

SRMUN Atlanta 2015
*Unifying Our Global Community through
Humanitarian Collaboration*
November 19-21, 2015
Atlanta, GA
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Dear Delegates,

It is an honor to welcome you to the General Assembly (GA) Plenary committee at SRMUN Atlanta 2015. My name is J.B. Desselle, and I have the privilege to serve as the Director for the GA Plenary. I along with my Assistant Directors Justin Kramer and Roman Simmons, have collaborated and worked to provide a background guide that will serve as a resource for delegates to utilize in preparation for committee. Justin, Roman and I have strong hopes for the delegates in this committee and await eagerly to the work that will be produced. We hope that delegates will be able to fully comprehend the background guide and outside research in order to develop strong position papers to solve the issues presented to the GA plenary.

The GA Plenary was established in 1945 as the central body of the United Nations (UN). As one of the six major organs of the UN, the GA consists of policymaking and representation for all 193 Member States and two observer states – Holy See and Palestine. The GA is ultimately responsible for maintaining peace and security, as defined in the UN Charter; however, it also oversees the budget, appoints non-permanent members to the Security Council, receives reports from other branches and organs in the UN system and makes recommendations, known as resolutions. In spirit of the theme for SRMUN Atlanta 2015, "Unifying Our Global Community Through Humanitarian Collaboration," two topics have been developed for the GA Plenary:

- I: Non-Traditional Approaches to Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict Areas
- II: The Impact of Early and Forced Marriage on the Rights of the Child

Each delegation is required to submit a position paper that addresses and outlines their Member State's policies based on the two aforementioned topics. Position papers should include insight to the Member State's policies from the past, present, and future, including both domestic policies and involvement in U.N. as well as recommendations for resolve. The position papers serve as a critical document for delegations in preparation for the conference. Delegates should follow SRMUN's policies regarding position papers, which include format and style structure. For specific details on formatting, or if you need help in shaping a position paper, please visit the SRMUN website (www.srmun.org). **All Position papers MUST be submitted by 11:59 p.m. EST on 30 October, 2015, via the online submission system.**

Roman, Justin and I look forward to the prospects delegates have to offer in the GA Plenary. We are eager to see each delegation's ideas and research come to fruition for the prepared topics. We also send the best regards as delegations prepare for the SRMUN Atlanta 2015 conference and look forward to meeting you all in November. Please feel free to contact Deputy Director-General Lucie Bowman, Roman, Justin, or myself if you have any questions.

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The History of the General Assembly Plenary

The General Assembly (GA) is the central body of the United Nations (UN) and was established by the UN Charter as one of its six principal organs.¹ The GA is the heart of the UN, serving as a “deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ” and operating as a platform for dialogue and debate.² On 10 January 1946, 51 Member States met for the first session of the GA at the Central Hall in Westminster, London, United Kingdom.³ The push for peace and security in which the League of Nations had been created gained more momentum following the horrors of World War II. On 24 January 1946, the GA adopted its first resolution, A/RES/1, and its main focus was “peaceful uses of atomic energy and the elimination of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction.”⁴ The General Assembly is the only main body of the United Nations that boasts universal membership, which allows the UN to be the premiere forum for international cooperation. Today, the GA consists of 193 Member States and provides all Member states and observer states a distinctive opportunity for open discussion on multifaceted international issues.⁵

The GA is comprised of six committees, including: First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee); Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee); Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee); Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee); Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary Committee); and Sixth Committee (Legal Committee).⁶ The GA can further be broken down into subsidiary organs and divided into categories of boards, commissions, committees, conferences, councils and panels, and working groups among others.⁷

According to Chapter IV of the Charter of the UN, the GA is mandated to address general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security and discuss questions relating to peace and security,⁸ except in situations when the Security Council is also discussing the same issues.⁹ In addition, questions within the parameters of the Charter, or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the UN, may be discussed in the GA.¹⁰ Member States may initiate studies

“to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields.”¹¹

Per the UN Charter, the GA has the authority to oversee the budget, appoint non-permanent members to the Security Council, receive reports from other branches and organs of the UN, and make recommendations, known as

¹ “Charter of the United Nations, Chapter III: Organs,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter3.shtml> (accessed March 20, 2015).

² Ibid.

³ “History of the United Nations: 1941-1950,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/history/1941-1950.shtml> (accessed March 20, 2015).

⁴ “General Assembly of the United Nations,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/> (accessed March 22, 2015).

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ “Main Committees,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/maincommittees/> (accessed August 30, 2015).

⁷ “Subsidiary Organs of the General Assembly,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/subsidiary/index.shtml> (accessed March 22, 2015).

⁸ “Charter of the United Nations, Chapter IV: The General Assembly.” The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter4.shtml> . (accessed May 20, 2015).

⁹ “About the General Assembly,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/index.shtml> (accessed March 22, 2015).

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

resolutions.¹² The GA is also recognized to reach goals in “peacekeeping, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance.”¹³

At the beginning of each plenary session, a new president is elected through a yearly vote by all representatives in the General Assembly. Uganda Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sam Kutesa, was elected the president of the 69th GA Plenary on 11 June 2014. Mogens Lykketoft, the President of the Parliament of Norway is the President elect of the GA and is set to be formally appointed in June of 2015. Since its 44th session in 1989, the GA is considered in session the entire year, but the most important time is the General Debate, which takes place from mid-September to the end of December and is called the “main part of the GA”.¹⁴

The debate in the GA is on any number of issues that its Member States find urgent. The issues deemed pressing are then assigned to any of the GA’s six committees in order for focused debate to occur in order to find solutions in the form of draft resolutions. After resolutions are drafted, they are presented before the GA in which all Member States will vote. Resolutions are non-legally binding, but carry much weight for States politically in regards to international law and domestic laws that conflict with resolutions. In certain instances, under A/RES/377(V) “Uniting for Peace,” the GA may consider matters immediately and issue recommendations deemed necessary to restore international peace and security when there is a lack of unanimity amongst the five permanent members of the Security Council.¹⁵ A/RES/377(V) was adopted on 03 November 1950, as a response to a stalemate incurred by the Security Council from one of its permanent Member States.¹⁶

Non-Member States wishing to become part of the UN can do so by filling out an application.¹⁷ Membership requires a two-thirds majority vote and becomes effective the date the resolution becomes adopted for admission.¹⁸ Two-thirds majority of those present and voting is also required on voting on important questions, such as elections, the admission or expulsion of a Member State, and concerns with security and peace, or with the UN budget.¹⁹ All other questions are decided by a simple majority vote.

Article 18 of the UN Charter, rules 82-95, outline the Rules of Procedure for voting within the GA.²⁰ Outlined in the Charter, the GA is comprised of all 193 UN Member States.²¹ However, observer status can also be granted to intergovernmental organizations, such as the African Union, and states without full UN membership.²² All 193 Members have voting rights; additional States and Entities that have observer privileges, the right to participate in debate without the ability to vote.²³ Currently, there are two permanent observers in the GA: Holy See and the State of Palestine.²⁴ A Member State can lose their voting rights by having due payments in arrears that equals or exceeds contributions due for two preceding years, as outlined in Article 19 of the UN Charter.²⁵ If a Member State can show

¹² Ibid.

¹³ “UN at a Glance,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/index.shtml> (accessed September 4, 2015).

¹⁴ Switzerland. “*The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*.” 2011. p. 14.

¹⁵ “Uniting for Peace General Assembly resolution 377 (V),” The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, <http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/ufp/ufp.html> (accessed March 22, 2015).

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ “Charter of the United Nations, Chapter IV: The General Assembly,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter4.shtml> (accessed March 22, 2015).

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ “General Assembly Voting,” United Nations Research Guides, <http://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/voting> (accessed March 22, 2015).

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ “Charter of the United Nations, Chapter IV: The General Assembly,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter4.shtml> (accessed March 22, 2015).

²² Ibid.

