDG targets the Forum will address include an end to violence against women and girls (SDG5.2 and 5.3), an end to the economic exploitation of children (SDG8.7), keeping children safe in schools and communities, and promoting peace and non-violence (SDG4.a, 4.7, 11.2 and 11.7).

##### 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE GNRC 5<sup>TH</sup> FORUM

The Forum is intended to accomplish the following goals:

- a. **Learning and Sharing:** To highlight the scale and impact of violence against children, and facilitate exchanges among participating individuals and organizations of information, experiences, lessons learned and good practices that are effective in ending violence against children;
- b. **Shared Commitment and Call to Action:** To formulate concrete strategies and plans of action for the GNRC, its members, and

supporters, which build on the existing efforts of Arigatou International’s other global initiatives and diverse partners and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals; and issue a **Shared Commitment and Call to Action** to end violence against children; and

- c. **Building Partnerships to End Violence against Children:** To strengthen collaboration across the GNRC network by increasing the efficiency of and synergies among the work of its members, partners and supporters; and to strengthen existing and build new partnerships with key stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels aimed at ending violence against children.

##### 3. THE GLOBAL CONTEXT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Violence against children is one of the gravest challenges facing the world today, but it does not receive attention commensurate with its gravity. The evidence is overwhelming. Violence is the leading cause of death and injury of children in the world. Every five minutes, a child is killed by violence. One billion of the 2.2 billion children from all walks of life around the world endure different forms of physical and sexual violence, irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, race, religion or income levels. In 2012 alone, 95,000 children and adolescents under the age of 20 were killed in homicide cases globally.<sup>1</sup>

About 120 million girls around the world (just over one in 10) have been victims of forced sexual intercourse and other sexual assaults at some point in their lives.<sup>2</sup> Three out of every

four children experience violent discipline at home; 85 million children (55 million boys and 30 million girls) are involved in hazardous work; over 1 billion children live in countries or territories affected by armed conflict; and almost half of all forcibly displaced persons (24 million in total) globally, are children. Only 52 out of 197 countries have prohibited physical punishment of children in institutional care; and 14 % of girls and 7 % of boys under 18 years old have experienced sexual violence in institutional care.<sup>3</sup>

Even as the world is gripped by unrelenting threats related to violent extremism and organized crime, how these affect children are not sufficiently appreciated and addressed. Increasingly, important actors involved in violent extremism include vulnerable youth and children—especially in and from underprivileged and conflict-challenged areas. A recent study shows that 40% of all recruits into al-Shabaab terror groups were children and youth between the ages of 15-19 years.<sup>4</sup>

In Nigeria, 1.3 million children were displaced in 2015 as a result of violent extremist attacks by Boko Haram, representing a 60% increase from the previous year. In the same year, there were 44 incidents in which children were used in suicide attacks, with girls used in some, as reported by UNICEF. A 2015 report by *Frontline* demonstrates ten-year-old boys being forced to watch videos of extreme violence, beheadings, torture and others, preparing them for eventual ‘suicide’ attacks. ISIS, Boko Haram, al-Qaida and other violent

<sup>1</sup> Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence Against Children. UNICEF Sept. 2014 [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Ending\\_Violence\\_Against\\_Children\\_Six\\_strategies\\_for\\_action\\_EN\\_9\\_Oct\\_2014.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Ending_Violence_Against_Children_Six_strategies_for_action_EN_9_Oct_2014.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence Against Children. UNICEF Sept. 2014 [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Ending\\_Violence\\_Against\\_Children\\_Six\\_strategies\\_for\\_action\\_EN\\_9\\_Oct\\_2014.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Ending_Violence_Against_Children_Six_strategies_for_action_EN_9_Oct_2014.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> The Child Protection Initiative (CPI) report, Save the Children

<sup>4</sup> Report by Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and Finn Church Aid, 2014 on “Radicalization and al-Shabaab recruitment in Somalia”



extremist groups are intentionally targeting children and adolescents for recruitment, and to carry out attacks in the name of religion.<sup>5</sup>

In Latin America, children and adolescents not only suffer the most from violence attributed to organized crime and gang violence; they also end up being blamed and punished for most for these crimes. Children as young as 12 can be legally incarcerated. Drug trafficking, glaring inequality, corruption and lack of opportunities have all conspired to drive many young people into gangs, drugs, prostitution and extortion. Forty-three of the 50 most dangerous cities, and 8 of the 10 most dangerous countries in the world, are found in Latin America. With a population of 7 % of the global total, Latin American countries account for 30 % of all murders worldwide.

In Brazil, one person under the age of 18 is murdered every hour, UNICEF reports. In Mexico, young people account for the highest number of homicides. Some 30,000 children have been forced into organized crime. UNICEF and WHO report that Venezuela ranked among the countries with the highest annual homicide rate for children and adolescents, at 20 homicides per 100,000 children. In El Salvador, children as young as 10 are forced or persuaded to join the *Mara* gangs. In Colombia, 50% of the total number of people involved in criminal organizations are children. El Salvador, a country of 6.5 million inhabitants, reported 6,500 murders in 2014 alone—a significant number of these victims being children. Similarly high statistics are reported in Guatemala, Honduras, Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico. The consequence of recruitment into gangs and organized crime is extreme violence against children.<sup>6</sup> Children continue to be victims of sexual violence in the most demeaning and shameful

ways in many incidences of sexual abuse and exploitation. The statistics of sexual abuse, harassment, rape, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography distributed via the internet and social media are alarming. Indigenous territories have been constant targets of sexual violence, sexual exploitation of girls, forced early pregnancies and other threatening situations for indigenous children. Child sexual abuse is notoriously under-reported. But based on reported cases only, 1 in 5 girls, and 1 in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse. 20% of adult females and between 5 and 10% of adult males can recall a childhood sexual assault or a sexual abuse incident. Children between the ages of 7 and 13 years old are the most vulnerable. These violations, Interpol has admitted, will never be prosecuted out of existence. An ethical and values-based approach by religious leaders and faith communities is needed to address the serious challenges children face in this area.

The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum aims to consolidate and enhance the GNRC's previous efforts to address violence against children, by focusing on the unique role faith communities can and must play in addressing this crisis. Envisioning the potential of faith communities to turn around this crisis, the theme for the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum is **“Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action.”**

#### 4. SOLUTION-FOCUSED: THEMATIC AREAS OF THE FORUM

The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum will be solution-focused, with participants expected to discuss, recommend for action and make commitments to work together to build a world free of violence against children. GNRC members and faith communities around the world have been taking steps to address this challenge

at various levels. The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum seeks to inspire, reinvigorate, and encourage GNRC members and diverse faith communities to take even more action together, as well as to develop concrete partnerships with other stakeholders, to address violence against children. When crafting these action plans to eliminate violence against children, participants will take advantage of the effective tools offered by Arigatou International's other global initiatives: Ethics Education for Children, Prayer and Action for Children, and End Child Poverty. It is expected that the Forum will give rise to creative new ways to bring these approaches and resources together in targeted ways to prevent, reduce, and stop recurrence of violence against children.

The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum will include plenary sessions, panel discussions, expert presentations and reflections on the three key thematic areas, namely;

- a. Protecting Children from Violent Extremism, Gang Violence and Organized Crime: The Role of Faith Communities;
- b. Nurturing Spirituality and Ending Violence in Child Upbringing: The Role of Faith Communities; and
- c. Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children: The Role of Faith Communities

Under **“Protecting Children from Violent Extremism, Gang Violence and Organized Crime: The Role of Faith Communities,”** Forum participants will discuss and frame the role of religious leaders and faith communities in preventing the recruitment and participation of children into radicalized groups for violent extremism, gang violence and organized crime. The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum aims to share what is already being done in these areas, and to apply Arigatou International's Ethics Education for Children, Prayer and Action for Children,

and End Child Poverty initiatives to create new solutions and actions that can be deployed by religious leaders and faith communities around the world to, prevent, reduce and end the manipulation and use of children for violent extremism, gang violence and organized crime.

Under **“Nurturing Spirituality and Ending Violence in Child Upbringing: The Role of Faith Communities,”** participants will discuss and recommend ways in which a child's spirituality can be nurtured and promoted, in particular through positive parenting but also by the wider community, to protect them from violence and help them to develop to their full potential. The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum will reflect upon and explore the role of faith communities and their leaders in supporting legal reforms to prohibit all forms of physical and humiliating punishment of children, as well as their role in fostering spirituality in children and caregivers, as a way of preventing and mitigating violence. Participants will review opportunities to take advantage of the Ethics Education for Children, Prayer and Action for Children, and End Child Poverty initiatives for this purpose.

Under **“Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children: The Role of Faith Communities,”** participants will focus on and discuss possible partnerships among faith-based organizations and communities and international organizations which address these challenges, as well as consider partnerships among or facilitated by Arigatou International's Ethics Education for Children, Prayer and Action for Children, and End Child Poverty initiatives. Participants will explore the ethical and moral imperative that faith communities not only acknowledge the existence and grave consequences of this vice, but also confront and challenge it within their communities and in the wider society.

<sup>5</sup> Violence Against Children in Nigeria: Findings from a National Survey, 2014. Abuja, Nigeria: UNICEF, 2016

<sup>6</sup> Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States, 2015



## 5. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Forum is expected to have the following main outcomes:

- a. Learning and Sharing: Increased understanding and appreciation of the scale and impact of violence against children as well as enhanced understanding and shared learning about effective methods for preventing, reducing and ending violence against children;
- b. Shared Commitment and Call to Action: Commitment to addressing violence against children and adoption of concrete plans of action by faith communities, partners and other stakeholders to prevent and reduce violence against children at the local, national, regional and global levels; a concrete new approach for GNRC members and partners to make the most of the potential synergies among Arigatou International's Ethics Education for Children, Prayer and Action for Children, and End Child Poverty initiatives to address the specific challenges of ending violence against children and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals; the issuing of a **Shared Commitment and Call to Action**; and
- c. Building Partnerships to End Violence against Children: Effective broad-based interreligious partnerships, as well as partnerships between religious and secular stakeholders aimed at ending violence against children by implementing the commitments and actions discussed at the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum.

## 6. BACKGROUND: PREVIOUS GLOBAL GNRC FORUMS

The 1<sup>st</sup> Forum of the GNRC took place in Tokyo, Japan in 2000, under the theme "**Prayer and Practice for the Future of Children.**" The areas of focus in the 1<sup>st</sup> Forum included: The Realization of a World Without Armed Conflict; Compassion for Children in the Family and Community; The Contribution of Education to Development and Peace; and Child Development in a Wholesome Environment. The Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) was inaugurated at the 1<sup>st</sup> Forum by Arigatou International.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum took place in Geneva, Switzerland in 2004, under the theme "**Our Promise to Children**". The focus in this Forum was Child Rights issues. At this Forum, Arigatou International launched the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum took place in Hiroshima, Japan in 2008, under the theme "**Learning to Share: Values, Action, Hope**". The areas of focus in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum were: The Ethical Imperative to Ensure that No Child Lives in Poverty; The Ethical Imperative to End Violence against Children; and the Ethical Imperative to Protect the Earth. The Prayer and Action for Children movement, which started with the annual World Day of Prayer and Action for Children, was launched by Arigatou International during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Forum took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in 2012 under the theme, "**Ending Poverty, Enriching Children: Inspire. Act. Change**". The sub-themes in this Forum were: Poor Governance: Building Partnerships to End

Corruption; War and Violence: Ending Violence Against Children; and Unequal Distribution of Resources: Giving Every Child a Fair Chance. The Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty (End Child Poverty) was launched by Arigatou International during this Forum.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Transformed faith communities and their religious leaders can be a very powerful resource for mitigating, preventing, reducing and ultimately ending violence against children. There is much more that the GNRC, its friends and supporters can do to fully engage the world's faith communities in efforts to end violence against children utilizing both their tangible and intangible resources. The GNRC

5<sup>th</sup> Forum will be urging faith communities and their leaders to work together, making the most of their social capital and moral authority while inviting diverse other actors to cooperate with them in addressing violence against children.

The Forum envisions an end to all forms of violence against children, and seeks to generate a major new global impetus to accomplish this vision. In partnership with governments, inter-governmental, multilateral, faith-based and non-governmental institutions, Arigatou International and the GNRC members believe that it is certainly possible to build a world where all children everywhere can live in peace, in a world free of violence.



