

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

### **“Gender, Ethnicity and Children’s Human Rights: Theorizing Babies Born of Wartime Rape and Sexual Exploitation”**

According to recent reports, thousands of infants have resulted from mass rape campaigns or sexual exploitation during times of war in the last decade. Anecdotal reports suggest these “war babies” – children born on the wrong side of a conflict - often face stigma, discrimination and even infanticide. Very little systematic scholarly data exists assessing their status and fate or theorizing their protection needs from a children’s human rights perspective. To address this gap, I seek contributions from established scholars, graduate students, and human rights practitioners addressing this category of war-affected child. Contributions from fields such as sociology, political science, international law, anthropology, women’s studies, and history are encouraged.

Paper authors will be invited to present their research at an interdisciplinary workshop, tentatively scheduled to be held March 16, 2004 in conjunction with the International Studies Association Annual Conference in Montreal, Quebec. Papers will forthwith be revised and submitted for inclusion in an edited volume, to be prepared for submission to book publishers by summer 2005. This book will be aimed at laying a foundation for future interdisciplinary work on war babies as a concern for the children’s human rights community.

Contributions should be between 4000 and 7000 words long, and should address the intersection of gender, ethnicity, children’s and women’s human rights, sexual violence and armed conflict, and the evolving international legal framework that aims to regulate such behavior. Possible paper topics include but are not limited to:

- 1) Historical Perspective: cases of forced pregnancy, war babies in earlier time periods.
- 2) Intersection of gender, ethnicity, age, etc in nationalist discourses
- 3) Post-conflict reconciliation processes: what role do war babies play?
- 4) Humanitarian response to war babies by local and international NGOs;
- 5) Socio-political construction of war babies by states;
- 6) War babies’ ethnic/religious identities;
- 7) Oral histories of adult war children;
- 8) Care of war babies in institutions;
- 9) Documenting host communities’ response to war babies (coping mechanisms, strategies for assimilating, protection)
- 10) Documenting human rights abuses (infanticide, discrimination, etc)
- 11) Theory papers conceptualizing war babies in context of human rights/humanitarian law
- 12) Analysis of international discourse or media framing of war baby issue
- 13) Empirical analysis of particular cases (e.g. Liberia, Rwanda, Bosnia, East Timor, Bangladesh, Kuwait)

- 14) Thematic comparison of different types of war baby (children born of forced pregnancy, children born of sexual exploitation, children born of consensual relations between local women and foreign soldiers)
- 15) Reconciling the needs of the infant with the health and dignity of the mother
- 16) Responsibility of donor states for war children created by soldiers/peacekeeping troops
- 17) War babies in the context of forced pregnancy prosecutions at international tribunals
- 18) Redress for mothers and babies
- 19) The right to know v. the right to silence: best practices in protection?
- 20) Methodological approaches/dilemmas to gathering data on issue

Please send proposals or queries, along with your institutional affiliation and contact information, by attachment to [charli.carpenter@drake.edu](mailto:charli.carpenter@drake.edu). Proposals are due by November 15, 2003, and should consist of a 200-500 description of the paper to be written. Submissions from graduate students and international scholars are strongly encouraged. For more information contact:

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