



GNRC Annual Report

2021-2022

Promoting Children's Rights Through Interfaith Advocacy



About Us

The Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) is a global-scale Interfaith Network of organizations and individuals specifically dedicated to securing the rights and well-being of children everywhere. GNRC members come from all the world's major religions and many other spiritual traditions.

Together the GNRC is committed to creating a world where every girl and boy can grow up safe and sound – a world where every child has a chance to shine.

Our Mission

To mobilize the potential of all religions to become a positive transforming force for children and invite the solidarity of people from all walks of life, while seeking partnership with leaders, individuals and communities, international, national, and regional institutions, grassroot organizations, and people of good will everywhere.

Our Vision

A peaceful world where every human being takes full responsibility for children's dignity, safety, well-being and joy.

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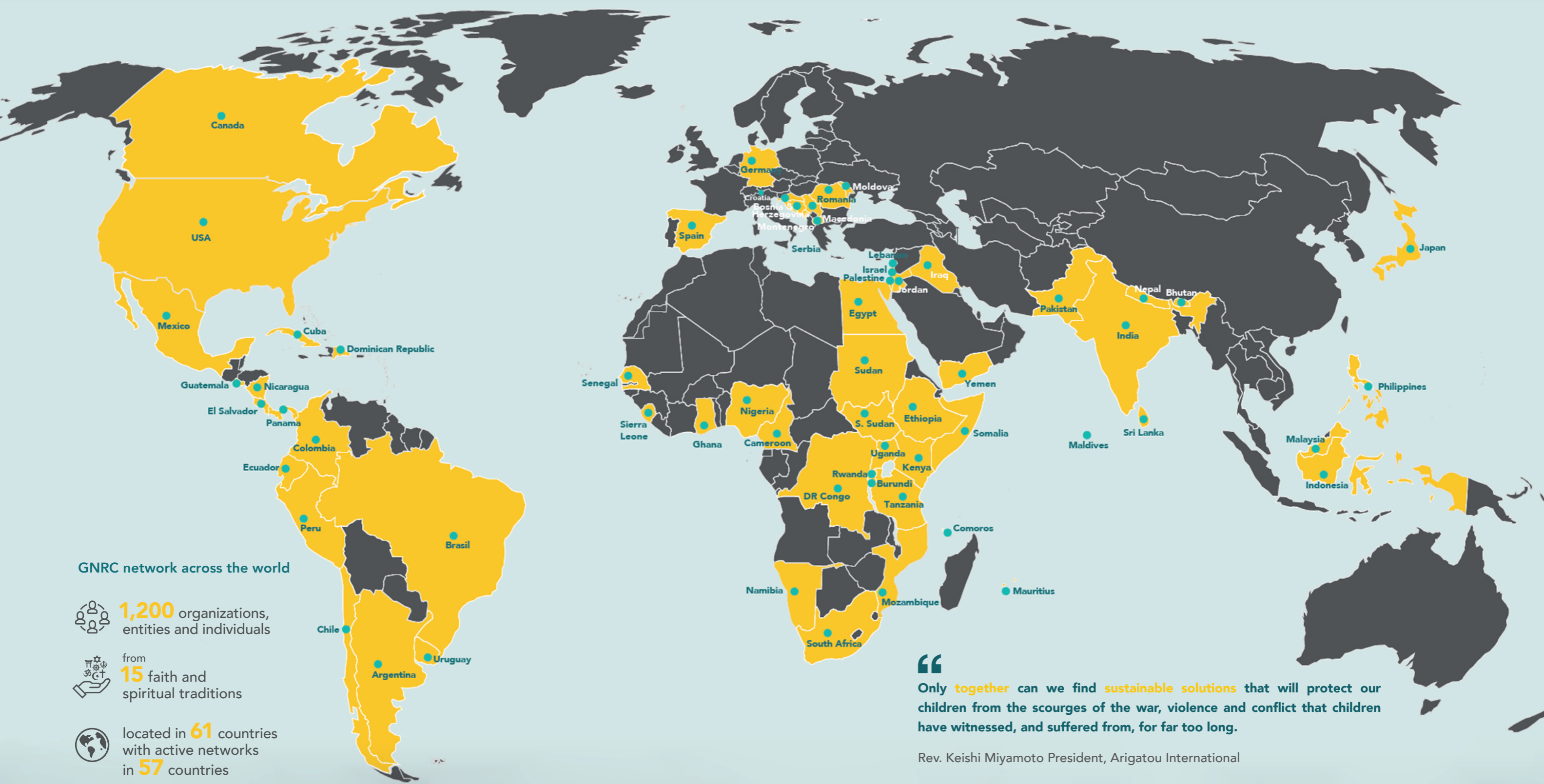
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union Commission
AEI	Arab Educational Institute
BRAVE	Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism
CAN Pakistan	Child Advocacy Network–Pakistan
CIF	Centro Integral de la Familia
C/PVE	Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism
CRAVE	Community Resilience Against Violent Extremism
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSCR	Centre for Sustainable Conflict Resolution
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
DAC	Day of the African Child
DPAC	Day of Prayer and Action for Children
EVAC	Ending Violence Against Children
FPCC	Faith for Positive Change for Children
GCERF	Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
GNRC	Global Network of Religions for Children
H.E.	His Excellency
IIN	Inter-American Children’s Institute
IDEP	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
JLI	Joint Learning Initiative
LTLT	Learning To Live Together
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRTP	Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
OAS	Organization of American States
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PWA	People Living with Albinism
REC	Restoring and Empowering Communities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHARE	Sheikhs Response to Radicalization and Violent Extremism
TEC	Tanzania Episcopal Conference
TECMIN	Tanzania End Child Marriage Network
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
UN CRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VAC	Violence Against Children

GNRC's Presence in the World



“ Only together can we find sustainable solutions that will protect our children from the scourges of the war, violence and conflict that children have witnessed, and suffered from, for far too long.