## Appendix II

### GNRC 5<sup>TH</sup> FORUM PROGRAM

#### DAY ONE: 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017

08:00 – 09:00	Arrivals, Refreshments, Seating
<b>FIRST PLENARY:</b>	<b>OPENING CEREMONY</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>GRAN ANCON</b>
<b>Session Chair and Master of Ceremony:</b>	<b>Rt. Rev. Julio E. Murray</b> , Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Panama, President of the Ecumenical Committee, Chair, Interreligious Committee in Panama, Chair, GNRC 5 <sup>th</sup> Forum Hosting Committee
09:05 – 09:15	Prayers for Peace offered by Interreligious Committee in Panama
09:15 – 09:30	Remarks by <b>Rev. Keishi Miyamoto</b> , President, Arigatou International, Convenor, Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC)
09:30 – 09:35	Message from <b>H.E. Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran</b> , President, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Holy See
09:35 – 09:40	Message from <b>H.R.H. Prince El Hassan bin Talal</b> , The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
09:40 – 09:45	Message from <b>Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit</b> , General Secretary, World Council of Churches
09:45 – 09:55	<b>Presentation by Children</b>
09:55 – 10:00	Message from <b>Mr. Anthony Lake</b> , Executive Director, UNICEF
10:00 – 10:15	Official Opening Address by <b>H.E. Juan Carlos Varela</b> , President, Republic of Panama
10:15 – 10:20	Remarks by <b>Rev. Mons. Sidney Fones</b> , Chair, GNRC 5 <sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee
10:20 – 11:00	Group Photograph— <b>GRAN ANCON</b>  Break— <b>FOYER</b>

#### SECOND PLENARY:

**Venue:**

**Session Co-Chairs:**

11:00 – 11:20

11:20 – 11:40

11:40 – 12:00

12:00 – 12:30

12:30 – 14:30

#### THIRD PLENARY:

**Venue:**

**14:30 – 15:30**

**Session Moderator:**

**Introductory Remarks:**

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

**GRAN ANCON**

**Rabbi Diana Gerson**; Program Director, New York Board of Rabbis, and **Prof. Anantanand Rambachan**, Professor of Religion, Philosophy and Asian Studies, Saint Olaf College

**Opening Keynote Address:** *The State of the World's Children*

**Ms. Marta Santos Pais**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

**Keynote Address by Children's Representatives:**

**Ms. Stella Odong** and **Mr. Marcos Jaffe**

**Keynote Address:** *The Role of Faith Communities in Ending Violence Against Children*

**H.E. Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga**, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Plenary Question and Answer Session

Lunch Break—**GRAN SALON**

#### SPECIAL SESSION ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

**GRAN ANCON**

**Panel on Partnerships to End Violence Against Children**

*Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action*

**Mr. Kul Gautam**, Chair, Prayer and Action for Children, Former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations

**Dr. Susan Bissell**, Director, Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children

**PANELISTS:**

**Mr. Ted Chaiban**, Director, Programme Division UNICEF, New York

**Rev. Adam Russell Taylor**, Lead, Faith-Based Initiative, World Bank Group

**Dr. Kezevino Aram**, Co-Moderator, *Religions for Peace International*, President, Shanti Ashram, India, President, Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children



**Rev. Hidehito Okochi**, Chief Priest, Kenji-in Temple and Juko-in Temple, Japan, Board Member, Arigatou International  
Children's Representatives: **Ms. Sara Dayana Ariza** and **Mr. Siranjeevi Rangaraj**

15:30 – 16:00

Plenary Question and Answer Session

16:00 – 16:30

Break: **FOYER**

**PARALLEL SESSIONS: REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS**

16:30 – 18:00

**WORKING GROUP A: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**Session Coordinators:** **Ms. Mercedes Roman** and **Ms. Lizia Lu**

**Venue:** **LA CALETA**

**WORKING GROUP B: EUROPE**

**Session Coordinators:** **Ms. Ismeta Begić** and **Ms. Laura Molnar**

**Venue:** **CONTADORA II**

**WORKING GROUP C: AFRICA**

**Session Coordinators:** **Sr. Agatha Chikelue** and **Sheikh Ramadhan Aula**

**Venue:** **COLON**

**WORKING GROUP D: ASIA**

**Session Coordinators:** **Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne** and **Dr. Chintamani Yogi**

**Venue:** **CONTADORA I**

**WORKING GROUP E: MIDDLE EAST**

**Session Coordinators:** **Fr. Abdo Raad** and **Ms. Dorit Shippin**

**Venue:** **Group 1—TABOGA II**

**Group 2—TABOGA I**

(Regional Working Groups are sessions where GNRC Members and other participants who are willing to work with GNRC at the local, national and regional levels work together to create action plans. Regional groups sometimes break into smaller sub-regional groups to focus on specific issues related to violence against children unique to each sub-region.)

**DINNER RECEPTION**

Hosted by **Rev. Keishi Miyamoto**, President, Arigatou International, Convenor, GNRC

**Venue:**

**GRAN SALON**

19:00 - 21:00

**Guest of Honor:**

**H.E. Lorena Castillo de Varela**, First Lady of Panama

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Forum Declaration Drafting Committee**

**Venue:**

**GATUN**



DAY TWO: 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017

FOURTH PLENARY:

THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS

Venue:

GRAN ANCON

Session Co-Chairs:

**Prof. Abdulghafur El Busaidy**, Chairman, Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims, and **Ms. Marie Dennis**, Co-President, Pax Christi International

THEME 1:

Protecting Children from Violent Extremism, Gang Violence and Organized Crime: The Role of Faith Communities

09:00 – 09:10

Children's Representatives: **Mr. Mohammed Yusuph** and **Ms. Raquel Sherman**

09:10 – 09:30

Thematic Keynote Address by **Fr. Juan Luis Carbajal Tejeda**, Executive Secretary, Pastoral de Movilidad Humana, Episcopal Conference of Guatemala

THEME 2:

Nurturing Spirituality and Ending Violence in Child Upbringing: The Role of Faith Communities

09:30– 09:40

Children's Representatives: **Mr. Saul Orefice** and **Ms. Patricia Cortez**

09:40– 10:00

Thematic Keynote Address by **H.G. Dr. Barry C. Morgan**, former Archbishop of Wales

THEME 3:

Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children: The Role of Faith Communities

10:00 – 10:10

Children's Representatives: **Ms. Mariam Duque** and **Mr. Aly Kadoura**

10:10 – 10:30

Thematic Keynote Address by **Dr. Alaa Murabit**, UN High-level Commissioner on Health, Employment and Economic Growth

10:30 – 11:00

Break: **FOYER**

PARALLEL SESSIONS:

THEMATIC PANEL DISCUSSIONS

11:00 – 12:30

Protecting Children from Violent Extremism, Gang Violence and Organized Crime: The Role of Faith Communities

Venue:

LA CALETA

Session Moderators:

**Dr. Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño**, Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and

11:00 – 12:30

Venue:

Session Moderators:

**Imam Dr. Rashied Omar**, Research Scholar of Islamic Studies and Peacebuilding, University of Notre Dame, Coordinating Imam, Claremont Main Road Mosque, Cape Town, South Africa

PANELISTS:

**Mr. Antti Pentikäinen**, Executive Director, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (NRTP)

**Dr. Amr Abdalla**, Senior Advisor on the Reform of Education in Muslim Societies Project, International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) Washington, D.C.

**Dr. William Vendley**, Secretary General, *Religions for Peace* International

**Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi**, Director, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers

Children's Representatives: **Mr. Mohammed Yusuph** and **Ms. Raquel Sherman**

**Ms. Janet Arach**, Member, GNRC-Uganda, Youth Representative

Nurturing Spirituality and Ending Violence in Child Upbringing: The Role of Faith Communities

GRAN BARU I

**Dr. Nelson Arns Neumann**, Coordinator, Pastoral da Criança, and

**Rev. Dr. Nicta Lubaale**, General Secretary, Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC)

PANELISTS:

**Ms. Georgina de Villalta**, Global Movement for Children in Latin America and the Caribbean

**Prof. Harold Segura**, Regional Director of Church Relations and Christian Identity for Latin America and the Caribbean, World Vision International

**Ms. Rosalina Tuyuc Velásquez**, President of CONAVIGUA, Member, Continental Network of Indigenous Women of Americas, Guatemala

Children's Representatives: **Mr. Saul Orefice** and **Ms. Patricia Cortez**

**Mrs. Sheran Harper**, Trustee & Worldwide Trainer for Mothers' Union

Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children: The Role of Faith Communities

GRAN BARU II

**Ms. Silvia Mazzarelli**, Regional Head of Child Rights Policy and Programming, Plan International, and

11:00 – 12:30

Venue:

Session Moderators:



**Ms. Bani Dugal**, Principal Representative to the United Nations, Baha'i International Community, United States

**PANELISTS:**

**Ms. Dorothy Rozga**, Executive Director, ECPAT International

**Sr. Denisse Pichardo**, O.P., Dominican Order of the Altagracia Children's Representatives: **Ms. Mariam Duque** and **Mr. Aly Kadoura**

**Ms. Corina Villacorta**, Regional Director, Plan International Americas

**Mr. Christo Greyling**, Senior Director, Faith – Advocacy and External Engagement, World Vision International

12:30 - 14:30

Lunch Break: **GRAN SALON**

**FIFTH PLENARY:**

**ALL FOR CHILDREN**

**Working with Faith Communities and Partners to End Violence Against Children through Arigatou International's Initiatives**

**Session Chair:**

**Rev. Mitsuo Miyake**, Chief Minister and President, Konko Church of Izuo, Board Member, Arigatou International

**Venue:**

**GRAN ANCON**

14:30 – 15:30

**Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC):**

**Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali**, Secretary General, GNRC, Director, Arigatou International – Nairobi, and **Dr. Dorcas Kiplagat**, GNRC Network and Programs Coordinator

**Ethics Education for Children:**

**Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe**, Secretary General, Ethics Education for Children, Director, Arigatou International – Geneva

**Prayer and Action for Children:**

**Ms. Rebeca Rios-Kohn**, Director, Prayer and Action for Children, Director, Arigatou International – New York

**Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty (End Child Poverty):**

**Rev. Fred Nyabera**, Director, End Child Poverty, Arigatou International – Nairobi

15:30 – 16:00

Break: **FOYER**

**PARALLEL SESSIONS:**

16:00 – 18:00

**WORKING GROUP A:**

**Session Coordinators:**

**Venue:**

**WORKING GROUP B:**

**Session Coordinators:**

**Venue:**

**WORKING GROUP C:**

**Session Coordinators:**

**Venue:**

**WORKING GROUP D:**

**Session Coordinators:**

**Venue:**

**WORKING GROUP E:**

**Session Coordinators:**

**Venue:**

**REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS**

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**Ms. Mercedes Roman** and **Ms. Lizia Lu**

**LA CALETA**

**EUROPE**

**Ms. Ismeta Begić** and **Ms. Laura Molnar**

**CONTADORA II**

**AFRICA**

**Sr. Agatha Chikelue** and **Sheikh Ramadhan Aula**

**COLON**

**ASIA**

**Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne** and **Dr. Chintamani Yogi**

**CONTADORA I**

**MIDDLE EAST**

**Fr. Abdo Raad** and **Ms. Dorit Shippin**

**Group 1—TABOGA II**

**Group 2—TABOGA I**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Forum Declaration Drafting Committee**

**Venue:**

**GATUN**

**CULTURAL EVENING**

19:00 – 21:30

**Lead Organizer:**

**GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Hosting Committee**

**Venue:**

**CONVENTION CENTER AT THE CITY OF KNOWLEDGE**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Forum Declaration Drafting Committee**

**Venue:**

**GATUN**



DAY THREE: 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017

PARALLEL SESSIONS: SPECIAL THEMATIC SESSIONS

09:00 – 10:30

“The Nexus Between Child Poverty and Violence Against Children”

**Facilitators:** **Rev. Adam Russell Taylor**, Lead, Faith-Based Initiative, World Bank Group, and **Rev. Fred Nyabera**, Director, End Child Poverty, Arigatou International – Nairobi

**Venue:** LA CALETA

“The Role of Ethics Education in Strengthening Families and Nurturing Spirituality in Children”

**Facilitators:** **Dr. Kezevino Aram**, Co-Moderator, *Religions for Peace* International, President, Shanti Ashram, India, President, Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children, and **Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe**, Secretary General, Ethics Education for Children, Director, Arigatou International – Geneva

**Venue:** GRAN BARU I

“Combatting Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children”

**Facilitators:** **Rabbi Diana Gerson**, Program Director, New York Board of Rabbis, and **Ms. Rebeca Rios-Kohn**, Director, Prayer and Action for Children, Director, Arigatou International – New York

**Venue:** GRAN BARU II

4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum Declaration Drafting Committee

**Venue:** GATUN

Break: FOYER

08:00 – 10:00

10:30 – 11:00

SIXTH PLENARY: COMMITMENT AND CALL TO ACTION

**Venue:** GRAN ANCON

**Session Co-Chairs:** **Rev. Mons. Sidney Fones**, Chair, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee, and **Sheikh Ibrahim Asmani Lethome**, Secretary General, Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR)

