

2nd Annual Knowledge-sharing Workshop

organized by

UN Fund for Victims of Torture 6-7 April 2016

The redress and rehabilitation of children and adolescent victims of torture

“ *The UN Fund for Victims of Torture is a universal, non-political fund that can guarantee the safety and protection of the victims* ”



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With over **30 years of distinctive experience worldwide**, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture supports medical doctors, psychologists, social workers and lawyers who have over time acquired **specialized skills and knowledge in providing assistance to victims of torture**. The key objective in organizing yearly expert workshops is to share and consolidate this unique expertise for the benefit of all involved in combatting the crime of torture.

On 6-7 April 2016, experts from selected projects supported by the Fund will meet in OHCHR- Geneva to discuss the **challenges and best practices for the redress and rehabilitation for children and adolescent victims of torture, as well as the inter-generational transmission of trauma**.

This 2016 expert workshop comes at a historic moment for the Fund, now marking its 35th year.

“ *Sometimes it is amazing how quickly a severely traumatized child recovers if assisted in a timely and appropriate manner.* ”



Anette Carnemalm

Head of Malmö Treatment Center for Persons Affected by War and Torture, Swedish Red Cross, Sweden

Ms. Carnemalm is a psychologist and psychotherapist who is Head of the Malmö Treatment Center for Persons Affected by War and Torture, Swedish Red Cross. Since 1989 the Center has provided multi-disciplinary treatment and rehabilitation for refugees suffering from post-traumatic disorder related to war and torture. The services include psychotherapy, medical treatment, physiotherapy, social counseling and family interventions addressing secondary trauma in children and youth. Since 2015, the support of the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture has allowed the Malmö Center to help a greater number of victims, especially in light of the influx of Syrian refugees.

“ Torture is always a crime. With children the damage is far worse because it impairs a basic sense of trust and the child’s growth into a functioning adult. ”



Susannah Sirkin

Director of International Policy and Partnerships/Senior Advisor,
Physicians for Human Rights (PHR),
United States of America

Ms. Sirkin has organized health and human rights investigations, including documentation of genocide and systematic rape in Darfur, Sudan; exhumations of mass graves in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda for the International Criminal Tribunals; and investigations into consequences of human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law in various war-torn countries. She has worked on studies of sexual violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Sierra Leone and Thailand. Her reports and articles focus on the medical consequences of human rights violations. Since 2005, with the support of the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture, Physicians for Human Rights has conducted many forensic evaluations and provided documented evidence corroborating the claims of victims of torture seeking asylum in the United States of America.

“ Breaking cycles of violence and trauma that are transmitted from one generation to the next is a vital component of the global struggle to stop torture. ”





Jorge Barudy
Director, EXIL, Spain

Mr. Barudy is a Chilean neuropsychiatrist, child psychiatrist, psychotherapist and family therapist recognized by the European Association of Family Therapists. As a consultant for the treatment and prevention of child abuse in Latin America, Belgium, France and Spain, he also trains professional teams. He teaches postgraduate courses at Spanish, European and American universities related to the treatment and prevention of violence against children, women, families and communities. He is Director of EXIL, which he founded in Belgium in 1975 and in 2000 in Spain. With the support of the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture, EXIL focuses on psychosocial therapeutic care for people traumatized by sexual violence, war, imprisonment and torture.

“ The United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture has supported EXIL materially but above all morally, as the UN represents all human beings who struggle for a better world. ”



Dieynaba Ndoye
Programme Director, Victimes de
Violences Réhabilitées (CAPREC),
Senegal

Ms. Ndoye is an advocate for victims of torture. Since 2005, she has worked at *Victimes de Violences Réhabilitées, Centre Africain pour la Prévention et la Résolution des Conflits* (CAPREC), where she is currently Programme Director. Founded in 1999, CAPREC provides medical, psychological, social and legal aid to victims of torture from all over Africa. First supported in 2001 by the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture, the centre offers innovative treatments, including closer monitoring and evaluation of therapy, muscle relaxation sessions and social and economic support groups for clients of similar ethnic, national and social backgrounds. In its work with children, CAPREC strives to heal their trauma in order to prevent revenge and criminal acts in adulthood.

“ *Le Fonds apporte non seulement de l’assistance financière mais il donne également de la visibilité à notre action au niveau international.* ”





Paul Orieny

Clinical Advisor for Mental Health,
The Center for Victims of Torture
(CVT), United States of America

Mr. Orieny has been Clinical Advisor for Mental Health at The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) since 2011. He supervises field expatriate psychotherapists and provides clinical oversight to CVT's international clinical programme operations in Kenya (Dadaab and Nairobi) and Uganda. CVT is among the largest torture rehabilitation programmes in the world and the oldest USA-based organization helping torture victims and their family members with psychological, social and medical assistance. With the support of the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture, CVT runs projects outside of the USA, including for the relief of Iraqi and Syrian refugee victims of torture in Jordan, as well as in Kenya and Ethiopia.