Rev. Keishi Miyamoto President, Arigatou International

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



In 2021, the GNRC secretariat undertook a comprehensive network-wide assessment of its key elements including membership, connectivity, capacity, results, significance, and impact. Building on 20 years of extensive interfaith collaboration in shaping and advocating for a better world for children, the goal of the assessment was to reinvigorate and strengthen the GNRC network, focussing on its successes, strengths, gaps, and challenges.

As recommended, the assessment also mapped out the steps to further build on the evolving and growing Network of over 1,200 organizations and individuals from 15 faith and spiritual traditions spanning 61 countries worldwide.

This report features the work of the GNRC members and the secretariat in 2021—2022 in advancing the Network’s goals of improving the lives of children. It captures activities around the GNRC’s broader goals namely preventing violent extremism, gang violence, and organized crime; nurturing spirituality in child up-bringing; ending sexual exploitation and abuse of children; ending child poverty and supporting vulnerable children; and reinvigorating and strengthening the GNRC network.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the hard work carried out by the GNRC members in the past two years during the COVID-19 pandemic. I commend your efforts in mitigating the pandemic’s impact and responding to the issues affecting children.

The GNRC goal for 2022–2023 anchors and advances the Network’s mission. It builds and reflects upon its past achievements and commits to recommendations and ambitions presented in the assessment report. We continue to be guided by the GNRC Panama Declaration as we strengthen the Network in building a better world for children.

Mustafa Y. Ali, PhD

Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC),
and Director, Arigatou International – Nairobi



Building on 20 years of extensive interfaith collaboration in shaping and advocating for a better world for children, we commit to reinvigorate and strengthen the GNRC network across the world to better serve the children and the young people

The Panama Commitments on Ending Violence Against Children



INTRODUCTION



It is the responsibility of all religious people to join their hands in action for children, regardless of the difference in nationality, ethnicity or religion.

– The late Reverend Takeyasu Miyamoto

Striving to End Violence Against Children

Since the GNRC Fifth Forum in 2017, GNRC members and partners have worked to address different forms of violence against children around the globe. Members are guided by GNRC's broad goals of preventing violent extremism, gang violence and organized crime; nurturing spirituality in child up-bringing; ending sexual abuse and exploitation; ending child poverty and supporting vulnerable children; advocacy and building and strengthening the Network.

In 2021-2022, GNRC members from 220 organizations supported and implemented 275 interfaith projects and activities reaching, empowering, and impacting 77,344 children globally. 1351 adults were equipped with resource mobilization and capacity-building skills using the unique approaches and tools developed by Arigatou International.



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A GNRC SPECIAL INTERVENTION

Responding to children's needs in the refugee crisis in Ukraine

GNRC members across the globe continue to show their solidarity with the ongoing situation in Ukraine that continues to affect the livelihood of many, especially children. More specifically, GNRC members in Europe are locally supporting Ukrainian citizens in different capacities.



A working session on Ukraine by GNRC Romania

Romania:

GNRC members in Romania, led by Ms. Laura Molnar, implemented several local school projects to accommodate refugee children fleeing from their neighboring country, Ukraine. They had classrooms in many public schools expanded to accommodate large numbers of children. They also held campaigns in schools to create awareness against bullying and other forms of violence, especially for the new students from Ukraine. They held sensitization programs to create awareness among the local school students to have them welcome the new students without discrimination.

In addition, they also joined hands with AIDROM (Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania) to carry out an activity under the theme, "United for Ukraine". The objective of the event which was to help Romanian children develop social responsibility while motivating them to contribute their



GNRC Romania members helping AIDROM to transport food to Odessa

support to the Ukrainian children brought together local NGO's, people of good will and school children. The GNRC Romania coordinator and the GNRC youth also helped AIDROM prepare and transport humanitarian support to Odessa. The GNRC members also donated sleeping bags, blankets, food, and hygiene products to the Ukrainian children stuck in bunkers. The event had a total of 70 GNRC children supporting as volunteers and 15 adults.

Moldova:

GNRC members in Moldova, counsellors and psychologists are supporting young women by offering counselling services to young mothers who have gone through ordeals because of the Ukrainian war. They have continually offered them humanitarian support provided by the EU, including essential materials and supplies. GNRC Macedonia also focused its activities on preparation to support any children and adult refugees fleeing the war.

1.0 PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM, GANG VIOLENCE AND ORGANIZED CRIME



Violence against children is a plague and a hidden scream. Non-violence is a value shared by all religions. We must break the invisibility.

– Mrs. Santos Marta Pais

Striving to End All Forms of Violence

1.1 Rehabilitating Former Extremists in Kenya

The Centre for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR), the GNRC coordinating organization in Kenya, developed a program commonly referred to as *D-PRIVE* (Diminishing the Prevalence of Radicalization into Violent Extremism) to lessen and delegitimize extremists' rhetoric, narratives, and ideologies. The program focuses on supporting counter violent extremism efforts in Kenya through *Deep Dialogue* in 'at risk' communities vulnerable to radicalization, violent extremism, and recruitment into extremist organizations.

1.2 Fifth Edition of *Lenga Ugaidi na Talanta*

The Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism (BRAVE) program supported by Arigatou International – Nairobi, the GNRC Kenya members and the Government of Kenya have directly impacted thousands of Kenyans and millions (indirectly).