11:00 – 13:00 Commitment and Call to Action

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch Break—GRAN SALON

SEVENTH PLENARY: CLOSING CEREMONY AND FORUM DECLARATION

**Venue:** GRAN ANCON

**Session Co-Chairs:** **H.L. Bishop Dr. Method Kilaini**, Bishop of Bukoba Diocese, Bukoba, Tanzania, and **Ms. Rosalina Tuyuc Velásquez**, President of CONAVIGUA, Member of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of Americas, Guatemala

15:00 – 16:00

15:00 – 15:10

15:10 – 15:20

15:20 – 15:30

15:30 – 15:40

15:40 – 15:50

15:50 – 16:00

Closing Remarks by Distinguished Participants

**Sheikh Mohamed Sohaib Al-Chami**, the Grand Imam of Aleppo, Syria

**Dr. Agnes Abuom**, Moderator, Central Committee, World Council of Churches

**Dr. Alaa Murabit**, UN High-Level Commissioner on Health, Employment and Economic Growth

Children’s Presentation

**H.G. Archbishop Felix Machado**, Archbishop of Vasai, India

Presentation of GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Declaration, **Rev. Mons. Sidney Fones**, Chair, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee

INTERFAITH PRAYER FOR PEACE

**Venue:** GRAN BARU I & II

16:15 – 17:15 Interfaith Prayer for Peace

17:15 – Departures



## Appendix III

### CHILDREN'S PRE-MEETING PROGRAM

#### DAY ONE: 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017

09:00:	OPENING
09:30:	GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER
11:30:	EXPLORING THE FORUM THEME
14:00:	LEARNING ABOUT THE SOCIAL CONTEXT
18:00:	REFLECTIONS AFTER THE VISIT

#### DAY TWO: 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017

09:00:	MORNING MEDITATION
09:30:	RECAP FROM PREVIOUS DAY
10:00:	EXPLORING THE FORUM SUB-THEMES
13:30:	WORKING IN GROUPS ON SUB-THEMES
15:00:	PLENARY
16:00:	LEARNING CIRCLES
17:00:	CREATIVE IDEAS TO CONTRIBUTE TO PREVENT, AND ULTIMATELY END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
20:00:	CULTURAL EVENING

#### DAY THREE: 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017

08:30:	MORNING MEDITATION
09:00:	GETTING READY FOR THE FORUM
12:00:	INSPIRATION AND CLOSING OF THE PRE-MEETING
14:00:	VISIT TO THE PANAMA CANAL

## Appendix IV

### GNRC 5<sup>TH</sup> FORUM ORGANIZING AND HOSTING COMMITTEES

#### GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee

1. **Rev. Mons. Sidney Fones**, Chair, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee
2. **Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali**, Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) and Director, Arigatou International – Nairobi
3. **Dr. Susan Bissell**, Director, Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children, New York
4. **Ms. Bani Dugal**, Principal Representative to the United Nations, Baha'i International Community, United States
5. **Mr. Shozo Fujita**, Secretary General, Arigatou International – Tokyo, Japan
6. **Ms. Silvia Mazzarelli**, Regional Head of Child Rights Policy and Programming, Plan International
7. **Rev. Fred Nyabera**, Director, End Child Poverty, Arigatou International – Nairobi
8. **Mr. Stefan Pleisnitzer**, National Director for World Vision Latin America and Caribbean Regional Leader
9. **Ms. Rebeca Rios-Kohn**, Director, Prayer and Action for Children and Director, Arigatou International – New York
10. **Ms. Mercedes Roman**, Advisor, GNRC–Latin America and the Caribbean
11. **Mr. Silvio Sant'Ana**, Senior Economist and Advisor, Pastoral da Criança
12. **Ms. Marta Santos Pais**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) on Violence Against Children
13. **Rev. Adam Russell Taylor**, Lead, Faith-Based Initiative, World Bank Group
14. **Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe**, Director, Arigatou International – Geneva, Secretary General, Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children
15. **United Nations Children's Fund**

#### GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Hosting Committee

1. **Rt. Rev. Julio E. Murray**, Chair, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Hosting Committee
2. **Rev. Pedro Araúz**, Bishop, Evangelical Methodist Church of Panama
3. **Prof. Aurora Carrasco**, Comunidad Baha'i
4. **Sheikh Mohamed El Sayyed**, Imam, Islamic Cultural Center of Panama
5. **Ms. Isis Navarro**, Coordinador, GNRC–Panama
6. **Rabbi Gustavo Kraselnik**, Spiritual Leader, Jewish Community, Congregation Kol Shearith
7. **Mr. Constantino Liakópulos**, Greek Orthodox Church
8. **Ms. Lizia Lu**, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Coordinator
9. **Ms. Betsy Farah Morán**, Vice President and Legal Advisor, Balboa Union Church
10. **Fr. Hector Quiros**, Comité Ecuménico Panamá
11. **Rev. Juan Simpson**, Comité Ecuménico Panamá



## Appendix V

### GNRC 5<sup>TH</sup> FORUM DECLARATION DRAFTING COMMITTEE

1. **Sheikh Mohamed Sohaib Al-Chami**, the Grand Imam of Aleppo, Syria
2. **Dr. Kezevino Aram**, Co-Moderator, Religions for Peace International, President, Shanti Ashram, India, President, Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children
3. **Rev. Mons. Sidney Fones**, Chair, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee
4. **Rabbi Diana Gerson**, Program Director, New York Board of Rabbis
5. **H.G. Dr. Barry C. Morgan**, former Archbishop of Wales
6. **Rt. Rev. Julio E. Murray**, Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Panama, President of the Ecumenical Committee, Chair, Interreligious Committee in Panama, Chair, GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Hosting Committee
7. **Rev. Hidehito Okochi**, Chief Priest, Kenji-in Temple and Juko-in Temple
8. **Prof. Anantanand Rambachan**, Professor of Religion, Philosophy and Asian Studies, Saint Olaf College
9. **Ms. Mercedes Roman**, Advisor, GNRC–Latin America and the Caribbean
10. **Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali**, Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) and Director, Arigatou International – Nairobi

The committee was assisted by members of the Arigatou International Secretariat, namely:-

1. **Mr. Atsushi Iwasaki**, Arigatou International – Tokyo
2. **Mr. Peter Billings**, Arigatou International – Tokyo
3. **Dr. Dorcas Kiplagat**, Network and Programs Coordinator, Arigatou International – Nairobi

## Appendix VI

### GNRC REGIONAL ACTION PLANS

#### AFRICA

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
Sexual abuse and exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Train religious communities in child protection skills in line with teachings of their respective faiths</li> <li>- Train religious leaders on resource mobilization</li> <li>- Train faith leaders on psychosocial support to victims/ survivors</li> <li>- Create child and youth friendly-spaces within religious institutions</li> <li>- Advocacy against sexual abuse and exploitation</li> </ul>	Religious leaders, educators, government e.g. law enforcement agencies and other institutions, women and youth leaders, parents	Government, parliament, Arigatou International, development partners, media, police, judiciary, GNRC  Religious institutions, community centers, secular/public institutions/spaces  Media	Kenya Tanzania Uganda Nigeria South Sudan Burundi Nigeria	5 year period (starting in June 2017)	Religious texts, training materials, Learning to Live Together (LTLT) manual, child protection legislation (national and international), UN Child Rights Declaration; fundraising resources and guides
Harmful traditional practices (e.g. female genital mutilation, early and forced child marriages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use faith-based campaigns against harmful practices</li> <li>- Parent sensitization</li> </ul>	Religious leaders, educators, government departments e.g. law enforcement agencies and other institutions, women and youth leaders, parents and children	Parents, traditional grassroots leaders, judiciary	Kenya Tanzania Uganda Nigeria South Sudan Burundi Ethiopia Nigeria	5 year period (starting in June 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Religious texts, training materials, LTLT manual, child protection legislation (national and international), UN Child Rights Declaration; fundraising resources and guides</li> <li>- Medical personnel</li> </ul>



FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
Corporal punishment	- Train teachers on existing laws and policies	School teachers, parents, school administrators	Volunteers working with NGOs and teaching assistants; judiciary	Kenya Tanzania Uganda South Sudan Nigeria Burundi Nigeria	5 year period (starting in June 2017)	- Religious texts, training materials, LTLT manual, child protection legislation (national and international), UN Child Rights Declaration; fundraising resources and guides  - Medical personnel
Neglect and deprivation	- Sensitize and educate parents about positive parenting  - Economic empowerment for families in poverty  - Advocacy on ending violence against children	School teachers, parents, school administrators	Volunteers working with NGOs and teaching assistants; judiciary	Kenya Tanzania Uganda Nigeria Burundi DR Congo	Religious institutions, community centers, secular/public institutions/spaces	- Religious texts, training materials, LTLT manual, child protection legislation (national and international), UN Child Rights Declaration; fundraising resources and guides  - Medical personnel
Recruitment and enlisting of children and youth into violent extremism	- Trainings to build resilience among children and youth against radicalization and violent extremism  - Training of affected women and girls to guard against and prevent violent extremism  - Train trainers and community mobilizers to raise awareness on violent extremism	- Children  - Youth who dropped out of school and those at risk  - Women and Girls  - Work with Religious Leaders, youth in Madrassa and religious authorities	Government, Arigatou International, development partners, media, Security Agencies, judiciary, GNRC	Kenya Uganda Nigeria Burundi Somalia South Sudan Ethiopia Nigeria DR Congo Tanzania	Religious institutions, community centers, secular/public institutions/spaces	- Religious texts, training materials, LTLT manual, child protection legislation (national and international), UN Child Rights Declaration; fundraising resources and guides  - Medical personnel

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
	- Art and sports  - Television and radio commercials  - Peace Dialogues					
Poverty and violent extremism	- Peace Clubs  - Leadership Mentoring Program	- Schools from Primary, Secondary and Universities  - Youth who dropped out of schools and those at risk of radicalization	- Schools, Ministry of Education, UNESCO and UNICEF  - Local government authorities, Ministry of defense and Home affairs  - Government bodies representing religious institutions  - Faith based and community based organizations (local and international)	Tanzania	4 years (2017 – 2020)	Venue, training materials, communications facilities, coordinators, trainers and organizing equipment



ASIA

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE/ COUNTRY & PROJECT SITE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
1. Corporal Punishment; Child Sexual Abuse; Bullying; Abandonment; Child Labour- Link with Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good health promotion and immunization</li> <li>- Provision of Books and Uniforms/ cloths</li> <li>- Ethics Education: Training and Teaching</li> <li>- Community/Parents engagement with children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poor students especially from Slum areas</li> <li>- Students of small schools in poor localities</li> <li>- Low income school children in private sector</li> <li>- Madrasah students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peace and Education Foundation Islamabad</li> <li>- CAN-Pakistan</li> <li>- Pen and Paper Foundation</li> <li>- GNRC</li> </ul>	Pakistan: Interior Punjab  Suburbs of Lahore, Rawalpindi, Jhelum and Chakwal	3 to 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human resources of the two local organization</li> <li>- Donations</li> <li>- Ethics education reading and training materials e.g. LTLT Manual</li> <li>- Existing networks and local resources</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting healthy living, including use of nutritious food by the war affected children of Children's Peace Home</li> <li>- Career guidance and counseling of High school students, those in Children's Peace Home and all community schools</li> <li>- Ensuring more jobs to the mothers at community production center for the support and nurture of their children</li> <li>- Promoting a campaign to virtually eliminate "Iodine deficiency" disorders in all children of Nepal</li> <li>- Policy, legislation and research enforcement for learning hub</li> </ul>	Hindu vidhyapeeth School, Children's peace home, Nepal interfaith movement, Naimisarayan Gurukul, Youth society for peace Children, Families, Schools, Key stakeholders including industry, Faith leaders, local governments; consumers and consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government of Nepal; Schools</li> <li>- Ministry of women and Children welfare; Local governmental bodies</li> <li>- Religious Leaders/ Stakeholders</li> </ul>	All areas affected by child poverty in Nepal	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support from Government of Nepal</li> <li>- Local and civil support</li> <li>- Technical support</li> <li>--Printed Materials</li> <li>- Technical expertise</li> <li>- Facilitator</li> <li>- Audio-Visual support materials</li> </ul>