²³ “General Assembly Voting,” United Nations Research Guides, <http://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/voting> (accessed March 22, 2015).

²⁴ “Non-Member States,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/members/nonmembers.shtml> (accessed March 22, 2015).

²⁵ “About the General Assembly: Countries in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions under the terms of Article 19 of the UN Charter,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/art19.shtml> (accessed March 22, 2015).

that extraordinary circumstances contributed to their inability to pay their dues, they may be granted an exception and their voting rights will remain intact.²⁶

Budgetary aspects for the GA Plenary are reserved for the Fifth Committee, as stated by Chapter IV, Article 17 of the UN Charter.²⁷ Within the Fifth Committee exists the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), whose primary responsibilities include examining and reporting on the UN Secretary General's proposed budget and providing advice to the GA on administrative and budget issues.²⁸ GA plenary adopts resolutions and decisions about the budget that may include any aspect of planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation cycle.²⁹ The GA approved a USD 5.53 billion budget for the operating 2014-2015 year.³⁰

All Member States are represented in the General Assembly Plenary.

I. Non-Traditional Approaches to Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict Areas

Introduction

Peacebuilding in Member States emerging from conflict is a massive and complex undertaking, involving myriad factors. Even its very definition is the subject of continued debate. The UN Peacebuilding Commission defines its peacebuilding work broadly as, "supporting peace efforts in countries emerging from conflict."³¹ However, those who have worked in peacebuilding activities find its definition is far from complete due to political and socio-economic overtures.³² Practitioners are faced every day with the question: how do we build sustainable peace? Peacebuilding includes securing peace in post-conflict areas by economic and structural means, whereas, peacekeeping means the elimination of conflict through the use of armed forces.³³ Approaches and strategies used in securing and maintaining peace vary according to a range of political and economic factors that affect peacebuilding programs in their implementation and effectiveness. Actors involved in peacebuilding are increasingly at risk due to the more complex nature of conflicts in today's multipolar political atmosphere. A little over a decade after peacebuilding became a high-profile international commitment, post-conflict peacebuilding remains a fragile undertaking with mixed results.³⁴ "While there is little doubt that peacebuilding will continue to require international attention, the lessons of the last ten years do not add up to a wholly successful record," suggests the report from the International Peace Academy's Peacebuilding Forum in 2004.³⁵

The noted failures of the past have caused the international community to begin to review the success and failures of traditional peacebuilding approaches in search for a new non-traditional approach in order to prevent relapse into conflict in post-conflict societies. Traditional approaches to conflict resolution strategies can be defined as conflict management techniques that have roots in local societal structure and have been used in that society over a long

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ "UN Documentation: Regular Budget," United Nations Research Guides, <http://research.un.org/en/docs/budget/bodies> (accessed March 22, 2015).

²⁸ "About the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)," The United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, <http://www.un.org/ga/acabq/about> (accessed August 30, 2015).

²⁹ "UN Documentation: Regular Budget," United Nations Research Guides, <http://research.un.org/en/docs/budget/bodies#11738360> (accessed March 22, 2015).

³⁰ "U.N. General Assembly Approves \$5.5 Billion Budget for 2014/15," Reuters, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/27/usun-budget-idUSBRE9BQJX20131227> (accessed March 22, 2015).

³¹ *Emerging Lessons and Practices in Peacebuilding, 2007-2009*. The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. May 2010. http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pdf/doc_wgll/wgll_report_english.pdf (accessed July 30, 2015).

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ *UN Peacekeeping: an Orientation*. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office. September 2010. http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf (accessed July 30, 2015).

³⁵ Necla Tschirgi, "Post-Conflict Peacebuilding Revisited: Achievements, Limitations, Challenges," International Peace Academy, 2004, http://www.academia.edu/1011617/Post-conflict_peacebuilding_revisited_achievements_limitations_challenges, (accessed July 20, 2015).

period of time.³⁶ However, noted constraints with traditional forms of conflict transformation from international peace organizations such as the Berghof Foundation, include that they do not end violence in the long run, may contradict universal human rights, have restricted uses of applicability, and try to preserve the ‘old’ status of order.³⁷

Just as there are constraints to traditional forms of conflict resolution, non-traditional approaches also have their limitations: non-traditional approaches to conflict resolution, many which are designed from western ideals and values, have not been the cure to the problems of traditional approaches to peacebuilding. The UN and other international actors began developing strategies and frameworks within the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to better improve cooperation among all the actors in the peacebuilding sector and develop the structures needed to achieve these goals.³⁸ Through this process, the PBC has discovered that developing a ‘one-size’ fits all strategy is ineffective since the issues facing each post-conflict society are unique, some of those issues include: inadequate funding for crisis response, coordination challenges among Member State actors, international actors, and inter-UN actors, and communication challenges in having the desired message translated and understood in unique communities.³⁹

As the international community continues to learn from past peacebuilding operations, non-traditional approaches are ever changing in order to achieve effective practices and standards for future peacebuilding operations. A great benefit of non-traditional approaches is that those practices can be reviewed and changed for future development. The major hurdle for future peacebuilding operations is developing new approaches that can find the balance between the need for successful elements and standards from traditional approaches and from current non-traditional approaches in order to create more effective peace practices and programs.⁴⁰

According to the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, peacebuilding is primarily a national challenge and responsibility.⁴¹ It is the citizens of the Member States where peacebuilding is underway, with support from their governments, who assume the responsibility for laying the foundations of lasting peace.⁴² Peacebuilding activities must be carried out in such a way so as to not further inflame existing rivalry or hardship, generally. These activities and actors must take a conflict-sensitive approach. This requires a certain level of analytical assessment and foresight on the part of peacebuilding practitioners into the structural sources of conflict as well as the current triggers of renewed conflict. The geo-political landscape of communities in which most peacebuilding takes place is politically unstable and often leaves a challenging environment for peacebuilding.⁴³ Some of the challenges facing peacebuilding includes the funding needs for peacebuilding activities, the divergence of priorities and objectives among different peacebuilding actors, and the peoples' expectations of the benefits of peacebuilding.⁴⁴

History of Traditional Peace Approaches and the Emergence of Non-Traditional Forms

The term peacebuilding entered the international lexicon in 1992.⁴⁵ Following the Cold War, the UN expanded its primarily humanitarian and peacekeeping activities to include peacebuilding in post-conflict areas. Nicaragua,

³⁶ Volker Boege, “Potential and Limits of Traditional Approaches in Peacebuilding,” Berghof Foundation. 2011. http://www.operationspaix.net/DATA/DOCUMENT/6462~v~Potential_and_Limits_of_Traditional_Approaches_in_Peacebuilding.pdf (accessed July 30, 2015).

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation*. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office. September 2010. New York. http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf (accessed July 25, 2015)

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² “Indigenous Peoples and Peacebuilding: A compilation of best practices,” United Nations System Staff College, 2010, http://www.unssc.org/home/sites/unssc.org/files/ind_people.pdf (accessed July 30, 2015).

⁴³ *Emerging Lessons and Practices in Peacebuilding, 2007-2009*. The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. May 2010. http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pdf/doc_wgll/wgll_report_english.pdf (accessed July 30, 2015).

⁴⁴ *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation*. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office. September 2010. New York. http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf (accessed July 25, 2015).

⁴⁵ *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding Revisited: Achievements, Limitation, Challenges*. International Peace Academy. October 2004. http://www.un.org/esa/peacebuilding/Library/Post_Conflict_Peacebuilding_IPA.pdf (accessed July 25, 2015).