The GNRC Secretary General, Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, and other partners launched the Fifth Edition of the '*Lenga Ugaidi na Talanta*' - an East African short film, poetry, and music competition for youth with a focus on preventing radicalization, violent extremism, and terrorism.



1.3 Fostering Peace through Sport and Culture in South Africa

GNRC South Africa in partnership with Children and Youth Interfaith Network of South Africa (CAYIN) organized an awareness-raising session on human rights, with special emphasis on ending bullying among children. The event was held at the World Assembly of Muslim Youth Hall. The event had a total of 43 participants, among them 38 children of various faiths.



1.4 Prevention of Violence Against Children and Resilience Building in Latin America

The year saw the completion of the design of the Regional Project for the Prevention of Violence against Children and Building Resilience (PREVENIR), a three-year regional project to prevent violence and the recruitment of children into gangs and organized criminal groups in the situation of human mobility at risk of being victims of organized violence on the migratory route. Such risks include trafficking and smuggling of children with incarcerated fathers, mothers or adult caregivers (NNAPES) in selected areas in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico.



Workshop with children, women and mothers



I appreciate Arigatou International – GNRC for empowering our women at the grassroots level and finding solutions to support and inspire the young generation.

– Mr. Rotich, District Criminal Investigation Officer (DCIO)

1.5 Addressing Prejudices, Hate Speech and Stereotypes

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In partnership with Women for Women International and the National Endowment for Democracy, a webinar was organized on ‘the Importance of Interreligious Dialogue through the History of Bosnia and Herzegovina’ and was attended by three children and 20 adults. A follow-up webinar was conducted to help young people recognize and prevent hate speech.



Hate speech is a consequence of discrimination, stereotypes and prejudices in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina.

– Anita, a child

Montenegro

In conjunction with the Children of Montenegro organization, GNRC Montenegro held a two-day training event on the role of students in preventing and responding to violence and hate speech. The event sought to strengthen the capacities of schools and create a pool of peer trainers that would organize workshops and presentations to the other students and had 127 participants, (116 students and 11 adults).



With modern technologies, we often do not recognize hate speech and we do not know how to protect the endangered in the right and adequate way.

– Srđana, a child



Workshop with children

Workshop with women

Workshop with mothers

Affirmation of Interreligious Dialogue and Children's Rights in Serbia

In line with the objective of reducing poverty, GNRC Serbia organized an art competition activity led by Sombor Educational Center.



“

It was my pleasure that through the workshop, the children were able to socialize and learn knowledge that will make them more active in extracurricular activities.

– Nura Šabanović, educator

1.6 Dialogue with Boys to End Violence Against Women and Girls in India

The program by Shanti Ashram – India focused on creating robust systems for implementation of evidence-based interventions; monitoring and evaluation; and documentation of the model for other organisations. More than 3,000 children have been engaged through the program since its inception. During the reporting period, 657 children and parents were engaged directly through 13 sessions involving 10 schools and 31 villages. Over 5,000 children are estimated to have been reached indirectly.

“

As a coordinator and one of the facilitators of this program, I now understand how learning and mental crises impact children, particularly adolescents. Dialogue with the boys allows these adolescent boys to open their minds and understand the challenges faced in their communities.

During the panel discussions, boys shared their thoughts on the kind of violence happening in their community. The boys also gave wonderful child-friendly solutions on how to end violence against children, especially girls.

– Vijayaragavan Gopal, Head, Youth Leadership Programme, GNRC Coordinator, India

1.7 Promoting Positive Parenting in Brazil

The GNRC Coordinator and co-coordinator in Brazil held a meeting with leaders of “Rede Não Bata, Eduque”, a network that focuses on promoting positive parenting and advocates for the creation of public policies that implement the Menino Bernardo Law, a law that prohibits corporal punishment.

GNRC SUCCESS STORIES

Transforming Communities

Children Gangs in Kenya: A Faith Leader's Perspective



Rev. Maria Kipruto, GNRC
Kenya Committee Member

In my community, there are about ten known gangs that have recruited children and youth. They get attracted to gangs because of different factors within their environment.

Through the GNRC, I have learnt a lot. I now recognize the challenges of children in society and embrace them without judging or condemning them. Faith leaders should connect with their communities and educate them on the importance of maintaining spiritual resilience to overcome these challenges.

GNRC has impacted the community and the family greatly. Community leaders always look forward to the children's forums where each child feels loved and cared for.



My Activism to Prevent Children from Joining Criminal Gangs

I was a member of a criminal gang. After participating in GNRC programs, I came to my senses and chose to leave the gangs and reform. I am now a champion of speaking out for children on how to end violent extremism in the community and at schools. I visit churches and go to where the gangs are "maskans" and in a friendly way, I encourage them to leave and change.

GNRC took me to *Radio Salaam* to speak out on behalf of other children and to educate the community about the experience of how a child is radicalized, and the importance of parents taking responsibility in guiding their children.



"My Time as a Criminal Gang Member in Mombasa, Kenya"

I joined a violent extremist group in 2020, lured by my friends because I was idle and hungry. They administered an oath of secrecy and put a tattoo on my body to show that I belonged to that given group. In the ghetto, they had youth and teenagers. We were introduced to drugs and trained to be violent and to use machetes.

I joined this gang because of poverty, absentee parents, and a need to identify with men because my mother is a single parent. It is also fashionable to be in a gang group.

