



Press Release
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
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New Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty Launched at the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC), Fourth Forum¹ in Dar es Salaam

“Mobilizing Faith-Based Resources to End Child Poverty”

A global interfaith initiative to end child poverty has been launched at the Fourth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC), held from 16th to 18th June 2012 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with over 400 participants from 64 different countries around the world. Forum participants included about 50 children and young people, as well as senior religious leaders from all of the world’s religious traditions, UN officials, leaders from various multilateral institutions and development agencies, and a diverse group of distinguished guests and eminent supporters including President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania and Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, former Secretary General of the Organization of African Union.

The initiative, encompassing contributions from various partners, will challenge **corruption and poor governance, war and violence, and unequal distribution of resources** and will utilize interfaith advocacy and grassroots action to overcome poverty by bringing together children and young people, religious leaders and faith communities, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, the African Union and other multi-lateral institutions, educators, governments, development banks, businesses and the media to build a world where no child will live in poverty.

Driven by the urgent ethical imperative to commit to a vision that no one, especially children, should live under conditions imposed by poverty—the worst and most extensive form of violence in the world, the long-term **Global Poverty Initiative** was presented to children on the historic last day of the forum. The initiative, entitled “Mobilizing Faith-Based Resources to End Child Poverty,” will go beyond the 2015 target year of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), seeking to help end poverty by addressing economic

¹ GNRC holds a global Forum every four years. Previous Forums include GNRC First Forum (Tokyo, Japan, 2000), GNRC Second Forum (Geneva, Switzerland, 2004) and GNRC Third Forum (Hiroshima, Japan, 2008).

injustices; not only the systemic structures but also the roots of the problem in the human heart—greed, ignorance, hatred and fear.

The GNRC is the only global-scale interfaith network of organizations and individuals specifically dedicated to securing the rights and well-being of children. Its members come from all of the world's major religions and many other spiritual traditions, and all share a commitment to making the world a place where every child can enjoy not only the right to survive, but also to thrive, making positive contributions of his or her own to a world of peace and dignity for all.

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