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE/ COUNTRY & PROJECT SITE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementing the 10 principles of Global Movement for Children as per the Nepalese context to combat child poverty through advocacy and campaigns</li> <li>- Introducing child led initiative "Nepal Poverty Solutions" in schools of Nepal, adopted from the India Poverty Solutions</li> <li>- Promote exclusive breastfeeding until the age of six months and then introduction of complementary feeding along with breast milk until the age of two years</li> </ul>					
2. Child Sexual Abuse	Sensitization sessions for religious leaders from different sects and faiths, parents and children	Religious Leaders/ Prayer Leaders and parents	- Government Departments, Local Government Representatives  - Local CBOs/ Prayer Lead	Lahore, Pakistan	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial Resources</li> <li>- Technical Expertise</li> <li>- Printed Material</li> </ul>
	Celebration of Universal Children's Day	Parents, Religious Leaders/ Prayer Leaders, Government Departments	Government, CSOs		1 event	Financial Resources
	Advocacy to end sexual abuse of children and formulation of government policies to protect children	The victims	Local and national organisations	Indonesia	3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Institute Mosintuwa</li> <li>- Government</li> </ul>



FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE/ COUNTRY & PROJECT SITE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducting Awareness programs</li> <li>- Child Protection Campaigns: Distributing Information Pamphlets, Focused Group Discussion Sessions within families/ communities/ Schools</li> <li>- Creating Peer to Peer Clubs</li> <li>- Establishing Children Help Desks in Schools</li> </ul>	Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sarvodaya</li> <li>- Walpola Rahula Institute</li> <li>- Child Protection Authority –SL</li> <li>- UNICEF</li> <li>- Save the Children</li> <li>- Child Care</li> <li>- Plan International</li> </ul>	Sri Lanka: Identified locations as Hot Spots for Sexual Abuse: Estate Sector of SL, Fishing Communities, Areas with High Tourism	2 years and continuing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial</li> <li>- Trainers/ facilitators</li> <li>- Logistics</li> </ul>
3. "Chaupadi Pratha" Menstruation Taboo"  Periods in Nepal are treated as something dirty, impure and contaminating. Girls and women suffer social restriction at this time like being made to stay in unsafe and unhygienic environments like unprotected sheds in the woods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy and Legislation enforcement</li> <li>- Awareness campaign, Advocacy, networking and social mobilization</li> <li>- Health and Education support</li> <li>- To scale up the "Empowering mothers campaign"</li> <li>- Bringing faith leaders together to fight against this brutal ritual</li> <li>- Promoting Ethics based education</li> <li>- Raising spiritual awareness in communities by teaching the right concepts of religion/ culture</li> </ul>	Children's peace home Hindu Vidhyapeeth School, Peace Service center, Nepal interfaith movement, Naimisarayan Gurukul, Youth society for peace, Ministry of Education- National curriculum board, Children, Key stakeholders, Schools, including industry, national/ state/provincial and local governments; professional bodies/NGO's, INGO's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government of Nepal: Local NGOs</li> <li>- Ministry of women and Children welfare; Local governmental bodies</li> <li>- Religious leaders/ Schools</li> </ul>	Affected areas /All borders/Law enforcement	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support from Government of Nepal</li> <li>- Local and civil support</li> <li>- Technical support</li> <li>- Printed Materials</li> <li>- Technical expertise</li> <li>- Facilitator</li> <li>- Audio-Visual support materials</li> </ul>

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE/ COUNTRY & PROJECT SITE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
4. Child Marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support the Regional action plan by SAIEVAC to end child marriage</li> <li>- Taking unequivocal stand by religious leaders against Child marriage in Nepal</li> <li>- Expanding the Girls' Scholarship scheme</li> <li>- Positive parenting Workshops</li> <li>- Policy and Legislation enforcement</li> <li>- Awareness campaign, Advocacy, networking and social mobilization</li> <li>- Raising spiritual awareness by Faith leaders in communities by giving right concept of religion/ culture</li> </ul>	Hindu Vidhyapeeth School, children's peace home, Nepal interfaith movement, Naimisarayan Gurukul, youth society for peace children, Schools, Key stakeholders including industry, national/ state/ provincial and local governments; professional bodies/ NGO's, INGO's/ UN agencies, organized labor institutions/ Educational and research establishments organizations/ civil societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government of Nepal; SAIEVAC, Schools</li> <li>- Ministry of women and children welfare; local governmental bodies</li> <li>- Religious leaders/ stakeholders</li> </ul>	National and District Level; 6 most affected areas by child marriage	SAIEVAC regional action plan to be implemented in 2015-2018  5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support from Government of Nepal</li> <li>- Local and civil support</li> <li>- Technical support</li> <li>- Printed Materials</li> <li>- Technical expertise</li> <li>- Facilitator</li> <li>- Audio-Visual support materials</li> </ul>
5. Child Domestic Labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness Creation Sessions</li> <li>- Establishing "Core Adult Education workshop on Child Labor"</li> <li>- Promoting Best Practices in Preventing and Eliminating Child Labor through Education</li> <li>- Giving more Scholarships to girls</li> <li>- Capacity building programs for children through children study clubs</li> </ul>	Parents  Hindu Vidhyapeeth School, children's peace home, Nepal interfaith movement, Naimisarayan Gurukul, youth society for peace children, consumers and consumers, families, schools, Key stakeholders including industry, government and consumers	Civil society organizations	Kasur, Pakistan  Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal	1 year  5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial Resources</li> <li>- Support from Government of Nepal.</li> <li>- Local and civil support</li> <li>- Technical support</li> <li>- Printed materials</li> <li>- Technical expertise</li> <li>- Facilitator</li> <li>- Audio-Visual support materials</li> </ul>



FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE/ COUNTRY & PROJECT SITE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design and implement a child labor monitoring system</li> <li>- Promote Peer Education, Vocational education and skills Training</li> <li>- Advocacy/ Workshops and awareness raising forums</li> <li>- Promote value based education</li> </ul>					
6. Violence among children in schools and homes	In collaboration with Government, develop peace/ tolerance and dialogue curriculum for schools	Children and Teachers in Schools	Department of education and culture	Indonesia: Poso, central Sulawesi Island	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial</li> <li>- Trainers/ facilitators</li> <li>- Logistics</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct awareness creation workshops for families and teachers</li> <li>- Carry out Child Rights Campaigns</li> <li>- Conduct Inner and outer peace meditation sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children</li> <li>- Parents</li> <li>- Teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sarvodaya</li> <li>- Walpola Rahula Institute (WRI)</li> </ul>	All 25 districts of Sri Lanka	2 years and continuing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial</li> <li>- Trainers/ facilitators</li> <li>- Logistics</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training of parents and community on positive parenting</li> <li>- Seeking local community support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Family</li> <li>- Religious communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Governments</li> <li>- Mass media</li> <li>- Neighbors</li> <li>- Other people of faith</li> </ul>	Japan: Within Communities	5 year term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Politicians</li> <li>- Mass media</li> <li>- Legislation</li> <li>- Faith community</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness creation among parents and children on what constitutes child abuse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Family</li> <li>- Religious communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Governments</li> <li>- Mass Media</li> <li>- Neighbors</li> <li>- Other people of faith</li> <li>- Family members, each group of</li> <li>- Myochickai Members</li> </ul>	Japan: Faith institutions, community and schools	3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Friends</li> <li>- Solidity</li> </ul>

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE/ COUNTRY & PROJECT SITE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
7. Poverty and violent extremism, gang violence and Organized crime	Offer free school lunch	Children including child perpetrators	Governments	Japan	5 year term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EEC</li> <li>- Educators</li> <li>- LTLT</li> <li>- Legislations to regulate bullying</li> </ul>
8. Protecting children from violent extremism, gang violence and organized crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parental training on Positive Parenting</li> <li>- Group meetings where Myochickai members care for the world children</li> </ul>	Parents	Schools and faith institutions	Japan	3 year term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PAC</li> <li>- Myochickai Faith Group</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ethics Education program</li> <li>a) Implement a Training of Trainers program</li> <li>b) Conduct training for school teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Children – age 6-12</li> <li>- NGOs (Islands)</li> <li>- School teachers</li> <li>- Orphanage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of Education</li> <li>- Island Administrations</li> <li>- NGOs</li> <li>- Schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maldives: 2 Islands (GA villigilli and Kuhudu-fushi)</li> <li>Orphanage</li> </ul>	2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resource person for training</li> <li>- Training facility</li> <li>- Training material</li> <li>- Financial resources</li> </ul>
9. Protecting the Girl child from all forms of Gender-Based Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sensitizing religious leaders through the "girl talk" program.</li> <li>- Sensitizing girls on their own protection and rights</li> </ul>	School Children, Girls age 8-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- American center in Male</li> <li>- Male schools</li> <li>- Island schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capital city of Male, Maldives</li> <li>- Two Islands (GA villigilli and Kuhudu-fushi)</li> </ul>	2 years and continuing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resource people</li> <li>- Facility available</li> <li>- Financial resources</li> </ul>
10. Girls' Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- help build more Gender sensitive "education curriculum"</li> <li>- Build up "Include Men" campaign</li> <li>- More Girls' Scholarships</li> <li>- Promoting "Educating Family Program in remote areas"</li> <li>- Policy and Legislation enforcement</li> </ul>	Hindu Vidhyapeeth School, children's peace home, Nepal interfaith movement, Naimisarayan Gurukul, youth society for peace children, families, schools, key stakeholders including industry, local governments; professional bodies. Educational and research establishments organizations/ civil societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government of Nepal; Schools, Ministry of women and Children welfare; Local governmental bodies/ Religious leaders/ Stakeholders</li> </ul>	Six Major affected areas of Nepal	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support from Government of Nepal</li> <li>- Local and civil support</li> <li>- Technical support</li> <li>- Printed Materials</li> <li>- Technical expertise</li> <li>- Facilitator</li> <li>- Audio-Visual support materials</li> </ul>



FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE/ COUNTRY & PROJECT SITE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness creation campaigns, Advocacy, networking and social mobilization</li> <li>- Promoting child's participation</li> <li>- Promoting Ethics based education</li> <li>- Raising spiritual awareness by Faith leaders in communities by giving right concept of religion/ culture</li> </ul>					
11. Various forms of violence - Emotional - Psychological - Armed conflict - Discrimination - Stereotyping - Bullying	a. Schools and communities of peace formation program (holistic peace and education programs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People and children living in conflict areas</li> <li>- Indigenous communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local government department of Education</li> <li>- Arigatou international especially Ethics Education for Children</li> </ul>	Philippines: Magurdanao, Manila	3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Resources</li> <li>- Experts</li> <li>- Funding resources</li> </ul>
	b. develop a localized Ethics Education module	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School Children</li> <li>- School teachers</li> <li>- NGOs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NGOs working for violence against children</li> <li>- Ministry of Education</li> </ul>	Maldives	2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical resources</li> <li>- Financial resources.</li> </ul>
	c. Continuous peace education pocket sessions as part of formation sessions for teachers, parents and children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People and children living in Conflict in areas</li> <li>- Indigenous communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local government department of Education</li> <li>- Arigatou International especially Ethics Education for Children</li> </ul>	Philippines	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Resources</li> <li>- Experts</li> <li>- Funding resources</li> </ul>
	d. Launching and expansion of peace Heeres hub (a space where children can learn using peace education materials, music and games)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People and children living in conflict areas</li> <li>- Indigenous communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local government department of Education</li> <li>- Arigatou International especially Ethics Education for Children</li> </ul>	Philippines	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Resources</li> <li>- Experts</li> <li>- Funding resources</li> </ul>

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE/ COUNTRY & PROJECT SITE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
	e. Monthly peace pal (Big brother/big sister relationship program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People and children living in conflict areas</li> <li>- Indigenous communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local government department of Education</li> <li>- Arigatou International especially Ethics Education for Children</li> </ul>	Philippines	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Resources</li> <li>- Experts</li> <li>- Funding resources</li> </ul>
	f. Peace visibility materials installation in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People and children living in conflict areas</li> <li>- Indigenous communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local government department of Education</li> <li>- Arigatou International especially Ethics Education for Children</li> </ul>	Philippines	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding resources</li> </ul>
	g. Launching of "I teach peace" learning resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People and children living in conflict areas</li> <li>- Indigenous communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local government department of Education</li> <li>- Arigatou International especially Ethics Education for Children</li> </ul>	Philippines	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding resources</li> </ul>
	h. Council formation workshop and peace education formation workshop for youth	Youth ages 18-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local government department of Education</li> <li>- Arigatou International especially Ethics Education for Children</li> </ul>	Philippines	Once annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Resources</li> <li>- Experts</li> <li>- Funding resources</li> </ul>
	i. Peace fair (a venue that imparts cultural peace and dialogue where children and youth can learn about their role in helping build peaceful and secure environments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children ages 8-17</li> <li>- Youth ages 18-28</li> <li>- Teachers, parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local government department of Education</li> <li>- Arigatou International especially Ethics Education for Children</li> </ul>	Philippines: Manila	Once annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Resources</li> <li>- Experts</li> <li>- Funding resources</li> </ul>
	j. Teach Peace Build Peace film festival (audio visual presentations and animated videos promoting a culture of peace) and #WHYPEACE campaign	General public via social media and cinema	Office of the presidential advisor of the peace process, Agala cinema, film development council	Philippines: National Manila for cinema and school tour	Once annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Resources</li> <li>- Experts</li> <li>- Funding resources</li> </ul>



FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE/ COUNTRY & PROJECT SITE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
	k. Peace exchange (interfaith play and dialogue between Muslim and Christian students)	Elementary and high school students	Mahanlika elementary school, assumption collage	Philippines: Manila	Once annually	- Human Resources - Experts - Funding resources
	l. Witnessing Trees travelling exhibition, showcasing stems of collective healing in climate and conflict vulnerable communities	Children and youth	Balay rehabilitation center, local government, department of education, Visayas state university, Carl fung circle center, BINHI, teach peace build peace movement, children's museum Museo Pambata	Philippines: Manasapano, Dulag, Leyte Magurdainao Tabuk Kalinga	2 years	- Human Resources - Experts - Funding resources
	m. Psychosocial support, conflict transformation and peace building under WITNESSING TREES project for recovery after disasters, conflict and other crisis due to climate vulnerability	Community leaders including youth leaders	Balay rehabilitation center, local government, carl fung circle center, department of education, Visayas state university, BINHI	Philippines: Tabuk Kalinga Promnce Moimasa-pano Magurdainao Dulag, Leyte	May 2017 to May 2018 Extend to 2019	- Human Resources - Experts - Funding resources
12. Disaster risk and vulnerability and poverty due to typhoons, droughts and flooding	Food security, regenerative livelihoods, ecosystem regeneration through witnessing trees project for recovery after disaster and conflict	Community leaders including youth	Balay rehabilitation center, local government, department of education, Visayas state university, Carl fung circle center, BINHI	Philippines: Manasapano, Dulag, Leyte Magurdainao Tabuk Kalinga	2 years	- Human Resources - Experts - Funding resources
13. Psychological Abuse	Mindfulness workshops for families Inner and outer Peace Meditation Sessions Awareness Walks/ Parades Mentoring Programs Counselling Sessions	- Children - Parents - Teachers	- Sarvodaya - WRI - Child Protection Authority –SL - Save the Children	Sri Lanka: Northern and Eastern Province Southern Province	2 years and Continuing	- Human Resources - Experts - Funding resources

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE/ COUNTRY & PROJECT SITE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
14. Cyber Bullying Addiction to porn/ games/ social media	- Workshops on using Internet safely/ Cyber Security - Awareness Programs for Parents and Teachers	Children Teenagers	Sarvodaya Walpola Rahula Institute Child Protection Authority –SL UNICEF Save the Children Microsoft Tele Communication Companies such as Dialogue, Etisalat	All 25 Districts of Sri Lanka	2 years	- Financial - Trainers/ facilitators - Logistics



EUROPE

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
Migration crises	Trainings on non-discrimination	Peer educators	GNRC–Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania Schools	Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania	*	**
	Raising awareness of children/ youth regarding problems faced by migrants	Children and youth	GNRC–Macedonia, Serbia, Romania	Macedonia, Serbia, Romania	*	**
	Discussions in schools organized by students on migrants' situation	Children and youth	GNRC–Macedonia, Serbia, Romania	Macedonia, Serbia, Romania	*	**
	Report to UN about the topic	International experts from UN agencies	GNRC–Europe - Rights International Network - UN Agencies Experts	Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania	*	**
	Education of journalists on proper reporting on this topic	Journalists	GNRC–Macedonia, Serbia	Macedonia, Serbia	*	**
Corporal punishment	Parents' education: - Effective methods for positive parenting - Raising awareness on violence against children and its consequences	Parents/families	UN GNRC–Romania, Macedonia, Portugal, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova	Macedonia, Portugal, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova	*	**
Violence and discrimination/ Exclusion in schools	Education (LTLT) - Building a safe environment for children - Effective methods to address violence and discrimination in schools	Teachers	GNRC–Romania together with Ministry of Education, UNESCO GNRC–Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina	Romania, Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina	*	**

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
	Education on how to identify the signs of abuse on children					
	LTLT programs of ethics education in schools - Developing critical thinking and nurturing values	Children and youth	GNRC–Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina		*	**
	Prevention projects to address the violence and discrimination against/among children	Children and youth	GNRC–Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina		*	**
Violence and poverty	Child participation in projects to eradicate poverty and violence - Use of school conflict mediators	Children and youth	GNRC–Romania, UNDP (Bosnia-Herzegovina) Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers		*	**
	Ethics Education based on the LTLT and child rights	Religious leaders	GNRC–Bosnia and Herzegovina, Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children	Bosnia-Herzegovina	*	**
Gender discrimination	Promoting gender equality Promoting child rights through advocacy	Children Parents	GNRC–Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia GNRC–Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina	Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia	*	**
Sexual exploitation and abuse of children	Training and awareness on sexual exploitation and abuse of children	Groups in risk (poverty, minorities) Families, teachers, social workers, mass media	GNRC–Moldova, Portugal	Moldova, Portugal	*	**



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
	Advocacy and campaigns on this topic	Communities	GNRC–Moldova, Portugal Child Rights International Network		*	**
			GNRC–Moldova, Portugal Child Rights International Network			
	Elaborating and distributing resource materials about abuse signs on children	Experts who are working with children, families, communities	GNRC–Portugal		*	**

\* The initiatives are planned for the next 5 years

\*\* The resources will be provided by partner NGO's budgets, partner NGO human resources and GNRC seed grants, distributed in accordance with the context and the extension of the projects.

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
Gang Violence, sexual abuse and exploitation, corporal punishment	Strengthening capacities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge management</li> <li>- Training on spirituality and ending violence against children</li> <li>- Creation of a platform to share information on different incidences of violence against children</li> <li>- Mapping of current resources to address violence against children and exchange of experiences</li> <li>- Creating access to reference sources</li> <li>- Competency development through forums, seminars, workshops, etc</li> </ul> Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Networking and experience sharing</li> <li>- Media presence</li> <li>- Sensitization and social conscience</li> <li>- Positive parenting</li> <li>- Participation in the development of public policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Faith communities</li> <li>- Government authorities: providers of education, health, security</li> <li>- Children</li> <li>- NGOs and other grassroots organizations</li> </ul>	The community in general (family, education centres, religious centres and other institutions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community leaders</li> <li>- Education and health professionals</li> </ul>	All countries in Latin America and the Caribbean where the GNRC is present	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People (volunteers)</li> <li>- Audio-visual aids</li> <li>- Media</li> <li>- Documents provided by GNRC and Arigatou International initiatives</li> </ul>
Gang Violence and Organized Crime	Various activities under the Northern Triangle Project	Children and youth affected by violence	UNICEF, Regional Organizations and Faith Communities	Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People (volunteers)</li> <li>- Documents provided by GNRC and Arigatou International initiatives</li> </ul>



**MIDDLE EAST: GROUP ONE**

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
Violent child up-bringing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Cultural training courses to guide parents</li> <li>- Use of alternative curricula such as Ethics Education for Children</li> <li>- Conducting intercultural dialogue sessions for parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Faith communities</li> <li>- Government officials</li> <li>- Religious leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Religious leaders</li> <li>- Media</li> <li>- NGOs</li> </ul>	Lebanon Jordan Sudan Palestine Egypt Syria	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People (volunteers)</li> <li>- Media</li> <li>- Training resources provided by GNRC and Arigatou International initiatives</li> </ul>
Sexual abuse and exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sex education</li> <li>- Awareness creation against early child marriages</li> <li>- Guidance and counselling for new couples by religious leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth</li> <li>- Business men/women</li> <li>- Private Sector</li> <li>- Parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Religious leaders</li> <li>- Media</li> <li>- NGOs</li> <li>- Parents</li> </ul>	Lebanon Jordan Sudan Palestine Egypt Syria	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Media</li> <li>- Training resources provided by GNRC and Arigatou International initiatives</li> </ul>
Violence and child poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partnerships with private companies and business people to empower the poor</li> <li>- Creating awareness about doing jobs even those considered shameful in the society</li> <li>- Education scholarships to poor children</li> <li>- Supporting family planning projects</li> <li>- Supporting self-sufficiency projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth</li> <li>- Women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth</li> <li>- Parents</li> <li>- Private companies</li> <li>- Religious leaders</li> </ul>	Lebanon Jordan Sudan Palestine Egypt Syria	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Donor funding</li> <li>- Human resources</li> </ul>

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
Physical and psychological abuse in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advocacy for formulation and enforcement of policies</li> <li>- Awareness creation among teachers on child rights</li> </ul>	Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schools</li> <li>- NGOs</li> </ul>	Lebanon Jordan Sudan Palestine Egypt Syria	5 years	

**MIDDLE EAST: GROUP TWO**

FORM OF VIOLENCE	ACTIVITY	WHO (TARGET BENEFICIARY)	WHO (PARTNERS)	WHERE	DURATION (E.g. 1, 2 years etc.)	RESOURCES
	Massa~Massar: "The Journey" Peace education program	Groups of high school students	Spiritual Center Neve-Shalom~Wahat Al Salam, Open House Ramle	Brerner Orthodox school (Jewish youth) and other schools (Palestinian Muslim and Christian youth)	Annually	GNRC and other donors



## Appendix VII

### LIST OF ONLINE MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES FROM THE FORUM

1. India Poverty Solutions – 2017  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzIL2Lrw\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzIL2Lrw_U)
2. GNRC Tanzania Leadership Mentoring Program  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFiX1FD9DIo>
3. An Interfaith Guide to End Child Poverty: Inspire. Act. Change.  
<https://endingchildpoverty.org/en/what-we-do/knowledge-centre/documents/interfaith-guide>
4. Video about An Interfaith Guide to End Child Poverty: Inspire. Act. Change.  
<https://endingchildpoverty.org/en/galleries/videos/305-inspire-act-change-an-interfaith-guide-to-end-child-poverty>
5. Arigatou International “All for Children” Online Community  
<http://community.arigatouinternational.org>





## Appendix VIII

### PRESS CONFERENCE AND MEDIA COVERAGE

This appendix features examples of media coverage of the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum.

- o **56 news impacts** in local and international media outlets
  - 6 TV
  - 8 radio
  - 12 print
  - 30 online (this includes the online version of non-digital media)
- o Active presence in social media of the media outlets
- o Headlines highlighting the interreligious participation at the Forum and the work to end violence against children
- o Live radio transmission of news show from forum venue (including interviews with religious leaders)



### Press Conference

Date: 21<sup>st</sup>, April 2017 – Sheraton Hotel

#### TV

- Telemetro Reporta
- TVN Canal

#### Radio

- La Exitosa
- RPC Radio
- W Radio
- KW Continente
- Sol FM
- Radio Caracol

#### Print (with online version)

- Crítica
- Día a Día
- La Estrella de Panamá

#### Online

- Diario del Istmo
- Acan – EFE (news agency)
- El Periódico (Spain)
- Terra México
- La Vanguardia (Spain)
- Notícias 24 PTY







PANAMÁ

## Panamá será sede del V Foro Mundial de la Red Global de Religiones

11 de mayo de 2017



Panamá se convirtió en el primer país de América Latina en ser seleccionado como sede del Foro Mundial de la Red Global de Religiones a favor de la Niñez, a desarrollarse el próximo mes de mayo de 2017.

La quinta versión del evento mundial que tendrá como lema "Eliminar la violencia contra la niñez: comunidades de fe en acción", se realizará del 9 al 11 de mayo y reunirá a más de 400 líderes religiosos de más de 100 países del mundo, 60 jóvenes entre 14 y 17 años de edad, con diferentes creencias doctrinales y representantes de organismos internacionales.

Durante el foro, que tendrá entre sus enfoques el papel de las comunidades de fe en el abordaje de estos desafíos, especialmente a través de la cooperación interreligiosa, se realizarán siete plenarios, mesas redondas y presentaciones de expositores, en la que se abordarán tres ejes temáticos: "protección de los niños contra el extremismo violento y el crimen organizado", "cultivar la espiritualidad y actuar con la violencia en la crianza de los niños (niños)" y "poner fin a la explotación sexual y el abuso infantil".

"Panamá fue escogida para realizar este foro porque ha tenido una experiencia interreligiosa y académica por más de ocho años, en la que se ha puesto en la agenda de la sociedad la importancia de oír y tener acciones concretas a favor de la niñez... el desafío va ser llevar a la acción lo que se plasma en la declaración que resulta de este foro", expresó monseñor Julio E. Murray, obispo de la Iglesia Episcopal de Panamá y presidente del comité anfitrión del V Foro Mundial de la Red Global de Religiones a favor de la Niñez (GNRC, por sus siglas en inglés).