When I was invited to the GNRC children's forum, they taught us about violent extremism, how radicalization happens and early signs and warnings. Through love, encouragement, guidance and

talking with other children, I am overcoming this challenge. I have begun withdrawing from the group slowly though it is not easy, they keep asking for me since I am a young recruit. Much appreciation goes to GNRC, Rev. Maria, and the teachers who have always given me an opportunity to express myself without fear, and they keep checking up on me at school.

– Male GNRC youth, Mombasa, Kenya



2.0 NURTURING SPIRITUALITY IN CHILD UPBRINGING



2.1 Promoting Non-Violence

Bureau d'Informations, Formations, Echanges et Recherches Pour le Development (BIFERD), a GNRC partner organization, held a series of community forums in North Kivu, The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), to address violence against children using ethics education. The forums centered on 'Promoting Ethics Education and Non-Violence towards Children in DRC' and "Reducing COVID-19 Risks for School Children". Over 2,500 children and 47 adults attended the events.

2.2 Raising Children with Care

World Vision Mexico, a member of GNRC Mexico, organized a workshop on raising children with tenderness, an approach that World Vision promotes in LAC in all its program interventions, to cultivate a loving relationship between caregivers and children, so that children may experience the love of God, enjoy positive relationships with peers, family and community members.



2.3 Enriching Children's Lives in Palestine

The Arab Educational Institute, a member of GNRC Palestine, partnered with the Ministry of Education, Christian private schools, and the Islamic Darul Iftaa to strengthen the *Sumud* (steadfast perseverance) of children and youth experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic while living in a conflict zone. The partners also worked to deepen Christian and Islamic religious values held by these children, as well as teach them peaceful ways of coexistence through play and fun activities. The children were also taught about ways to reduce hate speech and racism in the community. The activities reached 1,175 people directly, among them more than 1,000 children and nine faith leaders representing Christian (Catholic, Orthodox and the Lutheran Church) and Muslim faiths.



Developing spirituality in children allows them to find a meaning in life, favors their empathy and motivates them in their development. Likewise, spirituality is a path that allows them to manage their emotions in a positive way within an environment of unity with others.

– Rev. Diana García, Former Coordinator GNRC, México

GNRC SUCCESS STORY

Accepting 'The Other'

I graduated from the Christian Brothers de la Salle School in Bethlehem in 2021. Since my childhood, I have been a member of the Arab Educational Institute - Pax Christi (AEI). I have been involved in the project "Citizenship and Diversity: Christian-Muslim Living Together" and associated with GNRC activities.

During the AEI meetings, I learned more about Islamic and Christian beliefs such as respect for difference. We used to be separated from one another and were hostile towards each other. We changed our personalities and behavior towards each other.

– George, GNRC Youth, Palestine



Interfaith Cooperation in Europe



Although religion is treated as a private matter across Europe, GNRC Bosnia and Herzegovina managed to mobilize religious leaders from different faith traditions to work towards protecting children.

– Ms. Ismeta Begic, GNRC Coordinator, Bosnia and Herzegovina

3.0 ENDING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE OF CHILDREN

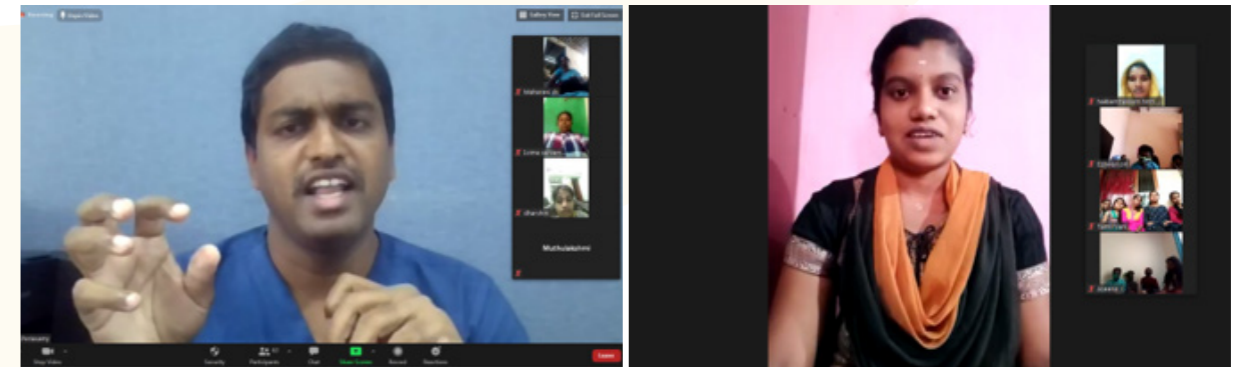


"To get married, one must be mentally and physically strong and a child is not ready. Child marriage is wrong. Education is more important in a child's life, and it should not be stopped or spoilt."

– Dharshini, child participant

3.1 Saying No to Child Sexual Abuse

GNRC India conducted four interactive sessions themed, 'Say no to child sexual abuse'. These sessions brought together a total of 1,169 children and 62 faith leaders. Discussions centered on child marriage and teenage pregnancy and included an emotional mapping activity that let the children to express the difficulties they had faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.



We are the next generation of Youth that must work to abolish child marriage and protect the children. Save the children!

– Suvetha, child participant

3.2 Keeping Children Safe Global Forum

Arigatou International was one of the organizers of the Global Forum on Child Safeguarding in Faith Communities, that took place in November 2021.

Some of the topics covered were: "Faith Spirituality and Child Safeguarding: An Interfaith Conversation around Preventing Spiritual Abuse", "Religious Values, Children's Rights and Child Safeguarding: Embracing the Ethical Imperative to Safeguard Children," and "Enhancing Child Safeguarding in Faith Communities through Child Participation: Multi-Faith Perspectives across Regions."

