REGIONAL CHILD

TRAUMA CONFERENCE



PREVENTING & RESPONDING TO

HILD ABUSE, VIOLENCE & NEGLECT.



AFRICAN REGIONAL CHILD TRAUMA CONFERENCE 2019: RE-ROOTING AFRICA: AFRICA'S ROUTES TO PREVENTING & RESPONDING TO CHILD ABUSE, VIOLENCE & NEGLECT

THIS PUBLICATION SHALL BE CITED AS: "JELLY BEANZ (2019) AFRICAN CHILD TRAUMA CONFERENCE REPORT 2019"

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CHILD TRAUMA CONFERENCE 2019 PROGRAM COMMITTEE WAS LED BY MARITA RADEMEYER.





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The aim: to balance presentations on pure research, applied research, evidence based prevention programmes, intervention programmes, advocacy initiatives, innovation and lived experience. Chair: Dr Maria Mabetoa

About the child Trauma Conference Series: The Annual Child Trauma Conference series was launched in 2008 by Jelly Beanz to establish the first South African forum on primary, secondary and tertiary child trauma prevention. It has become a milestone event connecting state, non-state leaders, child trauma researchers and experts to identify and discuss the challenges facing children in an African context. For a decade, the Child Trauma Conference has been providing an African and open space where national, regional and local governments, researchers, businesses and civil society could meet as equals, contributing with their knowledge and expertise to the advancement of child protection and prevention.

Based on the conference discussions, this publication summarizes key issues regarding child protection and finding African routes towards ending violence to all our children.

Please note: The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of our partners. The content of this publication can in no way be taken to reflect opinions of partner or sponsor organisations. Jelly Beanz is solely responsible for the content and the use of the information contained in this report.

MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR:



"Thank you to all who attended the African Regional Child Trauma Conference. The programme was packed with diverse topics and presentations which are at the heart of child protection efforts in the midst of the scourge of child trauma in our countries. I hope that all contributions made by speakers and participants at this conference will not only enliahten us but will embolden us to continue with the eradication of child maltreatment and provision of appropriate and effective interventions to affected children and their families."

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The conference was attended by 400 delegates from 18 African countries and focused on 10 pathways to implement effective solutions to the prevention and response to violence against children.



(from left) Bishop Dinis Sengulane, Prof Soraya Seedat, Sinah Moruane, Prof. Dawit Mezmur, Bishop Dinis Sengulane, Dr Maria Mabetoa, Ms Edith Kriel, Minister Shama Fernandez, Councillor Zahid Badroodien, Ms Tozama Ngcongolo, Minister Debbie Schafer and Marita Rademeyer

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNER











PARTNERS



















THE AFRICAN CHILD TRAUMA CONFERENCE JOURNEY

Globally an estimated **95 million children** experience abuse every year, with the highest rates reported in Africa.

In Africa, most children in need of care and protection have limited to no access to child protection services or mental health care, in spite of progressive legislation and pockets of excellence in law enforcement, health and the judicial services. Many children experience secondary trauma in the child protection system, which may decrease the reporting of such incidents. The prevention of violence to children remains a challenge in terms of evidence-based best practise, resources and implementation.

The annual African Child Trauma
Conference provides a unique and
accessible platform for African leaders
and their associations, as well as national
governments, scientists technical experts,
development partners, business, industry
and civil society to engage in strategic
discussions around changing the landscape
of child protection in Africa. This is
particularly relevant in the context of the
many challenges facing the continent,
including rapid urbanisation, the growing
under-18 population, access to basic services
and climate change.

The Child Trauma Conferences also present a space for therapists and other service providers to engage with local, subnational and national governments, researches, academia and financiers around possible solutions for supporting a demographic transition that not only nurtures children but puts them at the fore in order to support accelerated economic growth. It is where investment in children's mental and physical health is emphasised if sustainable,

resilient and inclusive growth across the continent is to be achieved.

Each conference, over the years, has been tailored to provide a space that is strategically cross-cutting and aligned with the topical issues and themes that are apparent in the national and international discourse as relate children. Topics addressed have included (but were not limited to): the rights of the child, teen pregnancies, online safety, transgenerational trauma, youth in prison, attachment therapy, neglect, leaders of tomorrow, early sexual debut, HIV / AIDS, intersectoral approaches to child abuse and neglect.

This, the 11th Child Trauma Conference was the first of this series of conferences with a Regional focus. The theme was: 'Rerooting Africa: Africa's Routes to Preventing & Responding to child Abuse, Violence & Neglect'. It saw the registration of over 400 delegates, and comprised of 10 pathways to solutions and saw representation of 18 African Countries and from other parts of the world.