La GNRC incluye a miembros de todas las grandes religiones del mundo, como el judaísmo, el islamismo, el cristianismo, el budismo, y se constituye como la mejor red interreligiosa dedicada a la defensa de los derechos del niño, además cuenta con el respaldo del Plan Internacional, Visión Mundial y UNICEF.

Este evento contará con un mensaje de parte de la Santa Sede, el Consejo Mundial de Iglesias y de destacados líderes musulmanes, así como con la presencia del profesor Abdulgaffar Q. Dussaidy, presidente del Consejo Supremo de Musulmanes de Kenia; la Dra. Alia Mumbit, alta comisionada de las Naciones Unidas para la Salud, Empleo y crecimiento económico; la Dra. Semerilda de Troiano, comisionada de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos; así como representantes del Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF) y de la Organización de Naciones Unidas (ONU).

El arzobispo de la Arquidiócesis de Panamá, monseñor José Domingo Ulloa, destacó que "lo trascendente en la vida del niño es lo que va permitiendo eliminar la violencia contra la niñez y la juventud. Este foro nos va dar el coraje a todos para poder hablar sobre la violencia en nombre de los niños y descubrir ese velo de silencio que tenemos que existe y el estigma que hay contra la violencia, que sigue latente en el mundo entero".

En tanto monseñor Sidney Forbes, secretario general del Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano (CELAM) y presidente del comité organizador internacional del V Foro de la GNRC, indicó que el tema de la violencia con-

telemetro.com Secciones Hot Topics

Lo Último Lo más visto Noticias Entretenimiento Programas En Directo

## Panamá será sede del foro de la Red Global de Religiones

VIOLA GUEVARA 11 de mayo de 2017

Por primera vez, Panamá será sede del Foro Mundial de la Red Global de Religiones, un encuentro que reunirá a diferentes comunidades de fe, pero con un mismo objetivo: buscar el fin de violencia contra la niñez. Esta reunión tendrá lugar entre el 9 y 11 de mayo y acogerá a 400 líderes religiosos de seis regiones del mundo.

**ETIQUETAS**  
Panamá Foro Interreligioso Foro Mundial Religiones Niñez

**CUNA DE ACORDEONES**  
Llegó #LaFiestaDelPuerto... Esperala todos los Jueves ¡AGU!

**enamorándome de RAMÓN**  
LINESA VIERNES 2PM



**TVN Noticias** | TVN Medios | TVMAX | TVN Radio | Gente TVN | De Shopping

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Publicidad: **CLICK AQUÍ!** | **CATÁLOGO AGOSTO 2017** | **LÍNEA BLANCA**

TRENDS: Odebrecht | Uber | ATTT | Ricardo Martineff | Juan C. Varela | Corte Suprema | Venezuela | Da

NACIONALES

## Panamá acogerá el foro internacional : a la violencia contra la niñez

Realizarán foro internacional en Panamá sobre el combate a la violencia contra la niñez. | [Foto: AFP](#)

Redacción Web

21/04/2017 - 12:10 PM

El Comité Ecuménico de Panamá hizo el lanzamiento este viernes 21 de abril, del Foro para prevenir la violencia contra los niños, en el que van a participar al menos 430 líderes religiosos de diferentes comunidades de fe, de 67 países distintos.

La sede de este evento será la Ciudad de Panamá, y se va a realizar entre los días 9 y 11 de mayo, donde se van a desarrollar siete sesiones plenarias, paneles de discusión, presentaciones de expertos y mesas redondas.

"Poner fin a la violencia contra la niñez: comunidades en acción", es el lema del foro, que se basará en tres ejes temáticos: proteger a los niños y niñas del extremismo violento, pandillas y el crimen organizado; cultivar la espiritualidad y acabar con la violencia en la crianza de los niños y niñas. El último trata sobre poner fin a la explotación sexual y el abuso infantil.

Los temas mencionados, según los organizadores son los retos que suponen las diversas formas de violencia contra los niños y sobre los cuales se tienen que enfocar.

Algunos datos revelan que 3 de 4 niños experimenta disciplina violenta en el hogar, 85 millones [55 millones de niños y 30 millones de niñas] son obligados a trabajos peligrosos, más de la mitad de las personas desplazadas forzadamente, cerca de 24 millones, son niños.

Con Información de Alfredo Mitre.

Facebook | Twitter

Etiquetas: **Comité Ecuménico de Panamá** | **violencia**

**CRÍTICA** | Buscar

Eventos | Nacional | Viva | Vida | Deportes | Mundo | Insólitos | Círculo | Multimedia

Impreso

## Abogarán por poner fin a la violencia contra la niñez

VIERNES 21 DE ABRIL DE 2017 03:15 PM

Facebook | Twitter | Google Plus

Redacción Web

Más 430 líderes religiosos de seis regiones del mundo, 60 jóvenes entre 14 y 17 años de edad, con diferentes creencias doctrinales y representantes de organismos internacionales participarán en el V Foro Mundial de la Red Global de Religiones a favor de la Niñez (GNRC, por sus siglas en inglés), que tendrá como sede la ciudad de Panamá del 9 al 11 de mayo próximo.

Lo anterior fue anunciado, este viernes 21 de abril, en conferencia de prensa, liderada por monseñor Sidney Fones, ex secretario general del Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano (CELAM), y presidente del comité organizador internacional del V Foro de la GNRC y el monseñor Julio E. Murray, obispo de la Iglesia Episcopal de Panamá, y presidente del comité anfitrión del V Foro de la GNRC. Los representantes fueron acompañados por los líderes del Comité Ecuménico e Interreligioso de Panamá: Monseñor José Domingo Ullio; el rabino Gustavo Kraselnik, líder espiritual de la congregación Kol Shearith Israel; el Sheik Mohammed Al Sayed, del Centro Cultural Islámico de Panamá; el reverendo Giorgios Kaleudis, de la Catedral Ortodoxa Griega, y Aurora Carrasco de la comunidad Baha'í.

Panamá fue escogida para realizar este foro porque ha tenido una experiencia interreligiosa y ecuménica por más de ocho años, en la que se ha puesto en la agenda de la sociedad la importancia de orar y tener acciones concretas a favor de la niñez. Destacó en la conferencia de prensa el obispo Murray, a la vez, indicó que "el desafío va ser llevar a la acción lo que se plasme en la declaración que resulte de este foro".

Publicidad: **DOWNLOAD** | **Free Video Converter**



## Media Tour 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

- Radio Panama – Rabbi Kraselnik
- RPC Radio – Bishop Murray
- SERTV – Bishop Murray
- Estrella de Panama – Bishop Murray



## Pre-meeting Coverage 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

### Online

- Terra Chile
- Newsinamerica.com

### TV

- Telemetro
- TVN Canal 2

### Newspaper

- Crítica
- Día a Día
- El Siglo





**GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum**  
**9<sup>th</sup> May, 2017**

**LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMÁ**

Inicio | PANAMÁ | INTERNACIONAL | ECONOMÍA | DEPORTES | ESTILO | VIDA DE HOY | OPINIÓN | EVENTOS | SOCIALES

**Panamá**  
NACIONAL | 09/05/2017 - 11:24 a.m. martes 9 de mayo de 2017

## Panamá sede de foro de la Red Global de Religiones por la niñez

Con el lema "Poner fin a la violencia contra la niñez: comunidades de fe en acción", se realizarán siete sesiones plenarias, debates y mesas redondas

Con líderes políticos, religiosos y organizaciones sin fines de lucro se inauguró hoy el 5to foro Mundial de la Red Global de Religiones a favor de la niñez en Panamá.

**OTRAS NOTAS DE LA SECCIÓN**

- Pence arribará a Panamá para reunirse con Varela y Saint Malo
- Ausentismo y licencias en la Asamblea, a la orden del día
- El vicepresidente Milke Pence viene a imponer sumisión

**ÚLTIMAS NOTICIAS**

- 6:28 a.m. Lily James, víctima de un robo mientras trabajaba en Francia
- 12:19 a.m. La llorona del 17 de agosto del 2017
- 12:13 a.m. La Opinión Gráfica del 17 de agosto del 2017

**GALERÍA DE VIDEOS**

Hoy se cumplen 40 años desde que el ecónomo Praxedis González como el 'rey del 17 de febrero' en 1977.

**GALERÍA DE FOTOS**

panamá.com

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Inicio / Política / V Foro Mundial de la Red Global de Religiones

## V Foro Mundial de la Red Global de Religiones

Este martes 9 de mayo de 2017 se llevó a cabo la inauguración del V Foro Mundial de la Red Global de Religiones a favor de la niñez.

10 mayo 2017 |

El evento reúne a representantes de diversas religiones, se realizarán sesiones plenarias y discusiones sobre las situaciones de riesgo de los niños y adolescentes.

Con el lema "Poner fin a la violencia contra la niñez: comunidades de fe en acción", se realizarán siete sesiones plenarias, debates y mesas redondas para discutir sobre protección a niños y niñas contra extremismo, pandillas y crimen organizado, cultivo de espiritualidad, fin de la violencia en la crianza de niños, fin de la explotación sexual y el abuso infantil.

La Directora General de la Secretaría Nacional de Niñez, Adolescencia y Familia Licenciada Yasmín Cárdenas asistió al acto de inauguración del foro junto al presidente Juan Carlos Varela, el Ministro del Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, Alcides Vásquez, el Magistrado presidente de la Corte Suprema de Justicia, José Ayú Prado, entre otras autoridades.

Entre los países participantes podemos mencionar: Nicaragua, El Salvador, México, Honduras, Colombia, Panamá, India, Nepal, Rumania, Japón, Tanzania, Uganda, Líbano, entre otras naciones.





Mayo 9, 2017 - 12:11 pm

Al Día | Nacionales

## Inicia foro de la Red Global de Religiones a favor de la niñez

Con la finalidad de erradicar la violencia en la niñez, aproximadamente 430 líderes de algunas religiones del mundo, representantes de organismos internacionales, además de 60 niños, de unos 70 países se unirán a partir de hoy en Panamá.

La inauguración del V Foro Mundial de la Red Global de Religiones a favor de la Niñez (GNRC), por sus siglas en inglés, correspondió al obispo panameño de la iglesia Episcopal, Julio Murray.



Foro de la Red Global de Religiones

El evento organizado por la onegé Arigatou International, que busca también “construir un mejor mundo para los niños y las niñas”, pretende detectar las diferentes formas de violencia.

El sacerdote católico chileno Sidney Fones, a cargo del Comité Organizador del Foro, precisó en un escrito que “debemos entender que todas las personas tienen un papel que desempeñar para asegurar que la paz prevalezca y que los niños estén protegidos”.

A tal magnitud, el reverendo Keishi Miyamoto, recalcó: “

“Proteger a los niños contra el extremismo violento, la violencia de pandillas y el crimen organizado”; “cultivar la espiritualidad y poner fin a la violencia en la crianza de los niños” y “poner fin a la explotación sexual y al abuso infantil”.