Other sessions explored the links between child safeguarding and child participation, and shared good practices on how to enhance protection through child participation. The panels provided a unique space to explore challenges and opportunities to ensure religious spaces are age-appropriate and child friendly and equip children to stand up and break the silence on their own abuse while working with faith leaders, families, and caregivers.



4.0 ENDING CHILD POVERTY AND SUPPORTING VULNERABLE CHILDREN



There should be no discrimination between a poor child and a rich child.

– Kathleen, child participant



4.1 Poverty Eradication

Tanzania: GNRC Tanzania and Global Peace Foundation Tanzania, The Youth of United Nations Association (YUNA) Tanzania, parents, caregivers, teachers, and other partners sensitized students (both online and in-person) on UN Sustainable Development Goals, and specifically on their role in ending child poverty and in peacebuilding. More than 500 students were reached through this advocacy.



Argentina: GNRC Argentina continued supporting vulnerable families through donations received from the Ministry of Social Development of the Buenos Aires Province.

Mexico: GNRC members in Mexico donated winter clothes and Christmas treats to Santa María del Mexicano, a Catholic residential institution in Colon, State of Queretaro, for children at risk of/victims of violence.



Colombia: GNRC Colombia is implementing community and family gardens in the province of Soacha and in Bogotá, thanks to the seed funding received this year from End Child Poverty. More than a 100 families have benefitted from agricultural trainings that have been carried out across the crop-growing cycle.

Peru: The Methodist Church currently supports 300 Awajun primary school children with school supplies and internet connection.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: GNRC Bosnia and Herzegovina provided short-term assistance to 60 vulnerable families comprising food and hygiene products. The activity was attended by Mozaik volunteers, along with facilitators who



identified and recorded all the problems the families and children faced. The total number of those served was 145, among them 40 children.

Bhutan: GNRC members in Bhutan donated clothes, toys, stationery, and blankets to children, monks, and nuns in the remote and marginalized area of Silambi geolocation from January to March 2022. These activities were implemented by 620 participants under the leadership of the Youth Society for Social Services.



4.3 Investigating the Effects of Poverty on Child Behavior in Lebanon

GNRC Lebanon and the People for People Association conducted an online symposium on identifying and addressing the effects of poverty on children's behavior which was attended by 73 adults and six children from Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Italy.

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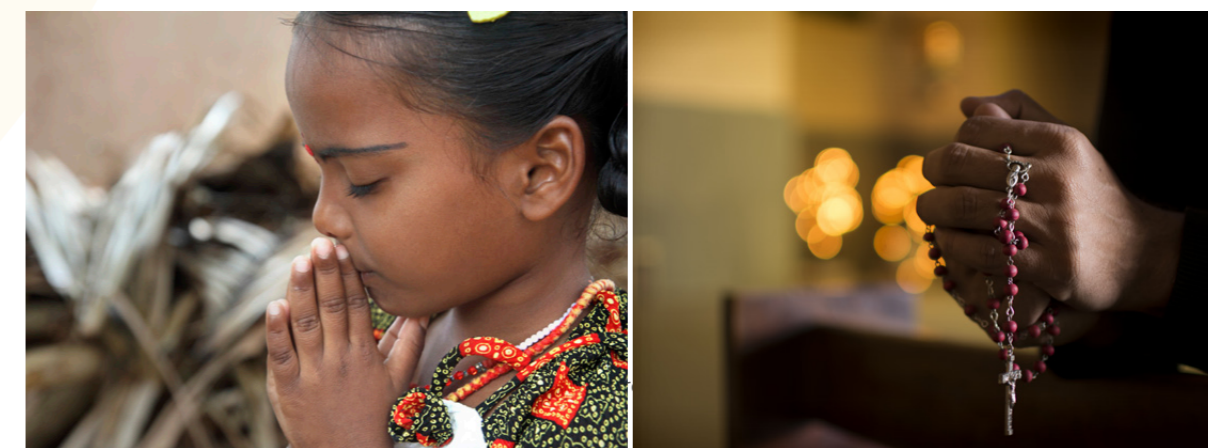
We are a people who put their hope in God. How many times during the day do we say: God ease it. God help us. God protect us? Therefore, we must strengthen our faith in the presence of God at our side and obey His call for us to live as mutually supportive and cooperative brothers. All this will bring good to our children. We hope that solutions will come soon so that our country and our children will come out of the crisis of poverty, suffering, violence, and conflict.

– Father Abdo Raad, GNRC Coordinator – Lebanon



4.2 Sensitization Workshop in Serbia

In commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP), the Sombor Educational Center and the GNRC members of Serbia organized several activities in October 2021 around child poverty. Children from the center were invited to a workshop where they discussed the effects and impacts of child poverty.



GNRC SUCCESS STORY

My Holistic Development at the Children's Peace Home

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I am a 20 year-old high school graduate student from Hindu Vidyapeeth school and currently living in Children Peace Home, an umbrella organization of Peace Service Center in Dang, the western part of Nepal run by the Yogi family.

I have spent 13 years of my life in CPH after losing my parents. I love meditation and how it has kept me, and other children calm and at peace during the pandemic.

I grew up in an abusive environment. My mother later suffered from depression and lost her life. Initially, I struggled with education but with the support of this organization, I have completed my four years bachelor's degree in Thailand with a full scholarship opportunity and have begun taking transcendental meditation.