Jelly Beanz, with the support of conference partners including UNICEF, Childline South Africa, Centre for Child Law (University of Pretoria), Children's Institute (University of Cape Town), Teddy Bear Foundation, Matla Abana, Dullah Omar Institute, and ISPCAN (International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect), hosted the African Regional Child Trauma Conference, the 11th of its kind in Cape Town, South Africa



To incite collaboration and innovative thinking, delegates were encouraged to share different therapeutic processes and approaches for children who have suffered trauma. They were encouraged to do this through:

2019

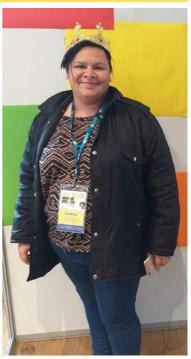


























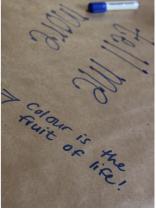


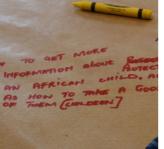


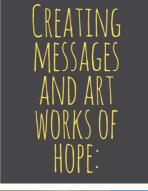
















COLLABORATIVE ACTION AS A CATALYST FOR ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF CHILD TRAUMA IN AFRICA

The African Regional Child Trauma Conference, led by Jelly Beanz and partners, provided, a platform for African and international organisations, to deliberate and explore collective solutions for addressing the critical child trauma prevention and protection related challenges that threaten to derail stability and growth in Africa.



Throughout the conference, there was recognition that the challenges faced in Africa are complex, that they are global in nature, and require Africanrelevant, real-time and context-specific solutions. These solutions should be based on knowledge produced by all stakeholders who act in a transdisciplinary manner. Addressing these challenges also requires innovative partnerships, networks and alliances, as well as openness to perspectives that may break the mould of child protection and prevention. The need for collaboration beyond geographical and regional boundaries was recognised.

The conference also acknowledged the landmark global and continental agreements and frameworks that have been promulgated in recent years, flagging the need to link these decisions to local actions. Ten key pathways/solutions for successfully ending violence against children across the continent were identified and incorporated in the charter that emanated from the conference



Addressing this crisis that our children face requires collaborative efforts and sharing experiences. All contributions will not only enlighten, but embolden US.

Dr Maria Mabetoa, Chairperson of The African Regional Child Trauma Conference, President: South African Council of Social Service Professions.

There is probably no more of a heart wrenching image than that of a child soldier! All children are equal, but the life of some is more equal than others. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of ending poverty and hunger we need to recognise that this can't happen without ending violence and it cannot be done in isolation – we need to include a whole range of stakeholders.'

Prof. Benyam Mezmur, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, Special Rapporteur on Children and Armed Conflict of the ACERWC. Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance and Human Rights, University of the Western Cape.



'We can't be cynical! We need to do a lot more to prevent child abuse and murders and neglect within family homes'.

Minister Sharna Fernandez, Social Development, Western Cape Provincial Government, during the opening plenary.

We are trying to build a human rights culture in schools, trauma counselling, anti-gang strategies and behavioural change campaigns to create awareness for all concerned! To address the crisis that we face with our children, we really need parents and communities themselves to do their bit. They need to provide stability for children in our communities.

Minister of Education, Western Cape, **Debbie Schäfer**





Prof. Soraya Seedat, Professor of Psychiatry, Executive Head of The Department of Psychiatry, Stellenbosch University.



Mr Yusuf Abramjee. Social Activist and Social cohesion Advocate, anti-Crime Activist, GCOB said, 'I am very supportive of the discourse that is occurring here at this conference. We need to protect our children! We need to act!' as he addressed the plenary on day 2 of the conference.

'We need to ensure that role-players who work in violence prevention and response are adequately funded and resourced and offered the opportunity of trauma debriefing!' Dr Mkhuseli Jokani, National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa.

'Child trauma is bigger than the Department of Health and we cannot do it alone! We will have to work with all of our partners, address poverty, unemployment and inequality. education, crime and violence to keep our children safe!'. Dr Nomafrench Mbombo. Minister of Health. Western Cape Government

Ena Theron: "sexual offenses happen and we as a community are all responsible for that"

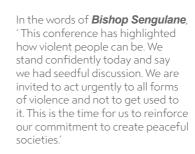
"A lot of our work is helping children to mourn the parents they thought they had" - Luke Lamprecht

"We have to help the parents work through their trauma first before we start to work on the child's trauma"-Rene Olhoff

"We need to make parents commit to the intervention processes and that they too will receive intervention" Shaheda Omar







THE PATHWAYS GUIDING US TOWARDS AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO PROTECT AFRICA'S CHILDREN.