Cambodia, and El Salvador were a few of the harbingers which led the new era whereby external actors would be expected to play a more significant role in assisting Member States emerging from conflict.⁴⁶ The UN increased its role to include comprehensive efforts, including disarmament and demobilization processes and conflict assessments to identify and support political, social, and economical structures that tended to consolidate peace and advance a sense of confidence and well-being among people.⁴⁷ Through agreements ending civil strife, these may include weapon collections from warring parties, repatriating refugees, advisory and training support for security personnel, monitoring elections, advancing efforts to protect human rights, reforming or strengthening governmental institutions and promoting formal and informal processes of political participation.⁴⁸

Originally, peacebuilding referred to actions intended to identify and support structures to consolidate peace in post-conflict Member States in order to avoid a relapse into conflict.⁴⁹ Post-conflict reconstruction throughout the 1990s was seen as a temporary stage in the transition from war to peace. This temporary stage was originally considered a part of the relief-to-development continuum. This stage of early peacebuilding activities could be considered the first form of non-traditional peace approaches, as the main approach revolved around the idea that international actors should intervene into post-conflict societies and transition them from war to peace through a process of removing warring elements and introducing democratization to the area.⁵⁰ However, it later evolved into what we consider to be modern-day peacebuilding. The concept became more expansive, combining conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction.⁵¹ Peacebuilding began to be seen as a necessity and responsibility of particular political and economic powers. Over time, peacebuilding grew to represent a concerted commitment by the UN to redress the sources of violent and sustained conflict when resolution 60/180 and resolution 1645 were passed in December 2005, which created the PBC.⁵² It soon evolved to include preparing Member States for sustainable peace and development. The evolution of peacebuilding transformed from a fragmented effort by Member States to a more complete effort, overseen and led by the UN.

Even with the establishment of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in 2005, the early peacebuilding efforts of the PBC still had lessons to learn. There was a debate over whether peacebuilding operations should follow traditional forms of peacebuilding, or whether universal standards and principles should be developed for all future operations to follow.⁵³ One major early peacekeeping program the UN has been involved since the early 1990's, is the United Nations efforts in Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR), which aims to collect and get rid of arms and reintegrate ex-combatants into a post-conflict society.⁵⁴ DDR was seen as a crucial first element of peacebuilding operations because warring parties had to commit to preserving a ceasefire for future peace programs to continue. Early DDR programs in Nicaragua resulted in field teams realizing they had to adjust programs specifically to each area and learning that they had to follow some local traditional peace keeping practices. One major positive of traditional peace approaches is that they fit specific states of fragility and can be seen as legitimate by local populations for not being centered just on the state government, but towards local communities as well.⁵⁵

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding Revisited: Achievements, Limitation, Challenges*. International Peace Academy. October 2004. http://www.un.org/esa/peacebuilding/Library/Post_Conflict_Peacebuilding_IPA.pdf (accessed July 25, 2015).

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Volker Boege, "Potential and Limits of Traditional Approaches in Peacebuilding," Berghof Foundation, 2011, http://www.operationspaix.net/DATA/DOCUMENT/6462~v~Potential_and_Limits_of_Traditional_Approaches_in_Peacebuilding.pdf (accessed July 30, 2015).

⁵¹ *Building Capacities for Public Service in Post-Conflict Countries*. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Division for Public Administration and Development Management. 2007. <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UN/UNPAN028646.pdf> (accessed July 25, 2015).

⁵² "Mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission," The Peacebuilding Commission, <http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/mandate.shtml> (accessed July 30, 2015).

⁵³ *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation*. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office. September 2010. New York. http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf (accessed July 25, 2015).

⁵⁴ "What Is DDR?," United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Resource Centre, http://www.unddr.org/what-is-ddr/introduction_1.aspx (accessed July 21, 2015).

⁵⁵ Volker Boege, "Potential and Limits of Traditional Approaches in Peacebuilding," Berghof Foundation, 2011, http://www.operationspaix.net/DATA/DOCUMENT/6462~v~Potential_and_Limits_of_Traditional_Approaches_in_Peacebuilding.pdf (accessed July 30, 2015).

However, traditional approaches are restrictive in that they are not open to change, that the PBC and international actors have begun looking for a new, more universally usable, non-traditional approach to peacebuilding. Traditional methods of conflict resolutions do not necessarily end violence in the long term.⁵⁶ Traditional agreements of peace come under the assumption that the peace treaty could be revoked at any future point.⁵⁷ Violence still exists, typically impacting vulnerable populations such as women and children.⁵⁸ Due to this potential continuing violence, local traditional peace approaches may not respect universal human rights and can often preserve the old order of harmony.⁵⁹ However, if that old form of harmony allows for the violence against groups such as women and children, the economically deprived, or other special interest groups to continue, then peace is not truly sustainable. Vice President of External Affairs of the World Bank at the time and current administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Mark Malloch Brown, pointed out that post-conflict development defies the exact boundaries of traditional forms of assistance: it is neither wholly development nor humanitarian in nature, but instead, it requires the combined efforts of multiple sectors.⁶⁰

The UN and other international actors began to look for a commonly accepted paradigm of peacebuilding operations that still respected traditional values and still achieved sustained disarmaments and peaceful political structures. Early DDR operations in Sierra Leone from 1999-2004 and Liberia from 2004-2009 are seen as successful model of peacekeeping to learn from because their programs were the first to do more than disarm and integrate combatants, but looked to involve social and economic programs to ensure sustainability.⁶¹ New non-traditional peacebuilding operations have become more involved across more than just political structures, to both social and economic structures, partially by including grassroots programs to involve and incentivize participation from local communities. Many current PBC operations have taken note from operations such as DDR. In 2010 the PBC developed the handbook, “UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation” to help establish some of the basic lessons learned about peacebuilding approaches by declaring three essentials in peacebuilding operations.⁶² The first is there needs to be national ownership among Member State governments to take responsibility and help provide the foundation for peacebuilding.⁶³ The second is for all operations to build national capacity.⁶⁴ If national capacity is not sufficient for providing what is needed for a Member State's population, then peace will not be sustainable. The third essential is the need for a common strategy among all State and international actors in order to prevent multiple, fractured strategies that may result in reducing the effectiveness of other programs.⁶⁵ However, the PBC has also noted that every post-conflict situation is different and requires unique plans, as a “one-sized fits all” program is not effective.⁶⁶

The Role of the UN in Current Post-Conflict Areas

There are six Member States currently on the UN Peacebuilding Commission agenda. This list includes Burundi, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and the Central African Republic.⁶⁷ The UN engages

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Volker Boege, “Potential and Limits of Traditional Approaches in Peacebuilding,” Berghof Foundation, 2011, http://www.operationspaix.net/DATA/DOCUMENT/6462~v~Potential_and_Limits_of_Traditional_Approaches_in_Peacebuilding.pdf (accessed July 30, 2015).

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation*. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office. September 2010. New York. http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf (accessed July 25, 2015).

⁶¹ *Emerging Lessons and Practices in Peacebuilding, 2007-2009*. The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. May 2010. http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pdf/doc_wgll/wgll_report_english.pdf (accessed July 30, 2015).

⁶² *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation*. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office. September 2010. New York. http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf (accessed July 25, 2015).

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation*. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office. September 2010. New York. http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf (accessed July 25, 2015).