– Pratibha Chaudhary, GNRC Youth, Nepal



GNRC Montenegro with Djeca Crne Gore – Children of Montenegro are Managing in Various Ways to Help Children with Disability.



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I am most grateful that our work is recognized countrywide, and I feel privileged to have been awarded the “Iskra Philanthropy Award”, a special recognition for civic contribution to the common good.

– Sabra Decević, GNRC Coordinator, Montenegro

5.0 CHILDREN'S CYBER SAFETY



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Increased exposure to online content has seen many children and young people manipulated and enticed by extremist recruiters online.

– Arigatou International, Global Week Report.

5.1 Children Online Safety



Pakistan: To commemorate International Day of the Girl Child 2021, GNRC members Search for Justice, and the Children's Advocacy Network-Pakistan organized an orientation session with a 100 adolescent girls in Lahore, on, 'Equal access to the online world in a safe and dignified way'. The goal was to open discussion on the digital divide between the sexes and the barriers faced by women and girls in accessing online spaces.



Cuba: Centro Cristiano Lavastida, a member of GNRC Cuba, began implementation of phase II of the Children’s Solutions Lab project “Children of the Internet” which focuses on strengthening the resilience of children affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The connecting thread with phase I is the “Children’s Story Contest”, in which 28 children participated. The objective was to encourage children’s participation and children’s empowerment through reading.



Latin America and the Caribbean: The work for developing Ethics Education Program, “Learning To Live Together (LTLT) in the Digital Environment” continued in 2021-2022, with the last focus group discussion with children from GNRC Guatemala and GNRC Nicaragua having taken place on October 28th 2021. The GNRC LAC coordinator also convened the last meeting of the Regional Advisory Group with representatives of Interamerican Children’s Institute of the Organization of American States (IIN-OAS), UNICEF, UNESCO, Globethics.net, Paniamor, and some of the LTLT trainers from the LAC region.



Romania: GNRC Romania organized a webinar for 65 teachers, including school directors, from 21 schools to equip them with the tools to prevent violence in schools and develop their capacity to implement Education for Change projects. More than 1500 children from two secondary schools and 12 high schools held over 150 sessions on how to manage their emotions and prevent violence.



“ I am honored to have participated in the implementation of various projects implemented by the GNRC which have exposed me to guides that can be used by teachers in class. The value of these educational resources is great as there is need to build safe environment in schools. I would like these guides to reach every school in Romania, so that all students benefit from awareness and ownership of their behaviors and emotions.

– Luciana Sidor, CJRAE BN School Counselor

6.0 YOUTH AND CHILDREN PARTICIPATION

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The most exciting thing that I have experienced above all in GNRC, is the freedom of expression. In a community like ours, where the child has no voice, the activities have taught us how to raise our voices and make ourselves be heard in front of an adult without being disrespectful. GNRC has helped build my self-confidence.

– Asna, GNRC Youth, Comoros



6.1 Rediscovering ‘Humility’ and ‘Humanity’

GNRC member Shanti Ashram, and the Focolare Movement, Arigatou International, University of Mumbai and other GNRC India partners organized a series of virtual workshops on “Inter-generational Reflection and Dialogue on Rediscovering ‘Humility’ and ‘Humanity’ amid the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The first workshop in April 2021 attracted over 2,125 people of various ages from 14 countries through Shanti Ashram’s Facebook live stream and a 100 directly through the Zoom call.



6.2 Supporting Children and Young People

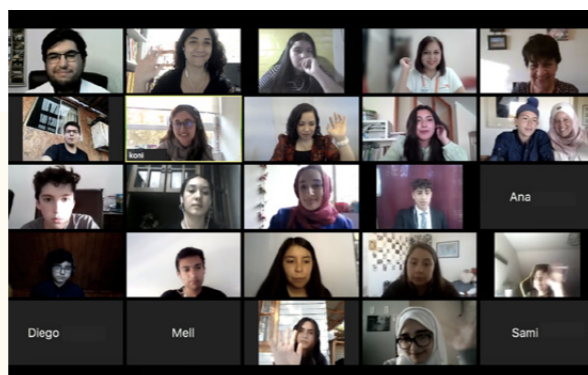
Croatia: GNRC members in Croatia and the Association for the Promotion of Creativity and Equal Opportunities Alternator organized the 13th Children's Rights Festival between October and November 2021. The event, held online, attracted more than 28,203 registered children. The aim was to support children and young people in creating opportunities for personal and professional growth and democratic empowerment.

A *matinee* was also organized for primary school students. "School Camera" featured 10 films to inspire children's creativity selected by a child psychologist, Maja Flego. Over 19,000 students from 285 primary schools, and nearly 9,000 students from 108 high schools participated.

“Listening to the participants during the sessions gave us an insight into how important emotional wellness in parenting is.”
 – Pavithra Rajagopalan, LTLT International Trainer



Indonesia: GNRC members in Indonesia under the Monsituwu Institute collaborated with six other children's organizations for an online event between 9th October and 20th November 2021. The event sought to teach children from different ethnic and religious backgrounds to instill mutual respect and respect for fellow human beings regardless of their backgrounds.



Chile: On December 12th 2021, the first meeting of the group of children from diverse GNRC faith communities took place. About 27 children between the ages of 12 and 17 representing the Jewish, Muslim, Bahá'í, Sikh, Catholic, Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran, Pentecostal Evangelical, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, met for the first time.

