

# CHILDREN AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

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*Truth-Telling, Accountability  
and Reconciliation*

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Published by the Human Rights Program at Harvard Law School

© United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), March 2010

Printed in the United States of America

This publication was jointly developed by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) in Florence, Italy and the Human Rights Program, Harvard Law School, Massachusetts, United States of America. It is being distributed by Harvard University Press.

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ISBN: 978-0-9796395-4-8

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Distributed by Harvard University Press  
<http://www.hup.harvard.edu>

Printed by Signature Book Printing, <http://www.sbpbooks.com>

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## *Acknowledgments*

This book brings together the research of individual experts on new and emerging issues in the area of child rights and transitional justice. The work presented in these pages is inspired by the many children and young people who have contributed their courage and creative energy in efforts towards justice and peace-building in their communities.

The editors are honored by the contribution of Graça Machel in preparing the foreword; her landmark study on the *Impact of Armed Conflict on Children* has served as a foundation for this book. We are indebted to Archbishop Desmond Tutu for his support and tireless efforts in seeking truth, justice and reconciliation, which has given others the inspiration to pursue those goals in the aftermath of violence and armed conflict.

This book represents highlights from the research undertaken by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre on children and transitional justice, from 2007 to 2009. It is informed by a wide network of legal experts, child rights advocates, practitioners and activists, including many children who have engaged with the authors and whose voices are recorded in these pages. The authors have sought a way forward, using evidence and analysis as the basis for recommendations to better protect the rights of children in future transitional justice processes.

We are indebted to Marta Santos Pais, who served as the Director of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre during the preparation of this book. We are grateful to Yasmin Sooka for providing wise guidance and to Jaap Doek for his profound insights on child rights. We thank Radhika Coomaraswamy for her leadership on issues related to children and armed conflict. We are grateful to Ryan Goodman for his efforts in initiating this collection.

The research and analysis of children's involvement in transitional justice presented here was reviewed in panel and working group discussions during a conference on Children and Transitional Justice, convened by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre

and the Human Rights Program of Harvard Law School, at Harvard in April 2009. The experiences and insights of participants in that conference have informed the chapters of this book, as well as the Key Principles for Children and Transitional Justice, presented here as an outcome document to that conference.

We are grateful for the invaluable contributions of the many peer reviewers who gave generously of their time and expertise in commenting on draft chapters. We are grateful to colleagues at Harvard Law School and at UNICEF who have contributed. In particular, we would like to thank Annie Berndtson and Ann Linnarsson. Our appreciation is extended to Catherine Way, who provided dedicated editorial support. We also thank Michael Jones, who contributed the cover and design for the book. Mr. Jones also oversaw the production of the book, along with Allyson Alert-Atterbury and Eve Leckey of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.

This study would not have been possible without the financial support provided by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministero degli Affari Esteri Cooperazione allo Sviluppo) and the funding provided by the Government of France.

## *Acronyms*

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ANC	African National Congress (South Africa)
ARLPI	Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative (Uganda)
BMW	Bonteheuwal Military Wing (South Africa)
CAR	Central African Republic
CAVR	Comissão de Acolhimento, Verdade e Reconciliação de Timor-Leste (Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in East Timor)
CCSL	Council of Churches in Sierra Leone
CFN	Children's Forum Network (Sierra Leone)
CONADEP	Comisión Nacional sobre la Desaparición de Personas (National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons), Argentina
CPA	child protection agency
CPN	child protection network
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CVR	Comisión de la Verdad y Reconciliación (Truth and Reconciliation Commission), Peru

DCN	Diseño Curricular Nacional (National Curriculum Design), Peru
DDR	disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FMLN	Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Front), El Salvador
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HLA	human leukocyte antigen
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICTR	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
IDL	Instituto de Defensa Legal (Peru)
IDP	internally displaced person
IFP	Inkatha Freedom Party (South Africa)
IRC	Innocenti Research Centre (UNICEF)
MK	Umkhonto we Sizwe ('Spear of the Nation'), South Africa
mtDNA	mitochondrial DNA



LRA	Lord's Resistance Army (Uganda)
MOU	memorandum of understanding
MRTA	Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru (Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement), Peru
MSWGCA	Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (Sierra Leone)
NCRC	National Child Rights Committee (a non-governmental organization in South Africa)
NGO	non-governmental organization
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
PUCP	Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (Pontificate Catholic University of Peru)
RPF	Rwandan Patriotic Front
RUF	Revolutionary United Front (Sierra Leone)
SADF	South African Defence Force (now the South African National Defence Force)
SCSL	Special Court for Sierra Leone
SDU	self-defense unit
SRSG	Special Representative of the (United Nations) Secretary-General

STR	short tandem repeat
TRC	truth and reconciliation commission
UNAMSIL	United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UPDF	Uganda People's Defence Forces