Washington Network on Children and Armed Conflict

An informal network for practitioner and scholars convened by Search for Common Ground and the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund of USAID with the broad aim of improving the protection of children affected by armed conflict.
Agenda
10am-12pm

- WNCAC Survey & Results - 2 minutes
- Presentations - 1:30 minutes
- Q&A – 20 minutes
- Announcements – 8 minutes
Survey

1. What are your top priorities for attending WNCAC meetings?
   - Networking obtaining
   - Exchanging information
   - Others

2. What topics would you like to see addressed in future WNCAC meetings? (Free listing of topics)
   - Youth and peace building and issues related to child soldiers
   - Issues relating to girls and women
   - Economic strengthening, psychosocial programming, and research and evaluation to build and evidence base each showed a notable level of interest
Survey

- Individual ideas included:
- Deconstructing the vulnerable child
- How families are affected by conflict and the impacts on children
- The failure of NGO actions and the reasons for this
- Partnership, funding, and the latest reports.
Overall Rating According to Interest

1. Children associated with armed groups
2. Youth and peacebuilding
3. Sexual and gender-based violence affecting children (tie)
4. Child protection (tie)
5. Assessment of children’s needs in emergencies
6. Youth livelihoods
Overall Rating According to Interest

6. Children's participation (tie)
6. Monitoring and evaluation (tie)
6. Research (tie)
7. Education
8. Separated children
9. Other issues Related to youth
Overall Rating According to Interest

10. Child health in areas of conflict
11. Children with disabilities
12. Early childhood development
13. Child nutrition in areas of conflict
14. Sport and recreation
Youth, Conflict & Peacebuilding

- **Dr. Susan Shepler** is an assistant professor of International Peace and Conflict Resolution at American University. Her ethnographic research focuses primarily on the reintegration of former child soldiers in Sierra Leone. Other interests include post-conflict reconstruction, education and development, NGOs and globalization, and the search for local solutions to conflict. She has conducted research for UNICEF on transnational fosterage of war-affected youth in West Africa. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, The Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, and the American Association of University Women.

- **Mark D. Hamilton** is a freelance consultant, lecturer, and Ph.D. Candidate of International Relations at American University. His dissertation examines youth mobilization incentives in conflict environments, highlighting the role of young people as "engines" of social transformation. The research tracks diverse paths of youth political and socioeconomic participation, integrating case histories in Latin American and South Asia, among other regions, with an original system dynamics model based on qualitative and quantitative data, theoretical analysis and interviews.