6.3 Peacebuilding and Climate Change



GNRC members in Senegal and the Mouvement Citoyen Pour la Paix et la Concorde partnered with Eglise de Louga to organize a series of online and face-to-face events on peacebuilding, child poverty eradication, living in harmony, and elimination of economic inequalities. The events held between October and December 2021 had a total of 190 participants including 85 children, 15 Muslim faith leaders, and five Christian leaders. The activities

also included interfaith dialogue involving religious and political leaders, a week of radio programs on peacebuilding, and distribution of food to families in need.

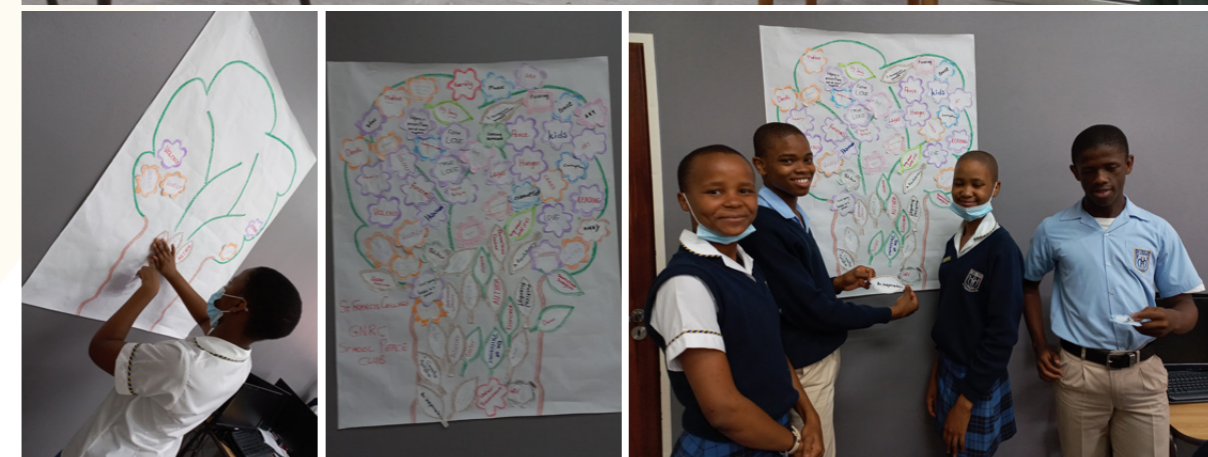
Youth Responding to Climate Change in South Africa

GNRC South Africa launched the Zimbali Zonke Garden4Life Project in commemoration of the United Nations International Day of Peace.

The Transformative Role of Peace Clubs in Africa

“Since joining the GNRC Peace Clubs in 2019 I have become aware of my rights as well as those of my fellow children and all human beings. My awareness has helped me to recognize when the rights of a child are being violated and how I can intervene. I hope that the peace clubs are expanded to reach other schools and communities with their teachings.”

– Brian, GNRC Youth, Tanzania



6.4 Children and Youth Interfaith Forum

GNRC members in South Africa organized a children’s forum, ‘Children and Youth Interfaith of South Africa’, held at the World Assembly of Muslim Youth premises. About 51 participants were involved in this activity, including 46 children and five adults. The objective of this activity was to encourage children and youth to embrace similarities and differences among themselves.



6.5 A Web Platform for Children

GNRC Macedonia, led by the First Children’s Embassy in the World Megjashi (FCEW), conducted several activities to promote child rights, key among them being the setting up of a new web platform for children and youth called *Alo Bushavko* <https://alobushavko.mk/>. About 15 children from several schools and cities participated, along with the volunteers.

How Participation in the GNRC Serbia Has Transformed My Attitude



Filip, GNRC youth, Serbia.

The “School of Good Will” is a project initiative of Sombor Educational Center, a member of the GNRC. I joined the GNRC activities in 2013, as a participant in the drama section, and gained knowledge and skills related to topics such as other cultures, tolerance, human rights, rights of children participation.

As a young person, I would like to participate in as many programs as possible, especially live events where children from different countries would be able to connect and meet each other.

I have been with GNRC Panamá since 2015, and our work has impacted Panamanian society in a good way. It has helped children and adolescents in different situations to be heard and the authorities to become aware of their situation. Even though children and adolescents are an important part of society, and are considered to be the future, not all of them are protected.

My way of thinking and viewing the world has changed. I now acknowledge parts of society that I ignored and realize that children are vulnerable.

Thanks to GNRC, I was a moderator in a conversation that was broadcast nationally. Here, girls with different realities commented on parts of society or their lives that people did not know. They implied that although they are all children, they have different world views depending on their situation(s).

We must teach children that mental health is important. Children and caregivers need to understand that spiritual centers are there to support them.

– Frida, 15 years old, Christian, GNRC Panamá

7.0 ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS TO PROTECT CHILDREN



Through our work, we aim to strengthen cooperation and partnerships across Arigatou International initiatives, the wider religious and spiritual communities and strategic players at local, national, regional and global levels.

– A commitment of the Panama Declaration

7.1 Advocacy and Partnership Actions in LAC

The former LAC Coordinator continued to represent Arigatou International and GNRC in the Global Movement for Children for Latin America and the Caribbean (MMI-LAC). On December 7th 2021, the former GNRC Coordinator for LAC participated in MMI-LAC's high-level conference on "Advancing Children's Rights in the Caribbean: Using International and Regional Human Rights Systems to Support National Efforts". Arigatou International is now a full member of MMI-LAC after completing a year as an observer.

