



## SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS

### Academic Forum for African Christian Scholars and Researchers:

#### “African Christian Scholars and the Plight of the African Child”

Conference hosted by the School of Human and Social Sciences  
Daystar University.

Date: 9th-11th November, 2011

Nairobi- Kenya



We would like to welcome you to join our symposium and meet with participants from across the world .

#### ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The School of Human and Social Sciences at Daystar University Kenya, through the Institute for Child Development, will host an international academic conference from **9th to 11th November, 2011.**

The symposium will focus on the role and potential of academic institutions, child focused organizations and the church in meeting emerging challenges facing children at risk in Africa.

The gathering will create space for engaging debates and peer consultation among African Christian scholars, students, academic and research institutions from across the globe, NGO practitioners, and other experts and partners from a number of perspectives and disciplines related to Child Development.



“Celebrating the place of children in our midst”



Daystar University is an internationally renowned university that provides top quality academic, social, Research, publications and cultural facilities to over 6,000 students.

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

Africa has a rapidly growing number of vulnerable children facing multiple violations of their rights. Many of these children suffer hunger, ill health, violence, and neglect, lack of access to education and opportunities for play, psychosocial support, spiritual growth and development.

Although recent years have seen a growing interest and recognition of children as a strategic group in transforming their own world and shaping their future, the promotion of their rights is critical in supporting social justice and building strong societies.

While the experiences gained, through programs in promoting their rights and empowering them have changed the lives of millions of children across Africa, there has not yet been sufficient empirical evidence or knowledge generated to drive effective and innovative policies, programming in meeting the needs of children at risk.

## GENERAL SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES:

Positioning Children at Risk in Africa at the center of the research and policy agenda, the general objectives of the symposium will be to:

1. Facilitate scholarly knowledge exchange on important child development issues affecting children at risk in Africa.
2. Provide a critical analysis of existing policies affecting children at risk, with the aim of identifying effective approaches to meeting their needs
3. Showcase lessons learned in policy and programming concerning children at risk as well as opportunities for addressing knowledge gaps by academic institutions.
4. Provide a platform for mobilizing partnerships towards advocacy efforts around meeting the rights of children at risk through research, policy and programming.
5. Increase the visibility of academic institutes in the continent Africa involved in the area of Holistic Child Development
6. Stimulate further research culture regarding HCD on the continent of Africa and contribute to the development of child development resources.



“Rescuing and nurturing children for Life”



"A passion for Human Development"

**GUIDING CONSIDERATIONS FOR SUBMITTED PAPERS:**

The symposium organizers welcome papers with new theoretical, biblical insights and empirical evidence related but not limited to the following two themes.

***a. Building Empirical Evidence: State of children at risk in Africa, challenges and opportunities.***

- How can NGOs and institutions participate with academic institutions, governments to effectively increase generation and sharing of knowledge on the status of children at risk in Africa? How can such research inform social and fiscal policies aimed at addressing their plight?

- What are the national, regional and global trends on the plight of children at risk? How do dynamics of families, societies and institutions and national policies create and perpetuate discrimination in the allocation and use of resources to meet needs of children at risk?

***b. Promoting Effective Policies: Empowerment and Rights Realization for Children at Risk.***

- Based on past crises and experiences, what intervention models can be constructed to reduce the impact of risk to vulnerable children in Africa ?

- How do national development programs, processes and policies include or exclude children at risk? What budgetary and policy guidelines are needed to ensure that national development strategies are genuinely inclusive and supportive of children at risk?

- How can the interpretation and application of national and international legal institutional frameworks (i.e. the Convention on the Rights of Children, The Children Act 2002, Millennium Development Goals) be strengthened and supported to address the issues that affect children at risk in Africa?



"Partnering to champion the cause for children"



"Impacting children, one at a time"

Content scope should take consideration of national, regional or international contexts in the interpretation and application of child protection legal instruments.

Papers should focus on research, policy, practice and programming work highlighting the plight of children at risk in Africa, strategies for empowering them meet their rights.

**WHO IS THE CONFERENCE FOR?**

The conference is meant for Christian Academics and Researchers, students, church leadership, local and central government officials, and NGO practitioners in child development.

**PROCESS AND TIMELINE:**

**Abstract Submission:**

Abstracts (max 500 words, in English) and a brief CV should be submitted to the selection committee by **24th June, 2011**. Submissions should be sent to **Dr. Malinda Harrahs**, at [hmalinda@daystar.ac.ke](mailto:hmalinda@daystar.ac.ke) or [info@daystar-cdi.com](mailto:info@daystar-cdi.com)

Abstracts should contain a title, paper description, author name and affiliation, and specify which of the topical areas listed above the paper will most directly address.

Papers from a variety of disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary perspectives are also appropriate.

**REQUEST FOR FULL PAPERS:**

An advisory panel composed of members of the School of Human and Social Sciences, the Institute for Child Development Board, and an internally recognized expert will review submitted abstracts and request full papers from successful applicants.

Final papers should be submitted by **August 30th, 2011**; these should be a maximum of 25 pages in length (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt)



"Touching children, building nations"



Promoting research, enhancing Child Policy

**SYMPOSIUM COSTS:**

There will be scholarship support to those selected to present their papers. This support will include round-trip air travel, ground transport, accommodation and meals during the symposium period. It is expected that participants will be funded by their own organizations for any other costs. Participants will be required to apply for scholarships from the symposium organizing committee.

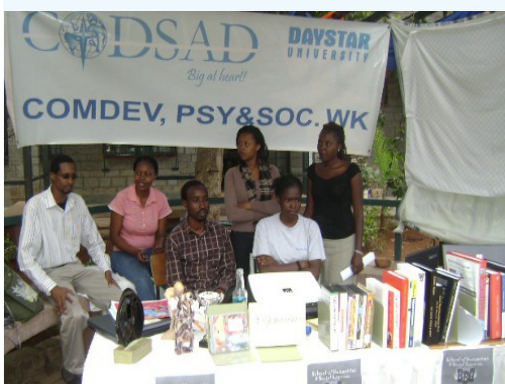
**REGISTRATION FEES:**

1. Participants from outside Africa, US\$250
2. Participants from East African community US\$150
3. Participants from the rest of Africa, US\$200

NB: The deadline for registration is **30th August 2011**. Late registration can be acceptable with an extra fees of US\$30 for participants from East African community.

**STRUCTURE OF THE SYMPOSIUM:**

1. Plenary presentation of selected papers
2. Expert discussants and commentators
3. Panel discussions



"Together for the African child"

**CONTACTS:**

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