



Washington Network on Children and Armed Conflict

USES OF SPORT IN ARMED CONFLICT SETTINGS

Meeting notes, materials on PowerPoint

Please note: The opinions expressed in WNCAC meetings and reflected in these notes are those of the individual participants and are not endorsed by the WNCAC, which provides an open forum for exchange among those concerned with children affected by armed conflict.

The Washington Network held its Bi-monthly meeting on February 20, 2008 to discuss the use of sports in conflict setting. Participants discussed the overlapping issues, identified mutual themes, and current pitfalls concerning programming approaches. It was further concluded that the use of sports by peace-building organizations around the world has in recent times increased exponentially. See full PowerPoint presentations.

- 10:00 – 10:10 Introduction and Welcome to WNCAC
 - Participant Introductions

Sandra Malone, the Executive Vice President of Search For Common Ground introduced Felix Unogwu as the new Children and Youth Specialist at SFCG.

- The network welcomed its new Co-Chair Felix Unogwu, who replaced L. Randolph Carter. Felix comes to the network with extensive experience in programming and design in youth leadership development. His wealth of experience stems from the years as a co-founder of an immigrant Human Rights association in Sweden, which addressed the prevailing social-political issues confronting young immigrants and minority groups at the time. Felix is also an IAF trained field organizer and has a Master of Science degree in political science from Vaxjo University in Sweden and an Advanced Study Certificate in dispute resolution from University of Massachusetts Boston. Felix now serves as Children and Youth Specialist for Search For Common Ground.

- 10:10 – 11:00

John Williamson the Co-Chair of WNCAC and Senior Technical Advisor of the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund/USAID presented guest speakers of the event;

- **Dean Ravizza of the Department of Health, Physical Education, & Human Performance, Salisbury University:** introduced the topic and noting that sport is being used to promote development and peace, but that its potential has yet to be fully realized. He maintains that Sport still remains outside the thinking among many stakeholders and that the core values inherent in sport are aligned with principles

integral for development and peace including fair play, cooperation, and respect. Dean gave an overview of his work in northern Uganda, where sport is being used in the re-socialization and reintegration of formerly abducted children.

- **Wayne Lifshitz, Director of CARE's Sport for Social Change Initiative** addressed the issue of why a major agency engaged in relief and development work has incorporated sport into its program. He gave a holistic perspective on the role of sport within the work that CARE is doing and describe some of its programs in conflict-affected countries.
- **Zach Leverenz of PeacePlayers** described how sport is being used as a conflict resolution tool among Palestinian and Israeli youth.

- 11:00 - 11:50
 - Discussion & Questions
- 11:50- 12:00
 - Announcements
 - Closing remarks