



CSSP International Conference

'Towards a Child Sensitive Society in Africa'

Child Sensitive Social Policies

19 – 21 February 2014, Harare, Zimbabwe

WOMEN'S
UNIVERSITY IN
AFRICA



Addressing Gender Disparity and
Fostering
Equity in University Education



Call for Papers for the Child Sensitive Social Policies Conference 2014 - 'Towards a Child Sensitive Society in Africa'

19 – 21 February 2014, Harare, Zimbabwe

Background:

Over the past decade, there has been an increased international focus on child poverty, social inclusion, and the protection of African children. It has thus become common for governments on the continent to present strategies and action plans intended to: address child vulnerability stemming from various factors; protect the physical and emotional integrity of children from harmful practices; and create an inclusive environment for all children to develop and participate in all spheres of life. There have thus been calls for and a movement towards comprehensive, multi and inter-sectoral interventions in cooperation with a broad cross section of stakeholders.

Call for papers

The Women's University in Africa, in collaboration with UNICEF Zimbabwe invites all child rights stakeholders who include scholars in child sensitive social policies, researchers, law and policy makers, civil society, international agencies and service providers to the **first Child Sensitive Social Policies Conference - 2014** (Cresta Lodge, Msasa, Zimbabwe).

Conference objectives

The Conference – themed - *'Towards a Child Sensitive Society in Africa'*, seeks to explore the centrality of children in African contexts.

- It offers this multiplicity of child rights stakeholders an opportunity to revisit the thought-provoking Universalist and Cultural Relativist debates of childhood, with a view of finding common ground between the child rights principles and cultural norms still viewed at odds with each other.
- It provides a platform for interaction on the marginalisation of vulnerable children and the effectiveness of interventions which address child poverty and social exclusion.
- It creates an opportunity for stakeholders to engage with the trending factors that increase the susceptibility of children to various forms of abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation.
- Time has been allocated for lively interactions between delegates through round table break away sessions and other activities to discuss the translation of child rights policy into practice.

- In keeping with the right to be heard and taken seriously, this conference provides a rare platform for the children themselves to engage directly with all stakeholders on issues that affect them.

It is hoped that this conference will culminate in innovative and feasible approaches to child welfare in Africa, with measurable outputs, which may be integrated into government and private initiatives.

Themes

The papers will be presented in sessions based on the themes below

- Track 1 – Reconciling Child Rights and Culture
- Track 2 – Social Inclusion, Poverty, Social Budgeting
- Track 3 – Protecting our children from violence, exploitation and abuse

Break away sessions-

There will be break away session themed *“From policy to practice”* intended to break the monotony of the plenary sessions and allow delegates to engage with each other in groups on issues raised in the track sessions. Particular focus will be on state performance in the following areas: alignment of national law; policy and interventions with international standards; the creation of institutional mechanisms for coordination, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of child rights policy; and in social budgeting for children.

Conference Structure

There will be keynote addresses, plenary sessions where experts in the child rights field will address the delegates; conference paper presentations and posters presentations (selected through the abstract reviewing process); and break-away sessions. In keeping with this important child rights principle on the right of children to participate in matters that affect them, four children of diverse backgrounds and abilities will be given an opportunity to address and engage with the conference delegates in a plenary session wholly dedicated to them, to air their views on any of the areas covered in the sub - themes.

There will be a total of 4 guest speakers at the opening and closing ceremonies; 4 plenary presentations; 12 Conference papers; 4 child presentations. There will also be 15 poster presentations derived from the selected submissions and a breakaway session where delegates will discuss in three groups the issues coming out of each of the track presentations.

Registration and Abstract Submission Procedures

The conference uses an online registration and abstract submission system. Registration and abstract submission forms and instructions for submission and payment may be found at the following link:

http://www.wua.ac.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=235

An applicant may submit a maximum of two abstracts. If the abstract submission is successful, applicants will get an email containing confirmation and an abstract ID from the conference content committee.

Abstracts

The submitted abstract should consist of 800 – 1000 words including key words. The abstract must contain, at least the following:

- (i) Research objective(s),
- (ii) Literature review
- (iii) Methodology
- (iv) Findings and analysis

The author's brief biography should not be longer than 100 words.

Posters

Poster text should be of maximum 350 words, containing the research background, methodology and main findings. The authors must submit 5 photos, including captions, illustrating the content of the poster.

Selected Papers for Conference Presentation

The decision made by the selection committee is indisputable. Each paper must be based on sound analysis of empirical evidence/research findings and include policy recommendations.

Selection criteria

- **Completeness of the abstract:** Suitability of content with the selected theme; understanding of the issues, Accuracy of the theory of the study, Completeness, Policy recommendations and Sharpness of analysis;
- **Appropriateness of research methodology:** use of reliable quantitative and/qualitative data, analytical strength/depth
- **Contribution to the policy making process:** recommendation for executive and legislative branches, possibly of having policy impact, workability of policy recommendations, applicability of evidence based advocacy and contribution to more evidence based policy
- **Writing system:** Comprehensiveness and completeness of reference

Important Deadlines

- Early Bird Registration opens 28 October 2013
- Early Bird Registration closes 10 December 2013
- Regular Registration opens 11 December 2013
- Regular Registration Closes 1 February 2014 (Late Registration may be done on site from 17 February 2014)
- Abstract Submission opens 28 October 2013
- Abstract Submissions closes: 10 December 2013
- Announcement of Selected abstracts: 15 December 2013
- Submission of Full Papers and Power-point Documents: 15 January 2014

For more information about the Conference Contact:

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