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ “The Peacebuilding Commission,” The Peacebuilding Commission. New York. <http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/index.asp> (accessed July 15, 2015).

in peacebuilding efforts through the architecture it established in 2005 and 2006 comprising the UN PBC, UN Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF), and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office.⁶⁸ Current peacebuilding efforts are carried out according to supply rather than demand, which equates to divergence in the allocation of necessary resources. In both the Central African Republic and Burundi, strategic frameworks for sustained peacebuilding were developed and had to be continuously changed and updated as more issues presented themselves throughout the process.⁶⁹

A serious and growing concern with the existing peacebuilding framework is in its incongruous distribution and support to minority groups in post-conflict areas.⁷⁰ The Central African Republic received massive amounts of private donations, largely from the UNPBF. In 2010, the UNPBF approved another 20 million USD to continue the Peacebuilding Commission's Strategic Framework.⁷¹ However, upon review in November 2010, only 43 of the original 116 recommendations put forth by the PBC had been accomplished in two years.⁷² The proposed problem was that funding and resources were not being allocated properly and being used to combat security sector reforms and new political elections. By 2009, security sector reforms came to a standstill as DDR processes began to slow or come to a standstill.⁷³ This left many conflict affected communities in shambles and left marginalized groups such as women and children even more susceptible to violence. Winnie Byanyima, former director of the Gender Team at the UNDP opined: "Economic liberalization efforts should be harmonized with support to governance reform to avoid the risk of marginalizing women if the new economy kicks in before they gain access to the market, land rights, and property."⁷⁴ Successful funding for peacebuilding operations is pivotal but there are more pressing concerns with existing peacebuilding operations that the current UN Peacebuilding Commission Chairman Olof Skoog, believes should be taken more seriously.⁷⁵ This includes enhancing national capacity development, promoting greater resource mobilization, and advancing alignment of key actors behind common peacebuilding objectives.⁷⁶

The coordination of tangible efforts and investment between national actors, international actors, and the UN has proven to be a major challenge for the PBC.⁷⁷ National ownership is one of the most crucial elements needed for successful peacebuilding operations and without that ownership, major challenges arise. In the aftermath of a crisis, there may be a polarization of civil society with traditional leaders having multiple visions for rebuilding society. Without agreed upon power sharing to help set up a political structure for the whole State, there is an increased likelihood that it will relapse back into conflict.⁷⁸ Without coordination among the national actors, communication with outside international actors becomes even more difficult. Furthermore, considering the many international actors involved, it can be difficult for a common strategy to be decided upon. According to the PBC handbook, a strong international leader needs to lead coordination among international actors to develop a strategy, and this strategy must be nationally embraced and owned.⁷⁹

⁶⁸ "Structure and Membership," The Peacebuilding Commission, <http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/structuremember.shtml> (accessed July 15, 2015).

⁶⁹ *Final Report of the PBC Working Group on Lessons Learned "Transition of UN Missions: What Role for the PBC?."* The Peacebuilding Commission. June 2015.

<http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/wgll/141212%20WGLL%20Final%20Report.pdf> (accessed July 30, 2015).

⁷⁰ PBC/5/CAF/3. *Conclusions and recommendations of the second biannual review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic.* The Peacebuilding Commission. November 2011.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=PBC/5/CAF/3 (accessed July 30, 2015).

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ PBC/5/CAF/3. *Conclusions and recommendations of the second biannual review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic.* The Peacebuilding Commission. November 2011.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=PBC/5/CAF/3 (accessed July 30, 2015).

⁷⁴ *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation.* The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office. September 2010. New York.

http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf (accessed July 25, 2015).

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation.* The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office. September 2010. New York.

http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf (accessed July 25, 2015).

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

In 2012, the PBC published “Conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the annual review of its engagement with Burundi,” which stresses the need for continued active engagement by all actors in support of the national efforts of Burundi in addressing the challenges that they still face.⁸⁰ In the same report, the PBC notes that while Burundi has shown progress after decades of unrest and civil war, there are still new commitments Burundi made for the future that have gone unfulfilled. Some of these commitments include improving communication strategies to promote transparent and to make sure new programs, such as the “code foncier”, a law on land rights program, are translated into tangible actions.⁸¹ This points to a larger issue of peacebuilding operations in communication challenges. If communication between local communities and national governments or national governments and the international community are not strong, then coordination of peace efforts will consequently be impacted.

Building a Framework for Second Generation Non-traditional Approaches

However, many peace practitioners find it time and resource consuming to develop brand new strategies for every situation and called a weakness of past peacebuilding efforts is that they are not reusable in other situations.⁸² The United Nations strives to improve its coordination with other peacebuilding parties and trying to create a common framework in which field practitioners can use to carry out peacebuilding activities. Just as peacebuilding practitioners are looking to create non-traditional approaches that still involve some elements of traditional conflict resolution strategies, the United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Resource Centre, looked to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of DDR frameworks by creating a set of universal standards to help develop future frameworks to have the same core strategy.⁸³ The Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS) were created in 2006 to “provide direction and guidance to those engaged in preparing, implementing and supporting DDR programmes.”⁸⁴ This module provided DDR practitioners with lessons from past DDR programs on how to construct new policies, programme development, programme management, programme evaluation, and staff training.⁸⁵ With the emergence of the IDDRS, DDR programs now consider themselves ‘Second Generation’ DDR programs that reflect the changes to the challenges that were face in early frameworks.

The PBC has collected data from its operations since 2005 and past peacekeeping operations by the UN and begun to establish essential features and common needs of peacebuilding operations. Along with the essential features of national ownership, national capacity, and a common strategy, the PBC has recommended support to five common needs. Those needs include: support to safety and security, support to political processes, support to basic services such as water and health, support to economic revitalization, and support to restoring governmental functions.⁸⁶ These universal accepted features and recommendations have left debate open on other issues on whether a framework should include designs along these issues. One major issue is setting priorities among peacebuilding

⁸⁰ PBC/6/BDI/2. *Conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the annual review of its engagement with Burundi*. The Peacebuilding Commission. November 2012.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=PBC/6/BDI/2 (accessed July 30, 2015).

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² *Final Report of the PBC Working Group on Lessons Learned ‘Transition of UN Missions: What Role for the PBC?’*. The Peacebuilding Commission. June 2015.

<http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/wgll/141212%20WGLL%20Final%20Report.pdf> (accessed July 30, 2015)

⁸³ Yvan Conoir, “Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR): Principles of Intervention and Management in Peacekeeping Operations,” Peace Ops Training, http://cdn.peaceopstraining.org/course_promos/ddr/ddr_english.pdf. (accessed July 21, 2015).

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ “Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Standards,” United Nation Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Resource Center, 2006, <http://www.hegoa.ehu.es/file/1511/IDDRS.pdf> (accessed July 21, 2015).

⁸⁶ *Final Report of the PBC Working Group on Lessons Learned ‘Transition of UN Missions: What Role for the PBC?’*. The Peacebuilding Commission. June 2015.

<http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/wgll/141212%20WGLL%20Final%20Report.pdf> (accessed July 30, 2015).

frameworks.⁸⁷ Priority setting must be done on a case-by-case basis, but without proper coordination among all parties and stakeholders, priorities, such as national needs or conflict-drivers, can be missed. Instead of priorities being set with proper coordination, priorities can become set instead by a mandate from a peacebuilding operation.⁸⁸ In a report titled “The Challenge of Sustaining Peace: Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture,” published June 2015, Gert Rosenthal, Chair of the Advisory Group of Experts, gave recommendations of what the future UN peacebuilding operations should be aware of and work to address. He stated that there needs to be more coherence at the intergovernmental level, an awareness of the peacebuilding capacity of the UN, greater consideration of the fact that a lack of continuous authorities in the different UN agencies and bodies can contribute to Member State relapse into conflict, given the timing of leadership transitions.⁸⁹ Sustainable peace also cannot be achieved without national stakeholders understanding the task of reconciliation and providing a common vision, which must come from them and cannot be forced by international actors. Finally the report concludes that there are not enough partnerships between outside parties and the UN for sustainable peace to occur.⁹⁰ This requires a more comprehensive framework detailing how to run and design peacebuilding operations considering that logistics, implementation, policy development, and project evaluation have all been shown to be the cause of the issues still facing peacebuilding operations today.

Conclusion

The UN's involvement in peacebuilding practices has evolved since the term was originally introduced into the international lexicon through the work of Johan Galtung over 30 years ago. The terrible consequences of failed peace agreements, renewed conflicts, and protracted wars throughout the 1990s created a necessity for expansion of the UN to include the capacity for dealing with the new challenges of building and sustaining peace in an era of increasingly complex emergencies and intra-state conflicts.⁹¹ Reconciling with the next generation to bridge the gap between the traditional and non-traditional approaches to peacebuilding in post-conflict areas will be the next step in non-traditional peacebuilding development. Even though recent developments in non-traditional peacebuilding have become more inclusive, future peacebuilding must be mindful of the challenges that face certain vulnerable groups, including women and children, affected by conflict. Broad economic means of supporting a Member State's journey out of conflict and into one of sustained peace cannot be overstated. Post-conflict economic policies implemented with the proper coordination and the right amount of sustained and concerted effort on the part of the UN and its affiliates may be the link between the many peacekeeping programs and successful long-term peacebuilding. Looking to the future, developing standard or frameworks to address these issues may provide more solutions; however these standards or frameworks need to be adaptable to each unique situation in order to truly be effective.