Grisel García

Noticia al Día

Recuerda compartir en >>>

## Appendix IX

### GNRC 5<sup>TH</sup> FORUM PARTICIPANTS LIST

No	Full Name	Title	Country	Religion	Category/Designation
1	Abdiel Gonzalez	Mr.	Panama	Baha'i	Comunidad Baha'i
2	Abdo Raad	Fr.	Lebanon	Christianity	Contact Person, GNRC-Lebanon
3	Abdulghafur El Busaidy	Prof.	Kenya	Islam	Chairman, Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims
4	Abdulahman Marjan	Mr.	Kenya	Islam	GNRC Communications Officer, GNRC Secretariat
5	Abigail Lopez	Ms.	Mexico	Christianity	Scalabrinianas Misión con Migrantes y Refugiados
6	Abyemelech Cordoba	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	
7	Adam Russell Taylor	Rev.	United States of America	Christianity	Lead, Faith-Based Initiative, World Bank Group/GNRC 5 <sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee
8	Agatha Ogochukwu Chikelue	Sr.	Nigeria	Christianity	Coordinator, GNRC-Nigeria
9	Agnes Abuom	Dr.	Kenya	Christianity	Moderator, Central Committee, World Council of Churches
10	Agostino Spolti	Mr.	Italy	Christianity	Director, Teens for Unity Movement, Focolare Movement
11	Aki Hirakawa	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Arigatou International – Tokyo Volunteer
12	Akihiro Hosobuchi	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
13	Akim Said M'changama	Mr.	Comoros	Islam	Contact Person, GNRC-Comoros
14	Alaa Murabit	Dr.	Canada	Islam	UN High-Level Commissioner on Health, Employment and Economic Growth
15	Alberto Bustamante	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Balboa Union Church
16	Alberto Mosquera	Mr.	Bolivia	Christianity	Director, World Vision Bolivia
17	Alberto Quattrucci	Prof.	Italy	Christianity	Secretary General of Peoples and Religions, Community of Sant'Egidio
18	Alcibiades Vásquez	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Ministro de Desarrollo Social
19	Alcides Fernando Ureña Osorio	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Child
20	Aldyd Ovalles	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Volunteer
21	Alex Perez	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Pesidencia
22	Alexandra Achille	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Child
23	Alexandra Sherman	Ms.	Panama	Judaism	Child
24	Alexandre Silveira Souza	Mr.	Brazil	Orunmila Ifa	Chaperone, Rede Afrobrasileira Sociocultural, Coordinator, GNRC-Brazil
25	Alexia Salazar	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Child
26	Alexis Abrego	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Alianza Evangélica de Panamá
27	Alfonso Quiros	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Director, Office of Desarrollo Social Seguro, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social



No	Full Name	Title	Country	Religion	Category/Designation
28	Alicia Cabezudo	Mrs.	Argentina	Christianity	International Peace Bureau
29	Alicia Damaris Sevilla Hidalgo	Ms.	Cuba	Christianity	Coordinator, GNRC–Cuba
30	Aly Kadoura	Mr.	Panama	Islam	Child
31	Amanda Rives	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Regional Advocacy Director, Latin America and Caribbean, World Vision International
32	Amr Abdallah	Dr.	Egypt	Islam	Senior Advisor on the Reform of Education in Muslim Societies Project, International Institute of Islamic Thought
33	Ana Carolina Martinez	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	
34	Ana Josefa Reyes Martinez	Ms.	Honduras	Christianity	Chaperone, Plan International
35	Ana Mae Castillo	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Despacho de la Primera Dama
36	Ana María Rebolledo	Ms.	Chile	Christianity	
37	Ana Murray	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Episcopal Church of Panama
38	Ana Patricia Cortez Garcia	Ms.	El Salvador	Christianity	Child
39	Ana Velilla De Medio	Ms.	Argentina	Christianity	Coordinator, GNRC–Argentina
40	Analía Ruggeri	Ms.	Argentina	Christianity	Fundación Marista de Solidaridad Internacional
41	Anand Swasthika	Ms.	India	Hinduism	Child
42	Anantanand Rambachan	Prof.	United States of America	Hinduism	Professor of Religion, Philosophy and Asian Studies, Saint Olaf College
43	Andrea Bonilla	Ms.	Guatemala	Buddhism	Coordinator, GNRC–Guatemala
44	Andrea Copuu	Ms.	Romania	Christianity	Child
45	Andrés Carrascosa Coso	Mons.	Panama	Christianity	Nuncio Apostólico de Panamá
46	Andres Guerrero Feliu	Mr.	Switzerland	Christianity	Facilitator
47	Andrew Claypole	Mr.	United States of America		Senior Advisor, Office of the SRSO on Violence against Children
48	Angela Chicu	Ms.	Moldova	Christianity	Contact Person, GNRC–Moldova
49	Anginiela Cardenas	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Chaperone, GNRC–Panama
50	Anju Mogi	Ms.	Japan		Arigatou International – Tokyo Volunteer
51	Antti Pentikäinen	Mr.	Finland	Christianity	Executive Director, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
52	Aoi Kawase	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
53	Aracelys De Los Santos	Ms.	Dominican Republic	Christianity	Country Director, Plan International Dominican Republic
54	Aralys Arianeth	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Coordinadora Nacional de Primera Infancia
55	Ariana Zuno Zambada	Ms.	United States of America	Christianity	Zuno Design Studios
56	Astrid Silva	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Child
57	Athenagoras Aneste	Archbishop	Mexico	Christianity	Metropolitan Archbishop, Greek Orthodox Church of Mexico and Central America

No	Full Name	Title	Country	Religion	Category/Designation
58	Atsushi Iwasaki	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Arigatou International – Tokyo
59	Aurora Carrasco	Prof.	Panama	Baha'i	Comunidad Baha'i, GNRC 5th Forum Hosting Committee
60	Ayoub Nsanzintwali	Mr.	Rwanda	Islam	Contact Person, GNRC–Rwanda
61	Azra Trako	Mr.	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Islam	Child
62	Baglio Perez	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Congreso General Guna
63	Bani Dugal	Ms.	United States of America	Baha'i	Principal Representative to the United Nations, Baha' i International Community/ GNRC 5th Forum International Organizing Committee
64	Barry Cennydd Morgan	Archbishop	Wales	Christianity	Former Archbishop, Church in Wales
65	Belinda Portillo	Ms.	Honduras	Christianity	Country Director, Plan International Honduras
66	Berta Mariñas	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Chaperone
67	Berta Yearwood	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Volunteer
68	Bertha Vargas	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Aliados por la Niñez-IDEMI
69	Betsy Farah Morán	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Vice President and Legal Advisor, Balboa Union Church, GNRC 5th Forum Hosting Committee
70	Betzaida Delgado	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Fundación Pro Niños de Darién
71	Bill Fine	Mr.	United States of America		Interpreter
72	Blanca Cortez	Ms.	Nicaragua	Christianity	CIEETS
73	Carlos Tamez	Bishop	Costa Rica	Christianity	Bishop, Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana de Costa Rica
74	Carlota Cardenas	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Volunteer
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77	Cecilia Carvajo	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Child
78	Cecilie Modvar	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF
79	Cherie Ann Smita Pereira	Ms.	India	Christianity	Chaperone, Shanti Ashram
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82	Christina Robin Matumba	Ms.	Tanzania	Christianity	Child
83	Christine Dodd	Ms.	United Kingdom	Christianity	Faith-Based Advocacy Coordinator, Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children
84	Christine Nyambura Gichuki	Ms.	Kenya	Christianity	Facilitator/Programme Officer, Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty (ECP), Arigatou International – Nairobi
85	Christo Greyling	Mr.	Netherlands	Christianity	Senior Director, Faith – Advocacy and External Engagement, World Vision International
86	Cindy Owuor	Ms.	Kenya	Christianity	Member, GNRC–Kenya
87	Claudia Soto	Ms.	Colombia	Christianity	Chaperone, World Vision International



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94	Dan Gonzalez Ortega	Rev.	Mexico	Christianity	Comunidad Teológica de Mexico
95	Daniel Martinez	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Child
96	Daniel Mckee	Mr.	Panama	Judaism	Comunidad Judía de Panamá
97	Darnellah Bagatellas	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Comunidad Helénica de Panamá
98	Dashiel Atencio	Mr.	Panama	Baha'i	Child
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110	Eiko Iwama	Ms.	Japan		Translator
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No	Full Name	Title	Country	Religion	Category/Designation
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126	Eunice Vassell	Prof.	Panama	Christianity	Iglesia Episcopal de Panamá
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No	Full Name	Title	Country	Religion	Category/Designation
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158	Giussepe Pino	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Child
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165	Guilherme Oliveira Silva Conceição	Mr.	Brazil	Christianity	Child
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167	Gustavo Zenteno	Mr.	Paraguay	Christianity	Pastoral Colegio Cristo Rey Paraguay
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179	Hiromi Iio	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
180	Hiromi Kubo	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
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212	José Bergua	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	UNICEF
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No	Full Name	Title	Country	Religion	Category/Designation
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222	Julio Ernesto Murray	Bishop	Panama	Christianity	President, Comité Ecuménico Panama/Chair, GNRC 5 <sup>th</sup> Forum Hosting Committee
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227	Kaoru Miyake	Ms.	Japan	Shintoism	Chaperone, Konko Church of Izuo
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253	Leonardo Pineda Morales	Mr.	Honduras	Christianity	Delegate, The Micah Project
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321	Maximiliano Ferrer	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Congreso General Guna
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336	Midori Higa	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
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340	Mitsu Sato	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
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343	Mixela Salazar	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Ministerio de Educación
344	Miyuki Sato	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Arigatou International – Tokyo Volunteer
345	Mohamed El Sayyed	Sh.	Panama	Islam	Imam, Centro Cultural Islámico de Panamá/ GNRC 5th Forum Hosting Committee
346	Mohamed Elbagir Elsanousi	Dr.	United States of America	Islam	Director, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
347	Mohamed Hajid	Mr.	Panama	Islam	Protocol Officer, Despacho de la Primera Dama
348	Mohamed Sohaib Al-Chami	Sh.	Syria	Islam	Grand Imam, Aleppo
349	Mohammed Yusuph	Mr.	Tanzania	Islam	Child
350	Mojgan Hashemi	Dr.	Panama	Baha'i	Comunidad Baha'i
351	Mónica Ramirez	Ms.	Guatemala	Christianity	Theologian/Manager Christian Commitment, World Vision Guatemala
352	Mónica Chirino	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Aliados por la Niñez – Fundación Telefónica
353	Morimasa Oka	Mr.	Japan		Arigatou International–Tokyo
354	Motoko Sakai	Ms.	United States of America		Interpreter
355	Mudiyanselage Yamuna Balasooriya	Ms.	Sri Lanka	Buddhism	Coordinator, GNRC–Sri Lanka
356	Mustafa Yusuf Ali	Dr.	Kenya	Islam	Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) and Director of Arigatou International – Nairobi
357	Myriam Pinto	Ms.	Colombia	Christianity	Chaperone, GNRC Coordinator–Colombia
358	Nabil El Hag	Mr.	Panama	Islam	Centro Cultural Islámico de Panamá
359	Nabil Omais	Mr.	Panama	Islam	Academia Internacional Arab Panamá
360	Nadine Nashef	Ms.	Israel	Islam	Neve-Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam
361	Naicker Mark Shaldon	Mr.	South Africa	Christianity	Member, GNRC–South Africa
362	Naida Gonzalez	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Despacho de la Primera Dama
363	Nancy Torres De Vargas	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Comunidad de Puerto Caimito
364	Naoko Hara	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Arigatou International–Tokyo
365	Natalie Torres	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Volunteer
366	Nathaly Navarro	Ms.	Panama		
367	Nelly Cedeño De Paredes	Ms.	Panama		
368	Nelson Arns Neumann	Dr.	Brazil	Christianity	Coordinator, Pastoral da Criança
369	Nelson Da Fonte	Prof.	Panama	Christianity	Profesor de Humanidades Universidad Santa María La Antigua
370	Nena Heramil	Sr.	Panama	Christianity	Parroquia San Lucas
371	Nestor Miguel Rios	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Balboa Union Church
372	Nicta Lubaale	Rev.	Uganda	Christianity	General Secretary, Organization of African Instituted Churches

No	Full Name	Title	Country	Religion	Category/Designation
373	Nilka Cañizalez	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Bolsa de Productos
374	Ninfa Alarcon	Ms.	Guatemala	Christianity	Oficina de Derechos Humanos del Arzobispado de Guatemala, Responsable Componente Derechos de la Niñez y Adolescencia Área de Cultura de Paz
375	Nisreen Ismail Idris	Ms.	Sudan	Islam	Member, GNRC–Sudan
376	Nivia Rossana Castrellón	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Consejo de la Concertación Nacional para el Desarrollo
377	Nobuhito Kudo	Mr.	Japan		Press
378	Nobuko Mizushima	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
379	Noris Bustamante	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Balboa Union Church
380	Okidi Waruingi Nyabera	Mr.	Kenya	Christianity	Member, GNRC–Kenya
381	Olga Lucia Sierra Santos	Ms.	Colombia	Buddhism	Member, GNRC–Colombia
382	Orlando Castillo	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Colegio Javier
383	Orlando Quintero	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Director, Aliados por la Niñez – PROBIDSIDA
384	Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga	Cardinal	Honduras	Christianity	Archbishop of Tegucigalpa
385	Oscar Chicas	Mr.	Honduras	Christianity	Country Director, World Vision Honduras
386	Oscar Martin	Fr.	Panama	Christianity	Pastoral de Niños de San Miguelito
387	Oscar Ronaldo Vivas Rodríguez	Mr.	Honduras	Christianity	Ecclesiastic Religions Specialist, World Vision Honduras
388	Oscar Vallarino	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	VP Corporate Affairs, Autoridad del Canal de Panamá
389	Osvaldo Lopez	Mr.	Guatemala	Christianity	Chaperone, World Vision Guatemala
390	Ovidio Vargas	Rev.	Panama	Christianity	Chaperone, Comunidad de Puerto Caimito
391	Pablo Berman	Rabbi	Brazil	Judaism	Rabbi
392	Pablo Morales	Bishop	Panama	Christianity	Iglesia Evangelica Metodist de Panamá
393	Pant Ayushma	Ms.	Nepal	Buddhism	Child
394	Patricia Horna Castro	Ms.	Brazil	Christianity	Regional Advocacy Coordinator, World Vision
395	Patricio Cuevas - Parra	Mr.	Cyprus	Christianity	Senior Policy Adviser, World Vision
396	Patricio Mora	Fr.	Panama	Christianity	Iglesia Luterana El Redentor
397	Pauline Janet Omona Arach	Ms.	Uganda	Christianity	Member, GNRC–Uganda
398	Pedro Araúz	Bishop	Panama	Christianity	Evangelical Methodist Church of Panama, GNRC 5th Forum Hosting Committee
399	Peter Billings	Mr.	United States of America	Christianity	Arigatou International – Tokyo
400	Peter Gape	Mr.	Guatemala	Christianity	Country Director, World Vision Guatemala
401	Priscilla Malca	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Volunteer
402	Priya Laya Alwarappan	Ms.	India	Hinduism	Child
403	Que English	Rev.	United States of America	Christianity	Founder, Not On My Watch!! Safe Haven Network International, Chair, NYC-Faith-Based Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence



No	Full Name	Title	Country	Religion	Category/Designation
404	Rabi El Fakih	Mr.	Panama	Islam	Centro Cultural Islámico de Panamá
405	Rafael Soares De Oliveira	Mr.	Brazil	Candomblé	Executive Director, Koinonia Presença Ecumênica Serviço
406	Rafael Valdivieso	Mons.	Panama	Christianity	Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano (CELAM)
407	Rafael Zevallos	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Aliados por la Niñez – Fundación Jesús Luz de Oportunidades
408	Raida J. M. Alrifá'i	Ms.	Palestine	Islam	Member, GNRC–Palestine
409	Ramadhan Aula	Sh.	Kenya	Islam	Coordinator, GNRC–Kenya
410	Ramón Aguilar	Mr.	Venezuela	Christianity	Pastoral Colegio San Ignacio
411	Raquel Sherman	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Child
412	Rashied Omar	Dr.	South Africa	Islam	Research Scholar of Islamic Studies and Peace Building, University of Notre Dame, Coordinating Imam, Claremont Main Road Mosque, Cape Town
413	Rebeca Rios-Kohn	Ms.	United States of America	Christianity	Director, Prayer and Action for Children and Director of Arigatou International – New York
414	Ricardo Cerrud	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Child
415	Rita Cardoso Estevez	Ms.	Portugal	Christianity	Coordinator, GNRC–Portugal
416	Rivy Plapler	Ms.	Brazil	Judaism	Member, GNRC–Brazil
417	Robyn Cawker Hagan	Mr.	United States of America	Christianity	Global Advisor, Faith Partnerships for Child Protection, World Vision International
418	Roderick Burgos	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Especialista, En abuso infantil
419	Rodolfo Gonzalez	Lic.	Panama	Christianity	Member, GNRC–Panama
420	Rodrigo Bustos	Mr.	El Salvador	Christianity	Country Director, Plan International El Salvador
421	Rohaniza Sumndad-Usman	Ms.	Philippines	Islam	Contact Person, GNRC–Philippines
422	Rojer Salame Khoury	Mr.	Palestine	Christianity	Member, GNRC–Palestine
423	Rolando Hernandez	Rev.	Panama	Christianity	Alianza Evangélica de Panamá
424	Rosalina Tuyuc Velásquez	Ms.	Guatemala	Mayan Tradition	President, Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala (CONAVIGUA)
425	Rosemary Bailyq	Ms.	Panama	Baha'i	Comunidad Baha'i
426	Rossana Scigliani	Ms.	Panama		
427	Rubeida Suleila Omar	Ms.	South Africa	Islam	Member, Claremont Main Road Mosque, Cape Town
428	Rudaina Assaf	Ms.	Panama	Islam	Child
429	Ruthy Gurfinkel-Kraselnik	Ms.	Panama	Judaism	Comunidad Judía Panamá
430	Saada Yasser	Ms.	Panama	Islam	Delegate, Centro Cultural Islámico de Panamá
431	Sae Ito	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Child
432	Sandra Suarez	Sr.	Bolivia	Christianity	Fundacion Levantate Mujer, Comunidad del Buen Pastor
433	Sandra Yepez	Ms.	Switzerland	Christianity	Communications, Ethics Education for Children
434	Santiago Benavides	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Child

No	Full Name	Title	Country	Religion	Category/Designation
435	Sara Alvarado	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Child
436	Sara Dayana Ariza Bachiller	Ms.	Colombia	Christianity	Child
437	Sarah Niyonsaba	Ms.	Burundi	Islam	Contact Person, GNRC–Burundi
438	Sarah Harrouche	Ms.	Panama	Judaism	Child
439	Sarah Marisse Queblatin	Ms.	Philippines		Contact Person, GNRC–Philippines
440	Sarah Rodriguez	Ms.	Panama	Judaism	UNICEF
441	Saul Orefice Hernandez	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Child
442	Saydoon Nisa Sayed	Ms.	South Africa	Islam	Contact Person, GNRC–South Africa
443	Sean Maguire	Mr.	United Kingdom		Executive Director, Global Influence and Partnerships, Plan International
444	Segundo Otavalo Castañeda	Mr.	Ecuador	Christianity	Pastor, Iglesia Evangelica Indigena Independiente "El Amor de Jehova"
445	Seiichiro Tamura	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
446	Seiji Tanaka	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Child
447	Shazmin Binti Rafeeq	Ms.	Malaysia	Islam	Contact Person, GNRC–Malaysia
448	Sheran Harper	Mrs.	Guyana	Christianity	Trustee & Worldwide Trainer for Mothers' Union
449	Shree Giri Kriti	Ms.	Nepal	Hinduism	Member, GNRC–Nepal
450	Shuhei Sumide	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
451	Sidney Frank Albert Fones Infante	Mons.	Chile	Christianity	Former Deputy Secretary General, CELAM/ Chair, GNRC 5 <sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee
452	Silvia Correa Avila	Ms.	Mexico	Christianity	Chaperone, World Vision Mexico
453	Silvia Mazzarelli	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Regional Head of Child Rights Policy and Programming, Plan International
454	Silvia Novoa	Ms.	Mexico	Christianity	Country Director, World Vision Mexico
455	Silvio Sant'Ana Rocha	Mr.	Brazil	Christianity	Senior Economist and Advisor, Pastoral da Criança/GNRC 5 <sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee
456	Simión Diaz	Mr.	Guatemala	Christianity	Child
457	Siranjeevi Rangaraj	Mr.	India	Hinduism	Child
458	Srdjan Vlaškalić	Mr.	Serbia		Coordinator, GNRC–Serbia
459	Sri Ratna Mbaresani	Ms.	Indonesia	Christianity	Member, GNRC–Indonesia
460	Stefan Pleisnitzer	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Regional Leader, World Vision (LAC)
461	Stella Odong	Ms.	Uganda	Christianity	Child
462	Suchith Abeyewicreme	Mr.	Sri Lanka	Buddhism	Facilitator
463	Sueko Matsuura	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
464	Susan Bissell	Dr.	Canada	Christianity	Director, Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children/GNRC 5 <sup>th</sup> Forum International Organizing Committee
465	Susana Gonzalez De Benitez Codas	Ms.	Paraguay	Baha'i	Baha'i' Paraguay



No	Full Name	Title	Country	Religion	Category/Designation
466	Swami Atmapriyananda	Swami	India	Hinduism	Vice Chancellor, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University
467	Syed Rashad Ali Shah Bukhari	Mr.	Pakistan	Islam	Member, GNRC–Pakistan
468	Tadao Osada	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
469	Tadeusz Mich	Mr.	United States of America	Christianity	Director of Global Church Partnership, World Vision International
470	Tahir Alvi	Mr.	Canada	Islam	Pen & Paper
471	Ted Chaiban	Mr.	United States of America		Director, Programme Division, UNICEF
472	Teresa del Carmen Castillo	Sr.	Panama	Christianity	Colegio Augustiniano
473	Teresa del Carmen Suarez Viachica	Ms.	Nicaragua	Christianity	Child
474	Tereza Bejarano	Ms.	Panama	Baha'i	Comunidad Baha'i
475	Teruyuki Fujiwara	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
476	Thich An Dat Nguyen	Ven.	Vietnam	Buddhism	Delegate
477	Tomohiro Onoue	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Press
478	Toshihiko Kaibuchi	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
479	Toshiko Tashiro	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
480	Toshimitsu Kurimoto	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
481	Toshitaka Obara	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Press
482	Travis Rejman	Mr.	United States of America		Executive Director, Goldin Institute
483	Valeria Victoria Vergara Herrera	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Child
484	Vanessa Vicuña	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Director, Nutre Hogar
485	Vera Leal	Ms.	Portugal	Christianity	Facilitator/Programme Officer, Ethics Education for Children
486	Veronica Forte	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Consejo de la Concertación Nacional para el Desarrollo
487	Verónica Rodríguez	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Volunteer
488	Veronica Yates	Ms.	United Kingdom	Christianity	Director, Child Rights International Network–CRIN
489	Victor Martinez	Mr.	Mexico	Christianity	Regional Communications Officer, World Vision
490	Victor Rey Riquelme	Mr.	Chile	Christianity	Coordinator, GNRC–Chile
491	Vienna Pentikäinen	Ms.	Finland	Christianity	Child
492	Vincente Gonzalez	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Congreso General Guna
493	Vinya Ariyaratne	Dr.	Sri Lanka	Buddhism	General Secretary, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement
494	Virginia Bermudez	Ms.	Uruguay	Christianity	Founder, Unidos
495	Virginia Murillo	Mrs.	Costa Rica	Christianity	Executive President, DCI
496	Vivian Rabia	Ms.	Israel	Christianity	Member, GNRC–Israel
497	Viviana Machuca	Ms.	Colombia	Christianity	Coordinadora de Compromisos Cristianos, World Vision

No	Full Name	Title	Country	Religion	Category/Designation
498	Wakana Ito	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
499	Waldo Macre	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Pesidencia
500	Waleed Alvi	Mr.	Canada	Islam	Director/Founder Member, Pen & Paper
501	Walid Handauz	Mr.	Panama	Islam	Centro Cultural Islámico de Panamá
502	Walter Smith	Rev.	Panama	Christianity	Comité Ecuménico Panamá
503	Welinton Pereira	Mr.	Brazil	Christianity	Senior Advisor Institutional Relations, World Vision
504	Wendy Noches	Ms.	Honduras	Christianity	Child
505	William Vendley	Dr.	United States of America		Secretary General, Religions for Peace International
506	Yaicenia Lay	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Child
507	Yazmin Cardenas	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Secretaria Nacional de Niñez, Adolescencia y Familia (SENNIAF)
508	Yessenia Sanchez	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Executive Secretary, CONAPREDES
509	Yoko Ishikawa	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
510	Yoko Suzuki	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
511	Yolany Chavez	Ms.	Panama	Christianity	Chaperone, GNRC–Panama
512	Yorgo El Khoury	Mr.	Lebanon	Christianity	Child
513	Yoshiaki Sato	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
514	Yoshiaki Irikura	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
515	Yoshinori Sugiura	Mr.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
516	Yovanina Navalo	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	Volunteer
517	Yuji Suzuki	Rev.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
518	Yukinobu Sahara	Rev.	Japan	Buddhism	Deputy Secretary General, Federation of New Religious Organizations of Japan
519	Yuko Matsushima	Ms.	Japan	Buddhism	Myochikai
520	Yumiko Nakamura	Ms.	Japan	Christianity	Arigatou International – Tokyo Volunteer
521	Yuriko Hisamune	Ms.	Japan		Translator
522	Yussef Quiros	Mr.	Panama	Christianity	
523	Yusuph Masanja	Mr.	Tanzania	Islam	Coordinator, GNRC–Tanzania
524	Yvan Castro	Mr.	Peru	Christianity	Director, World Vision Peru
525	Zeinab Saab	Ms.	Panama	Islam	Child
526	Zmijanac Dragi	Mr.	Macedonia	Christianity	Founder and President, First Children's Embassy in the World, MEGJASHI – Republic of Macedonia



## Introducing the Arigatou International “All for Children” Online Community

- To help participants fulfill the promises made during the GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum, Arigatou International developed a special Panama Commitments Dashboard within its “All for Children” online community.



- This provides a space for participants—both adults and children—to connect and engage with one another during the post-Forum period.
- By joining the online community, participants can share their plans of action and work together to address violence against children worldwide. The dashboard also helps to track the progress being made on the commitments.
- All participants of the Fifth Forum are encouraged to join the online community, share about what they are doing, and be inspired by what others are doing.

**Join now!**  
[community.arigatouinternational.org](http://community.arigatouinternational.org)





# Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action



The GNRC 5<sup>th</sup> Forum  
**#EndChildViolence**

Panama City, Panama 2017



Interreligious  
Committee in Panama



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON  
**VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**







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