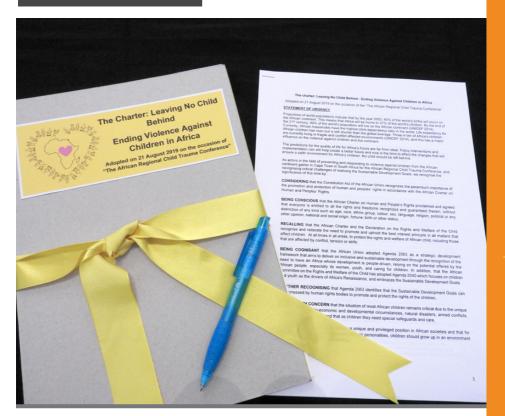
The theme of this, the
11th conference was to
reconnect with our African
roots regarding child
protection and finding the
African routes towards
ending violence to all our
children. Ten pathways
were identified by the
conference partners, these
pathways formed the
basis of the conference
proceedings namely:

- Preventing violence against children in Africa – going back to our roots
- 2. The many faces of intergenerational trauma in Africa
- 3. Promoting positive discipline as a strategy to reduce corporal punishment in Africa
- 4. The shadow side of the online environment for children: the need to regulate and educate
- **5.** Poverty and the layers of exploitation of children
- **6.** African children and armed conflict: from war to gang violence
- Prioritising the protection of children marginalised by disabilities
- 8. Children affected by sexual violence: interventions for children, families and communities
- Multi-faceted approaches to dealing with children in conflict with the law
- Strategies for coordinating and integrating interventions and knowledge for preventing and responding to child trauma

Throughout the discourse of the conference, delegates could attend a minimum of 5 streams, all of which included skills building workshops. Delegates were asked to provide advise on how each of the 10 pathways could be enacted.

Key outcome of the conference: the 'Leave no child behind' charter

A CHARTER WAS DEVELOPED TOGETHER WITH THE PARTNER ORGANISATIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AND COMMITTED TO RAISING THE PLIGHT OF THE AFRICAN CHILD IN THE GLOBAL DISCOURSE.



This document identifies aspects within each of the 10 pathways which will assist stakeholders in implementing real and workable change for our children. The charter complements existing violence against children initiatives in the region, such as the African Charter on Human and

People's Rights, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Child and Agenda 2063. Together they provide a holistic vision for transforming the rights and welfare of the African child by streamlining progress towards ending violence.



Form left: Dumisile Nala, Childline; Prof Shanaaz Mathews, Children's Institute; Sinah Moruane, UNICEF; Dr Shaheda Omar, Teddy Bear Foundation; Zita Hansungule, Centre for Child Law; Marita Rademeyer, Jelly Beanz

The conference partners, led by Jelly Beanz, came together on this historic occasion and signed the Charter on the 21st of August 2019. In so doing, the partners have pledged to:

- Sharing key information that is pertinent to effective violence/trauma reduction and prevention planning and monitoring amongst non-state actors;
- Ensuring that violence/trauma treatment, prevention and reduction strategies are aligned with, and

- supportive of national, regional and global strategies;
- Promoting the use of strategies that recognise the needs of the most vulnerable:
- Emphasizing the role of functioning systems, organisations and services as core to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; and
- 5) Pursuing unprecedented funding mechanisms.

The charter was also endorsed by Mr Yusuf Abramjee, Social Cohesion Advocate and Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children.



The national Department of Social Development representative Ms Tshidi Maaga accepted the charter on behalf of the Department for endorsement by the Minister.



The 'Leave no child behind' Charter has, to date, been shared widely for further signing and support throughout the various organisations and networks across the region. It is envisioned that this charter and the processes that will emanate from it will result in measures that will prevent, and ultimately end, child violence on the African continent. To achieve this, it is designed to work towards ensuring international recognition of the severity and the impacts of child violence/trauma in Africa, and to support the realisation of the following:

- At a global level: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which set a target of ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking, torture and all forms of violence against children by 2030.
- 2. At a continental level: The African Union's Children's Charter, Agenda 2063 and their aspirations containing goals around the rights of children and their welfare. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) – Agenda 2040: Fostering an Africa Fit For Children

The conference was closed by Ms Tshidi Maaga, Department of Social Development, South Africa.

MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE CHAIR:



Dear colleagues, thank you for your commitment in working tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of African children! We trust that this conference will enrich your work and that you will return to your communities with renewed hope and inspiration. We hope that the friendships forged during our time together, will further unite our efforts in serving the children of our continent.













THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT







WORDS OF THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We are grateful for the support of the South African Convention Bureau, The Western Cape Convention Bureau, the City of Cape Town, Medical Practise Consulting and Zelda Coetzee Conference and Event Management.

































WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT, WE WOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED

SUCH AMAZING AND POSITIVE FEEDBACK!

Words of appreciation from our delegates

- I love how every year there is a kindness, a concern, a wanting to make the delegates feel cared for. From the goodie bags, lovely lunches and teas. Thank you.
- I found the conference incredibly useful and stimulating especially as my work is limited to desktop research
- I attended a lot of conferences and this was by far one of the very few that kept me engaged and excited
- Knowing that the charter is going all the way to the UN is amazing. Too often at conferences valuable insights stay with those in attendance which is like preaching to the converted. Knowing that these insights will go to Government and internationally is reassuring. Hopefully it will lead to proactive action.
- Well done! You pulled off a great conference, and I really like the emphasis on practice rather than theory.
- Thank you for the time and effort you placed into organising this
 event. You are true advocates and examples of the responsibility
 we as professionals have in combating this global epidemic