Committee Directive

Committee Member States should continue to develop new and innovative ways of addressing the needs of as many people as possible in post-conflict areas with non-traditional peacebuilding approaches. Members should strive to come up with new ways of maximizing the success of non-traditional peacebuilding approaches based on the successes and failures of past traditional approaches. Analyzing past peacebuilding programs can help Member States to learn how to address current challenges in the areas of funding, resource allocation, and coordination among stakeholders, and to help improve universal standards that can be accepted by all who participate in these programs. The practices and standards for non-traditional peacebuilding should remain highly dedicated to greater

⁸⁷ *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation*. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office. September 2010. New York. http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf (accessed July 25, 2015).

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ *Final Report of the PBC Working Group on Lessons Learned 'Transition of UN Missions: What Role for the PBC?'*. The Peacebuilding Commission. June 2015. <http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/wgll/141212%20WGLL%20Final%20Report.pdf> (accessed July 30, 2015).

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ “*The United Nations Development Agenda: Development for All*” Goals, Commitments and Strategies agreed at the United Nations world Conferences and Summits since 1990. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2007. <http://www.un.org/esa/devagenda/UNDA1.pdf> (accessed July 25, 2015).

inclusivity of women in all post-conflict peace-building efforts. As we learn from our past experiences, delegates should be aiming for a more global framework in which such frameworks provide sufficient foundation for non-traditional post-conflict peacebuilding practices to exist and run effectively. The committee should look to the current issues facing non-traditional means of peacebuilding in post-conflict areas for not just formal obstacles but informal ones on the international level that are not fully anticipated. The committee should also respect human rights and how non-traditional peacebuilding policies affect everyone, especially women and children who are already reeling from conflict. Delegates should aim to promote policies which help build a better and more sustainable peace for persons living in a post-conflict civil society.

II: The Impact of Early and Forced Marriage on the Rights of the Child

“We have a vision where women and girls live in dignity, are healthy, have choices, and equal opportunities.”

-Foundation for Women’s Health Research and Development

Introduction

According to the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), child marriage is defined as “a formal marriage or informal union before age 18.”⁹² Most, but not all, states today view the legal age of marriage as 18, but within these countries there are still many cultural traditions that take precedence over legislative law.⁹³ Due to this, there is a large amount of gray area when determining when it is, or is not legal, to allow the early marriage of children.

Worldwide, over 700 million women alive were forced into child marriage and one in three women were married before the age of 15.⁹⁴ Historically, child marriage was not something that was uncommon until around the 20th century. Girls becoming betrothed before puberty was common practice.⁹⁵ The main force that helps determine the appropriate age of marriage for a child was often the teachings of different religions. For example, Christian ecclesiastical law forbade the prepubescent marriage of girls⁹⁶, while Hindu vedic scriptures mandated that marriage was not to be consummated until three years after puberty.⁹⁷ In contrast, Shariat law is fashioned after the Islamic prophet, Muhammad, who married his third wife when she was six years old, and the marriage was consummated three years later. Shariat law allows marriage of girls younger than ten.⁹⁸

While still a cultural phenomenon in some parts of the world, the fact remains that with the early and forced marriage of any child comes many major issues for that child, but implementing strategies that deal with this issue remains a gray area that is difficult to handle due to issues with sovereignty, which may limit the actions external organizations can take to see real, sustainable results. For the child, risks may include the health of the underage mother and the child born from her, the risk of sexual violence, and the lack of education due to the child being forced to leave schooling at an early age to start a family.

⁹² “Child Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse: Child Marriage,” UNICEF, October 22, 2014, http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58008.html (accessed May 18, 2015).

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Abgeliki Laiou, “Coercion to Sex and Marriage in Ancient and Medieval Societies,” *Harvard Press*, pages 85-190, <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780884022626>, (accessed May 18, 2015).

⁹⁶ Richard Burn, et al, *The Ecclesiastical Law, Volume 4*, Sweet Stevens & Norton (London), page 54, (accessed May 18, 2015).

⁹⁷ “Vedic Index of Names and Subjects,” <http://archive.org/stream/vedicindexofname01macduoft#page/474/mode/2up> (accessed May 18, 2015).

⁹⁸ L. Ahmed, *Women and the Advent of Islam*, Signs, Vol. 11, No. 4 (Summer, 1986), pp. 677-678.

Actions Taken by the United Nations

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the right to ‘free and full’ consent to a marriage and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) prohibits the act of child marriage.^{99 100} The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is Member States’ commitment to “ensure the overall protection of children and young people aged under 18, however, child marriage and the range of rights implications it has, substantially infringe these protections.”¹⁰¹

Despite laws against it, child marriage is a deeply ingrained custom in sub-Saharan Africa and remains prevalent, with nearly 40 percent of girls being married before the age of 18.¹⁰² The practice is extremely common, and is almost always arranged with very little foreknowledge given to the girls regarding their soon-to-be husbands. According to a survey done by the Population Council, 95 percent of girls did not know their husband before marriage, and 85 percent were not even told that they were going to be married at all.¹⁰³

According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), factors that promote and reinforce child marriage include “poverty and economic survival strategies, gender inequality, selling land or property deals or settling disputes, control over sexuality and protecting family honor, tradition and culture, and insecurity, particularly during war, famine, or epidemics.”¹⁰⁴ Often, the bride-to-be has little to no choice in who she marries, and can actually be bought in some places through the use of a bride price.¹⁰⁵ A bride price is an amount paid by the groom to the parents of the bride in exchange for their consent of the marriage between the two.¹⁰⁶ In some countries, the younger a bride is will equate to a higher bride price. This practice creates an economic incentive that allows a girl’s family to simply sell her off to the highest bidder, and is a large cause of child trafficking.¹⁰⁷

On December 18th, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 68/148, Child, Early and Forced Marriage¹⁰⁸ which focused on the elimination of child marriages worldwide and allowed for the discussion of the lack of attention to adolescent girls in development efforts, demonstrated by the continued existence of child marriage around the world.¹⁰⁹ This resolution put the issue of child, early and forced marriage on the agenda of the General Assembly in 2014, and offered a valuable opportunity to mobilize political commitments to address the issue at the highest levels over the coming year.¹¹⁰ This resolution has been followed by the adoption of resolution

⁹⁹ “Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. 10 December 1948, http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf (accessed May 18, 2015).

¹⁰⁰ “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,” Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹⁰¹ “About Child Marriage,” Girls Not Brides, <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/about-child-marriage/> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹⁰² “Sub-Saharan Africa,” Girls Not Brides, 2002-2015, <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/region/sub-saharan-africa/> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹⁰³ “Building an Evidence Base to Delay Marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa,” Population Council, 2015, <http://www.popcouncil.org/research/building-an-evidence-base-to-delay-marriage-in-sub-saharan-africa> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹⁰⁴ “Marrying Too Young,” UNFPA, 2012, <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/MarryingTooYoung.pdf> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ “The Bride Price Barry Bearak,” New York Times, July 9, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/07/09/magazine/09BRI.html> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹⁰⁷ E. Warner, “Behind the Wedding Veil: Child Marriage as a Form of Trafficking in Girls.” *American University Journal Gender Soc. Pol’y & Law*, 12, (2004): 233-247. <http://digitalcommons.wcl.american.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1310&context=jgspl> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹⁰⁸ A/RES/68/148 *Child, early and forced marriage*. United Nations General Assembly. 18 December 2013. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/148 (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ A/RES/24. *Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps*. United Nations General Assembly. September 25, 2013. <http://girlsnotbrides.theideabureau.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/HRC-resolution-on-child-early-and-forced-marriage-ENG.pdf> (accessed July 6, 2015).