“ Every day, even after over a decade of doing this work, I feel fresh deep empathy with the stresses that the torture survivors, especially children, have to bear. ”



Maudi Tzay Patal
Facilitator, Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Acción Psicosocial (ECAP), Guatemala

Ms. Patal has worked with victims of human rights violations as a result of Guatemala's internal armed conflict of 1960-1996 and its aftermath, as well as with those victimized in the country's extractive industries, in the framework of a psycho-legal strategy. As a Facilitator at *Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Acción Psicosocial (ECAP)*, she works with indigenous women victims of sexual slavery, domestic slavery and sexual violence. First supported by the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture in 2004, ECAP has given psychological and social support to victims of torture of the armed conflict. The project focusses specifically on women victims of sexual violence.

“ The impact of torture during the armed conflict continues in force, because the need for rehabilitation to victims has been ignored, allowing the effects to remain long-term for the victim, the family and the community. ”





Piya Muqit

Executive Director, Justice Centre,
Hong Kong, China

Ms. Muqit is a legal aid lawyer and policy expert who has worked in human rights, child rights, human trafficking and refugee rights for the past 16 years. She has worked for Freedom from Torture, REDRESS and Refugee and Migrant Justice in the United Kingdom, the Capital Post Conviction Project of Louisiana in the United States of America and Ain o Salish Kendra in Bangladesh. Before joining the Justice Center where she is now Executive Director, she was head of policy at UNICEF UK. As a grantee of the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture since 2016, Justice Centre provides legal information sessions for refugee victims of torture seeking asylum.

“ As a beneficiary we feel we have gained the trust of the Fund so that we can deliver our services safely and to the highest standard on a human rights-based approach. ”



Areeje Semreen

Clinical Psychologist, Institute for Family Health (IFH), Noor Al-Hussein Foundation, Jordan

Ms. Semreen is a clinical psychologist working to rehabilitate refugees and children affected by war, including Syrian refugees. At the Institute for Family Health (IFH), Noor Al-Hussein Foundation, she leads a team of multidisciplinary supervisors in medical and psychosocial areas as well as special education. She is a trainer in narrative exposure therapy and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy. With the emergency support of the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture since 2015, IFH at the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation provides multidisciplinary services to victims of torture and their families fleeing from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.

“ Our centre in Amman receives a lot of refugees from our neighbouring countries, including children who were subjected to torture and kidnapping. Our services are very important to relieve their suffering and pain. ”



Sophia Combrink

Clinical Manager, Centre for the Study of Reconciliation and Violence (CSV), South Africa

Ms. Combrink is a clinical psychologist who began her career working with perpetrators of violence in a maximum-security prison in Cape Town, South Africa. In 2014 she joined the Centre for Violence and Reconciliation (CSV) as Clinical Manager where she leads a team of psychologists and social workers. Through its work with adults, the team found that torture does not only impact the individual, but it has a significant impact on families. First supported by the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture in 2001, CSV provides holistic assistance to victims of torture, asylum seekers and refugees arriving in South Africa.

“ Research on the impact of childhood trauma demonstrates its profound impact on the emotional, behavioural, cognitive, social and physical functioning of children and it may have a long term trajectory. ”



Berenise Quattoni
Clinical Psychologist, Association
Mana, France

Ms. Quattoni is a clinical psychologist trained in psychoanalytic, psychotherapy and ethnopsychanalysis. Originally from Argentina, she has lived in France since 2003, where she has worked with victims of torture and political violence over the past 10 years at the *Association Mana* in Bordeaux and in the transcultural medicine department of the University Hospital of Bordeaux. *Association Mana*, which has been a grantee of the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture since 2006, provides art therapy and medical and psychological assistance to victims of torture, especially women and unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in the Bordeaux region.

“ *La torture laisse des traces sur le plan physique et psychique et a un impact au niveau social, d’où l’importance des soins adaptés car si on ne guérit pas de la torture, il reste néanmoins possible de vivre après cette expérience.* ”





Lela Tsiskarishvili

Executive Director, Georgian Centre for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (GCRT), Georgia

Ms. Tsiskarishvili works with the Georgian Centre for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (GCRT) where she became Executive Director in 2005. She is a founding and board member of the Georgian Society of Psychotrauma, which is affiliated with the European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies. She also trains and educates health and mental health professionals on trauma-related issues in Georgia and internationally. As a 2016 grantee of the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture, GCRT provides medical, psychological, social and legal assistance to victims of torture, as well as victims of sexual abuse.