29 passed by the Human Rights Council in July of 2015, which unanimously voted to end child, early and forced marriage by making it a infringement of human rights, and called for a report on preventing and eliminating this practice.¹¹¹

The resolution also called on the UN Secretary-General to transmit the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Report on Child Early and Forced Marriage, with a summary to be reported to the General Assembly. This is significant, as it will help ensure that early and forced marriage is treated as a human rights issue and that the two processes at the HRC and UNGA complement each other.¹¹²

Problems that Arise with Child Marriage

Between 2000 and 2011, one in three women between the ages of 20 and 24 in developing regions were married as children. The United Nations Populations Fund estimates this to equal 67 million child brides in 2010. Eight million of those were married before their fifteenth birthday. Almost half of girls in Southern Asia are married before they are adults. Africa fairs slightly better, seeing only 42 percent of girls married before age 18, and Latin America and the Caribbean is a respective 29 percent.¹¹³

With the underage marriage of children comes a long list of potential problems for both the children being married but also for the next generation after these marriages. The risks that come with early marriage make child brides much more likely to die younger, suffer from health problems, live in poverty, and remain illiterate.¹¹⁴ In terms of the bride some risks might include premature pregnancy where the child bride will almost always give birth before they are physically, or emotionally ready. Because girls younger than 15 are five times more likely to die during childbirth, pregnancy related deaths are the leading cause of mortality for girls aged 15-19 worldwide.¹¹⁵ These premature births, coupled with the fact that a large percentage of these marriages take place in under developed places that lack the resources for safe childbirth, there is a heightened rate of maternal mortality.¹¹⁶ Not only is premature pregnancy a large-scale health risk for the mother, it is also true for the child being born. When women are under the age of 20, the infant mortality rate is around 75 percent,¹¹⁷ and if the baby is lucky enough to live through childbirth, a large amount of additional health risks including fistula, a condition that causes chronic incontinence, may occur.

Child marriages also produce a heighten risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).¹¹⁸ Parents forcing their children into forced early marriages often believe that marriage will prevent them from contracting HIV, while in reality they are increasing the child's risk of infection.¹¹⁹ Many times, the husbands of these young new brides are much older and, at times, this results in them some times already being infected with STIs or HIV.¹²⁰ In Kenya, married girls are 50 percent more likely to contract HIV than unmarried girls.¹²¹ In places like Zambia and Uganda that rate is even higher.¹²²

¹¹¹ "UN Human Rights Council Adopts Resolution to End Child, Early & Forced Marriage," Graduate Women International, July 14, 2015, <http://www.graduatewomen.org/un-human-rights-council-adopts-resolution-to-end-child-early-forced-marriage-2/> (accessed July 6, 2015).

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ "Child Marriage: What We Know," PBS, 2010, <http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/341/facts.html> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹¹⁴ "Early Marriage No. 7," UNICEF, March 2001, <http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/digest7e.pdf> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹¹⁵ "About Child Marriage: Key Information," Girls Not Brides, <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/themes/health/> (accessed July 6, 2015).

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ "Module 12: Child Marriage and Child Health," Unite for Sight, <http://www.uniteforsight.org/women-children-course/child-marriage>, (accessed July 6, 2015).

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ "Module 12: Child Marriage and Child Health," Unite for Sight, <http://www.uniteforsight.org/women-children-course/child-marriage>, (accessed July 6, 2015).

¹²² Ibid.

Outside of imminent health risks, children forced into an early marriage are often pulled out of school to do so, and therefore lack the opportunity to achieve an education. “Child marriage is associated with lower levels of schooling for girls in every region of the world and is a barrier to international development goals,” reads the description of a petition to pass legislation banning child marriages on Change.org.¹²³ Education is a fundamental human right as outlined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) which was adopted by the General Assembly on December 16th, 1966.¹²⁴ Lack of a proper education also leads to a lack of employment opportunities of these already poor child brides, making it difficult to break the cycle of poverty.¹²⁵ A lack of education is not only harmful for girls, but has wide-reaching repercussions for their children and communities.¹²⁶

Child marriage limits young girls’ skills, resources, knowledge, social support, mobility, and autonomy.¹²⁷ According to the International Center for Research on Women, Child brides are also more likely to experience domestic abuse, suffer from post-traumatic stress, depression, feelings of isolation, and are even sometimes abandoned if they develop health problems like fistula.¹²⁸ Young married girls have little power in relation to their husbands and in-laws and are therefore extremely vulnerable to domestic violence, which may include physical, sexual, or psychological abuse.¹²⁹

Despite these persistent problems of discrimination and the physical and mental damage that this problem presents, little has yet to be done to combat the growing amounts of early child marriages in third world countries.¹³⁰ “Complications of pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death in young women aged 15–19. Young girls who marry later and beyond their adolescence have more chances to stay healthier, to better their education and build a better life for themselves and their families,” says Flavia Bustreo, M.D., Assistant Director-General for Family, Women’s and Children’s Health at the World Health Organization. “we have the means at our disposal to work together to stop child marriage.”¹³¹

Case Study: the Berhane Hewan Program in Ethiopia

According to the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), Western Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa have the highest prevalence of child marriages by percentage when compared to total population, but is second to South Asia in total cases of child marriages.¹³²

¹²³ “End Child Marriage. Pass the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act,” Change.org, <https://www.change.org/p/end-child-marriage-pass-the-international-protecting-girls-by-preventing-child-marriage-act-2> (accessed August 18, 2015).

¹²⁴ “International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,” UNHCR, December 16, 1966, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹²⁵ “Arranged Child Marriage,” ONECHILD, 2015, <http://onechild.ca/information-zone/about-csec/arranged-child-marriage/> (accessed July 6, 2015).

¹²⁶ “Growing Up Global: The Changing Transitions to Adulthood in Developing Countries. Panel on Transitions to Adulthood in Developing Countries,” *The National Research Council and Institute of Medicine* (2005): 432. (2005): 432.

¹²⁷ Lori L. Heise, et al, “Violence Against Women: The Hidden Health Burden,” The World Bank, 1994, http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/1999/04/28/000009265_3970716144635/Rendered/PDF/multi0page.pdf (accessed July 6, 2015).

¹²⁸ “Child Marriage Facts and Figures,” International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), <http://www.icrw.org/child-marriage-facts-and-figures>, (accessed July 6, 2015).

¹²⁹ Lori L. Heise, et al, “Violence Against Women: The Hidden Health Burden,” The World Bank, 1994, http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/1999/04/28/000009265_3970716144635/Rendered/PDF/multi0page.pdf (accessed July 6, 2015).

¹³⁰ “Child Marriages: 39 000 Every Day,” World Health Organization, March 7, 2013, http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2013/child_marriage_20130307/en/ (accessed July 6, 2015).

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² “Child Marriage Facts and Figures,” International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), <http://www.icrw.org/child-marriage-facts-and-figures>, (accessed July 6, 2015).

In Malawi, government officials try hard to offset the amount of early and forced marriages within their borders, but they still remain a country with one of the highest rates of child marriages in the world.¹³³ Just this year, Malawi's parliament adopted the Marriage, Divorce, and Family Relations Bill. This bill rose the age of legal marriage from 16 to 18 years old. However, section 22 of the bill stipulates that young people between the ages of 15 and 18 may still be wed with parental consent.¹³⁴

One organization deeply involved in the eradication of early and forced marriages within South Africa is the Population Council.¹³⁵ Noticing the lack of programs seeking to increase the age of marriage consent of a grassroots level, this council works directly "with partners in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Tanzania developing and evaluating cost-effective, sustainable approaches to delaying marriage in child marriage 'hotspots' in sub-Saharan Africa."¹³⁶

The Population Council sought out new solutions in addressing the child marriage problem in Ethiopia. It created the Berhane Hewan programme, among the first of its kind, with the sole purpose of eradicating child marriage. The Population Council calls it a "multi-layer approach," dealing not only with the girls themselves, but everyone around them. Families and communities play a large role in the approach taken by this project. Raising the status of women and girls in project areas was another large part of the programme's success. The programme encourages community conversation about the matter, from how it impacts the girls to how it impacts the community as well. An incentive is also offered for families that keep their daughters in school, providing school supplies that families often cannot afford. Livestock is given to families at the end of the programme if their daughters are not married before the project's completion.¹³⁷

Berhan Hewan began as an experimental project in 2004, intended for only two years, to combat the rampant child marriage issue in Ethiopia. The project rested upon raising awareness and support for the continued education of girls. The analysis of the success of the Berhane Hewan program was done with a quantitative approach, having conducted surveys at the beginning and at the end of the initial two year programme for a baseline measurement. These surveys examined married girls before the programme, including their age, and asked questions about their knowledge of the reproductive system and contraception."¹³⁸

An early evaluation of the project found that girls aged 10–14 in the experimental site were 90 percent less likely to be married at the end of the two-year enrollment, compared to girls in the control site, and three times more likely to be in school.¹³⁹ "Married girls in the project site were three times more likely to be using family planning methods compared to married girls in the control site," explained the Population Council.¹⁴⁰ Unfortunately, because of the widespread impact and the design of the program, the evaluation was unable to determine which component of the intervention had the most impact.¹⁴¹

Moving forward, the council hopes to increase the effectiveness and widespread results of the program through the following four key strategies that are thought to have been the most effective. These strategies include "informing communities about the dangers of child marriage using community meetings and the engagement of religious

¹³³ "Malawi," Girls Not Brides, <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/malawi/> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹³⁴ "The Malawi Gazette Supplement," Malawi Parliament, January 30, 2015, <http://malawi24.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Malawi-Marriage-Divorce-and-Family-Relations-bill-2015.pdf> (accessed July 6, 2015).

¹³⁵ "What We Do," Population Council, <http://www.popcouncil.org>, (accessed July 6, 2015)

¹³⁶ "Building an Evidence Base to Delay Marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa," Population Council, 2015, <http://www.popcouncil.org/research/building-an-evidence-base-to-delay-marriage-in-sub-saharan-africa> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

¹³⁹ "Building an Evidence Base to Delay Marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa," Population Council, 2015, <http://www.popcouncil.org/research/building-an-evidence-base-to-delay-marriage-in-sub-saharan-africa> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

leaders.”¹⁴² The information delivered to communities will include the negative health and development consequences of child marriage as well as the importance of delaying first birth, spacing births, and preventing HIV and other STIs within marriage to safeguard the health of women and their children, supporting girls’ education with cost-effective efforts, such as providing girls with school supplies or uniforms, making it easier for families to send girls to school, providing direct incentives to families for keeping girls unmarried (for example, households will receive chickens in exchange for keeping girls unmarried for a certain period of time, or a combination of those).¹⁴³

The results of the intervention of this program showed considerable improvements in girls’ school enrollment, age at marriage, reproductive health knowledge, and contraceptive support.¹⁴⁴ Girls aged from 10 to 14 who were exposed to the program showed to be more likely to still be enrolled in school at the end line survey and were less likely to have been married, and sexually experiences girls exposed to the intervention had elevated odds.¹⁴⁵ However, girls ages from 15 to 19 years old had an elevated likelihood of being married by the end line.¹⁴⁶

Conclusion

“No girl should be robbed of her childhood, her education and health, and her aspirations. Yet today millions of girls are denied their rights each year when they are married as child brides,”

-Michelle Bachelet, M.D., Executive Director of UN Women.

“15 million girls are married before the age of 18. That is 28 girls every minute – married off too soon, endangering their personal development and wellbeing” every single year.¹⁴⁷ With more young people on our planet than ever before, child marriage is a human rights violation that must end to achieve a fairer future for all.

Despite the fact that 158 countries have set the marriage at 18 years old, laws are rarely enforced since the marrying of young children is upheld by traditional social norms.¹⁴⁸ Those who become child brides face an onslaught of recurring issues, many that never go away, because they are often denied basic human rights, left completely dependent upon their husbands, and never find a sense of empowerment. It is increasingly recognized as a violation of human rights globally due to the lasting and traumatic consequences that come with it. Child marriage effectively ends their education,¹⁴⁹ exposes them to the risk of premature pregnancy, child bearing, and motherhood before they are ready,¹⁵⁰ and increases the risk of health problems related to child birth and conception.¹⁵¹ Child marriage is a huge problem within poor communities and robs the children involved of their futures.

Creative and effective programs like the Population Council’s Berhane Hewan program in Ethiopia, and strong stances like the ones made by the UN are just small steps in the right direction to a worldwide understanding of the undermining and dangerous effects of early and forced child marriages. If we hope to see this practice done away

¹⁴² “Building an Evidence Base to Delay Marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa,” Population Council, 2015, <http://www.popcouncil.org/research/building-an-evidence-base-to-delay-marriage-in-sub-saharan-africa> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ “What is the Impact?,” Girls Not Brides, <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/what-is-the-impact/> (accessed August 18, 2015).

¹⁴⁵ Annabel Erulkar and Eunice Muthengi, “Evaluation of Berhane Hewan: A Program to Delay Child Marriage in Rural Ethiopia,” *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* (2009): 6-14, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/3500609.pdf> (accessed July 26, 2015).

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ “Child Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse: Child Marriage,” UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58008.html (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ “About Child Marriage: Impact: Education,” Girls Not Brides, <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/themes/education/> (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹⁵⁰ “Child Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse: Child Marriage,” UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58008.html (accessed May 19, 2015).

¹⁵¹ Nawal M. Nour, “Health Consequences of Child Marriage in Africa,” *Emerging Infectious Diseases* (2006):1644-1649, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3372345/> (accessed May 19, 2015).

with we must continue this work and expand it to other parts of the world experiencing these violations of human rights.

Committee Directive

While there is an overwhelming majority of Member States that understand the detriment that early and forced child marriages present and actively strive for the eradication of it, a difficult line presents itself while trying to enforce this ideal. As a committee, issues of state and cultural sovereignty will be addressed in order to find ways to allow girls to have the ability to reach higher levels of education, protect themselves, and allow for the choice of who and when they wish to marry. To effectively tackle this issue, delegates should look for ways to create programs that incorporate the culture and needs of the areas affected by this issue, while still looking for ways to mitigate the social, economic, and health impacts of early and forced marriages of children. This is an issue that has existed for thousands of years, so taking a stance of immediate change is not practical or efficient. Would it be possible to find a way to allow these marriages while still having access to the resources necessary for girls to achieve their potential?

Technical Appendix Guide (TAG)

I. Non-Traditional Approaches to Peace Building in Post-Conflict Areas

Volker Boege, “Potential and Limits of Traditional Approaches in Peacebuilding,” Berghof Foundation, 2011, http://www.operationspaix.net/DATA/DOCUMENT/6462~v~Potential_and_Limits_of_Traditional_Approaches_in_Peacebuilding.pdf.

This excerpt from *The Berghof Handbook II* offers a compelling angle on traditional approaches in peacebuilding. While Boege defines “traditional” in his own very unique and specific way, the report offers sweeping insight into a few examples of traditional approaches to peacebuilding. By reflecting on indigenous and pre-colonial societies as they relate to the topic of peacebuilding, Volker is able to offer a new way of thinking about post-modern peacebuilding. The report also casts light on some of the mixed interpretations of traditional approaches, more generally.

Alan Bryden, et al, “Shaping a Security Governance Agenda in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding,” Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), November 2005, http://www.dcaf.ch/content/download/34934/525085/file/PP11_security-governance-post-conflict-peacekeeping.pdf.