“ Children often become reservoirs of fear, anger and the helplessness of parents who had been subjected to torture. ”



Sana Hamzé

Psychotherapist, RESTART Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Lebanon

Ms. Hamzé is a psychotherapist who has been working since 1986 in the field of rehabilitation. She is a founding member of the RESTART Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture. In 2000, she was a founding member of the Eastern Mediterranean Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (EMACAPAP) and in 2008 she became a member of the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPP). Since 2013, with the Fund's emergency funding, RESTART has been providing social counselling, psychotherapy, physiotherapy, educational and medical services to torture victims, including children fleeing from the Syrian Arab Republic.

“ Damage through acts of torture has the biggest impact on children since the repercussions are much more severe. Children are supposed to play, laugh, hope and above all to simply be children. ”





Maricela Escamilla
Director of Psychology Department,
Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos
Humanos, (CADHAC), Mexico

Ms. Escamilla is a therapist who started her career in 1970 in the Faculty of Psychology at the *Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León*. Since 1982, she has been in private practice for children, adolescents, adults, couples and families. In 1998 she joined the board of *Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos (CADHAC)* and since 2011 has been Director of CADHAC's psychology department. CADHAC was first funded by the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture in 2011 to provide legal, psychosocial and social assistance for victims and family members of people that have disappeared.

“ Children and adolescents suffer from acute mental injury caused by the disappearance of their loved ones. This can be relieved with appropriate psychological treatment to avoid the repetition of violence. ”



Gaëlle Carayon

Post Conflict Policy Advisor, REDRESS,
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland

Ms. Carayon is the Post Conflict Policy Advisor at REDRESS, which she joined in 2009 to work on its International Criminal Court (ICC) and post-conflict programmes. As part of that work, she has assisted torture victims, including former child soldiers, to seek justice and reparation before the ICC and worked with conflict victims in relation to the setting up of domestic, regional and international justice and reparation processes in Kenya, Uganda, the Congo and Cote d'Ivoire. REDRESS has been funded by the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture since 1994, helping victims in several countries obtain compensation, rehabilitation, restitution, public acknowledgement, apologies and the prosecution of alleged perpetrators in domestic and international fora.

“ The reintegration and rehabilitation of affected children requires a multifaceted approach. Failing that, the trauma suffered by these generations with stolen childhoods will impact whole communities over the years to come. ”



Diego Rodriguez Mendieta
Clinical Director, Heartland Alliance
International, Colombia

Mr. Rodriguez Mendieta is a clinical social-psychologist who specializes in education and training. Currently serving as Clinical Director for Heartland Alliance International's programme in Colombia, Mr. Mendieta has nine years' experience working with vulnerable communities in diverse environments. He has led the methodological design and implementation of mental health and psychosocial services for survivors of torture in Colombia. Heartland, supported by the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture since 1995, provides medical, psychological, social, legal and financial assistance to refugee victims of torture seeking asylum through a community-based volunteer model; trains and educates locally and globally; and advocates for the end of torture worldwide.

“ We have the capacity to do damage and hurt each other, but also the capacity to touch and heal. We cannot waver in our commitment to the part of our humanity that illuminates the world. ”



Maria Książak
Coordinator, International
Humanitarian Initiative Foundation,
Poland

Ms. Książak is a Coordinator and psychologist at the International Humanitarian Initiative Foundation (Poland), aided by the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture since 2014. The Foundation provides emergency and psychological care for refugees, asylum seekers, victims of armed conflicts and neglected and orphaned children, including torture victims. It is the only NGO in Poland giving psychological assistance to refugees and asylum seekers who are victims of torture. It also offers legal, medical and social assistance.

“ Caring for tortured children is a job we can’t do by ourselves. We need social support, which should include the child’s family. But in today’s refugee crisis, many unaccompanied minors face trauma by themselves. ”



The 2016 expert workshop also includes these participants:

UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Mr. Alessio Bruni, Committee against Torture

Mr. Martin Babu Mwesigwa, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Committee on the Rights of the Child

Ms. Suzanne Jabour, Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Torture

UN AGENCIES AND OTHER EXPERTS

Mr. Pieter Ventevogel, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Mr. Víctor Madrigal, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

Ms. Ann Salter, Freedom from Torture

TRUSTEES OF THE FUND:

Mr. Morad El-Shazly

Ms. Anastasia Pinto

Ms. Maria Cristina Nunes de Mendonça

Ms. Gaby Oré Aguilar

Mr. Mikolaj Pietrzak

Since 1981 the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture has directed over US\$168 million to more than 620 organisations globally – that in turn delivered essential services to victims of torture. As the oldest and largest human rights fund, it awards projects providing medical, psychological, humanitarian, social and legal rehabilitation services to around 50,000 victims of torture and their family members each year.