With the advent of non-traditional security threats and their ensuing conflicts, it is more important than ever to invent new and innovative ways of approaching the increasingly complex security landscape. This paper focuses on security governance as a perspective with which to consider post-conflict peacebuilding. Security governance is considered here as an example of one approach to situations whereby you have an absence, or weakness, of central political authority, and a consequential multiplicity of actors with a stake in the provision of security.

Madoka Futamura and Mark Notaras, “Local Perspectives on International Peacebuilding,” United Nations University, June 7, 2011, <http://unu.edu/publications/articles/local-perspectives-on-international-peacebuilding.html#info>.

With increased localization of responsibility for peacebuilding activities as opposed to traditional top-down approaches to peacebuilding, member states and their respective locals in which peacebuilding activities are carried out are thought to be the key to ensuring sustainable peace. The Secretary-General of the United Nations in a 2009 Report said that, “only national actors can address their society’s needs and goals in a sustainable way.” This report calls for more attention and concern to the perceptions, needs, capabilities and experiences of the local communities wherever peacebuilding takes place.

A/64/866*-S/2010/386*. *Progress report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict*. United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. July 16, 2010. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/866.

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon discusses a few of the successes and failures with peacebuilding in a broad and yet somewhat cohesive manner. In the conclusion, the Secretary-General goes on to describe some of the ways new initiatives have failed and what can be done to improve them. This section is probably the most valuable because it gives the reader a sense of how progress is being measured and what steps are being taken to ensure that they are reformed.

Anna Louise Strachan, “Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict Environments: A Critical Analysis of the UN Approach in Timor-Leste, Liberia and Nepal,” Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, December 2009, http://www.ipcs.org/pdf_file/issue/RP23-Anna-UN2.pdf.

After discussing three different UN missions and the challenges faced by each, Strachan goes on to describe a few alternatives to UN led missions. In these alternatives, we are able to see what has been successful in non-UN led peacebuilding missions. While this analysis breaks down these three separate missions with very little specificity or depth, the alternative considerations proposed at the end of this report offer valuable propositions. Hopefully, the following paper will offer an unbridled take on some of the UN’s peacebuilding successes and how some of the other international organizations engaged in peacebuilding have succeeded where the UN has failed.

Richard Strickland and Nata Duvvury, “Gender Equity and Peacebuilding. From Rhetoric to Reality: Finding the Way,” International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), 2003, <http://www.icrw.org/files/publications/Gender-Equity-and-Peacebuilding-From-Rhetoric-to-Reality.pdf>.

Women are discriminated against through political exclusion, economic marginalization, sexual violence during and after conflict, and so as a result, the potential for development in peacebuilding settings is constrained and limited. Despite this, women continue to persist in creating more equity between the sexes. While the following paper serves as a call to arms to women's advocates, it also criticizes current approaches to greater gender equity. By delineating how we've gotten ourselves to this point, the paper gives insight into the way people think about gender inequity in peacebuilding operations.

Necla Tschirgi, "Peacebuilding as the Link between Security and Development: Is the Window of Opportunity Closing?," International Peace Academy, December 2003,
http://www.un.org/esa/peacebuilding/Library/Peacebuilding_as_link_IPA.pdf.

Overlapping agendas of peace and development are intended to support conflict prevention, conflict management, and post-conflict reconstruction. This ideal faces increasingly multifaceted and complex challenges considering the evolving landscape. This report does a good job of depicting a real-world backdrop to current peacebuilding activities. Some of the political and institutional challenges facing the broader security and development landscape are considered in the following report.

"UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation," United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, September 2010,
http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf.

This orientation offers an introductory background on UN peacebuilding operations. Examples of peacebuilding across a variety of different member states are detailed here. The phases of peacebuilding and its most essential functions are described in concise detail. Peacebuilding priorities are discussed in some detail and how they are set and met are covered also. Priority-setting is laid out with particular examples of criterion commonly used to map out and prepare the foundation of peacebuilding missions for optimal efficiency.

II: The Impact of Early and Forced Marriage on the Rights of the Child

Sajeda Amin, "Programs to Address Child Marriage: Framing the Problem," The Population Council, January 2011,
http://www.popcouncil.org/uploads/pdfs/TABriefs/14_ChildMarriage.pdf.

This article reviews programs that have been used to help reduce or address the issues associated with child marriage. The programs that are reviewed were held to three common goals that are believed to be needed for successful programs. They are delaying age at marriage; making the marriage process consensual, safer, and more equitable; and providing support for married girls. The article reflects on the success notes and areas for improvement from studies on the *Kishori Abhijan* program in Bangladesh, *Berhane Hewan* in Ethiopia, the *Abriendo Oportunidades* in Guatemala, and efforts made in north Vietnam..

Convention on the Rights of the Child. United Nations General Assembly. November 20, 1989.
<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/crc.pdf>.

This convention was signed by the General Assembly into practice in November 1989. This convention provides the basic knowledge that all delegates should have on what rights a child should be provided. The Convention is based off of the Universal Human Rights and ensuring that children all around are given equal opportunity and not discriminated against on the basis of color, origin, beliefs, or born status and order.

"Child Marriage: What We Know," Public Broadcast Service (PBS), 2010,
<http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/341/facts.html>.

This article provides information about the current number of child marriages around the world and where high concentrated areas of child marriages exists. In South Asia alone, almost fifty percent of all women are married before the age of 18. The report also goes into ten issue areas that are affected by child marriage, such as health, education, and economic issues. This report from PBS is a good to get a basic overview of the issues that face child marriage and provide many extra sources onto the issues and facts.

"Ending Child Marriage: Progress and Prospects," UNICEF, 2014,
http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child_Marriage_Report_7_17_LR..pdf.

This report published by UNICEF gives an in depth report on the current statistics about child brides around the world. It analyzes the huge disparity between the number of women and men married before the age of eighteen. The report also provides facts and figures detailing that the most vulnerable women are those from rural and poor backgrounds. The report also gives facts on the amount of future medical risk for both the women and newborn children.

Cynthia Gorney, "Too Young to Wed: The Secret World of Child Brides," National Geographic, June 2011,
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/06/child-brides/gorney-text>.

This article provides insight to a story of three young girls, aged fifteen, thirteen, and 10, in India as they prepare to secretly and illegally wed underage. It discusses one problem of child marriage, secret and illegal marriages happening in rural areas. Gorney describes the efforts and feeling that those who fight against child marriages. Even though a state's law may prevent underage marriage, women are still being sold into a marriage, especially those who come from poor or rural background, for money or commodities for their families. The article then shows what the average life for a girl is like, from when she is married in secret to having to move to her new husband's home.

Cynthia B. Lloyd, Editor, *Growing Up Global: The Changing Transitions to Adulthood in Developing Countries. Panel on Transitions to Adulthood in Developing Countries*, (Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press, 2005).

This book contains many different chapters detailing the challenges and possible solutions to help foster the young generations in developing countries from youth to adolescents to adulthood. It notes that people aged 10-24 have comparatively to twenty years ago, begun to stay in school longer as an adolescent and delay entering the workforce and taking on adult roles. The report also notes that the population among youth demographics is on the rise and will continue to be until 2035. It tries to address the problems with possible solutions in the high youth population hot-spots of South Asia and Africa. This book can be accessed online through the National Academies Press OpenBook program at http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=11174.

Edilberto Loaiza and Sylvia Wong, "Marrying Too Young: End Child Marriage," United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 2012, <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/MarryingTooYoung.pdf>.

The report discusses the growing problem that child marriages are becoming. The report states that 140 million child marriages will occur between 2011-2020 and over 150 million in the following decade. The report looks at current social practices that are being used to help delay or stop child marriages but asserts that more incentives into changing from old practices is needed. It gives advice to countries to identify the hotspots of child marriage in their respective countries and develop processes to addressing the underlying needs and problems in those hot spots. This report reviews some of those practices currently being used, while noticing their successes or setbacks.