7.2 Argentina's Pedagogy of Tenderness

GNRC Argentina organized a virtual dialogue with Alejandro Cussianovich, psycho-pedagogue, Norberto Liwski, former member and President of the Committee of the Rights of the Child, and Nobel Peace Laureate Adolfo Pérez Esquivel. The virtual dialogue, titled "Pedagogy of Tenderness", was an opportunity to reflect on the role of adults and educators in nurturing children with empathy and care so that they can make decisions in life based on what they feel and who they are. The event was very well attended, with more than 60 participants.

GNRC Red Global de Religiones a favor de la Niñez

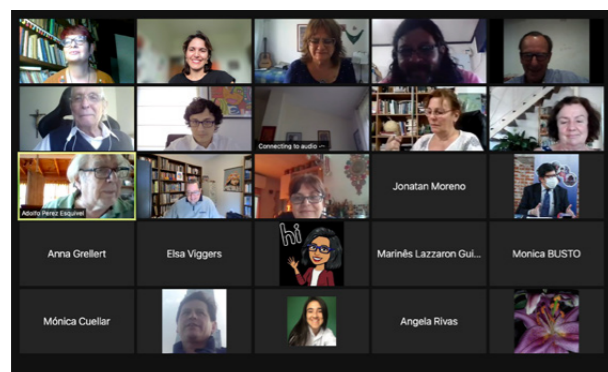
Una Red de **Arigatou International**
Todo por los Niños y las Niñas

"Pedagogia de la Ternura"
 Conversatorio con **Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Alejandro Cussianovich y Norberto Liwski**
 En el Marco del Día Mundial de Acción y Oración por la Niñez y la Campaña de Arigatou Internacional "Ponte en Mis Zapatos"

MIÉRCOLES 1 de DICIEMBRE
 18:00 GMT (Buenos Aires Georgetown)

f LIVE www.facebook.com/GNRCenArgentina/

contacto: anamvelilla@hotmail.com



7.3 Drawing Parallels Between Faith Values and Humanitarian Principles in Zanzibar

The convergence of humanitarian values in Islam and international humanitarian law was the focus of a two-day roundtable seminar on 23rd and 24th March 2022 in Zanzibar, Tanzania, in which the GNRC Secretary General, Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, was a key participant. The seminar titled "Nurturing Humanitarian Values" attracted senior religious clerics and scholars, civil society, faith-based organizations, and GNRC members from across Eastern and Southern Africa.

GNRC South Africa celebrates freedom month

GNRC South Africa on April 24th, 2021, held a Children and Youth Interfaith Network (CAYIN) Freedom Month celebration at the World Assembly of Muslim Youth in Durban. Themed "Children – Our Gift and Responsibility", the forum presented to children the essential aspects of Freedom Day and South Africa's Bill of Rights. The event was covered by the local media.



SPECIAL DAYS CELEBRATIONS

Day of the African Child



i. GNRC Burundi Turns Spotlight on Development Challenges Faced by African Children

GNRC Burundi held its annual celebration of the Day of the African Child. The event was organized specifically to discuss and identify sustainable solutions to the development challenges faced by African children. About 75 participants, including 60 children, attended the event.



ii. GNRC Tanzania Leads Common Vision for Child Rights and Advocacy

GNRC Tanzania and the Peace Clubs' Alumni celebrated the Day of the African Child 2021, and the focus was on the Children's Act articles 4 (2) and (7), which emphasize that 'children's views matter'. The program included various events, from a children's funfair to an online workshop. About 61 children participated in an LTLT silent walk activity as they visualized their country's implementation of all children's rights by the year 2040.

The International Day of Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina

GNRC Bosnia and Herzegovina organized two sports activities: one at Kemal Uzunalić Švabo Stadium and the other at Musa Ćazim Ćatić school. The police department, Catholic, Orthodox, and Islamic clergy from Visoko participated in the peace walk. An estimated 470 children participated in the events.

World Day of Prayer and Action

The Art for Physical and Mental Wellbeing in Sri Lanka

In commemoration of the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children (DPAC), the End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre in collaboration with the Sarvodaya movement, held an all-day workshop for children on art for mental wellbeing and action. Thirty-three (33) children from the Buddhist faith participated in the workshop.

Despite the pandemic, members worked across all goals of GNRC as they responded to various commitments of the Panama Declaration on Ending Violence Against Children, whose foundations are the SDGs and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Most activities happened online with few face-to-face engagements as countries eased COVID-19 restrictions.

World Day of Prayer and Action for children in the UAE

The Wear My Shoes Campaign

GNRC members in the Middle East and the North Africa (MENA) region participated in the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children celebrations organized by Prayer and Action in Dubai, UAE. The event was inaugurated by Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence in November 2021, and was attended by about a 100 participants from the UAE government, international and the civil society organizations, interfaith organizations, and private institutions.

The President of Arigatou International, and Convenor of the GNRC, Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, urged all people of goodwill, faith leaders, and faith communities to ensure all children return to school even as the world continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic.



SPECIAL:

Advocacy and Partnerships

Network Building and Strengthening

In partnership with the New York Board of Rabbis, and Humanity Auxilium, the Secretary-General participated in several online meetings to finalize the formation of GNRC USA, and to develop GNRC Canada. Additionally, he held initial talks with contact persons in Mozambique and with Al-Azhar University on the formation of GNRC Mozambique and GNRC Egypt, respectively. He also took part in a meeting with the GNRC Children’s Committee.

At the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children commemoration held on November 19th 2021, in Dubai, U.A.E, GNRC Secretary General, Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, convened a roundtable for coordinators and contact persons from the GNRC in the Middle East and the North Africa region.

As part of efforts to strengthen national GNRC Networks, Dr. Ali joined GNRC India during an Intergenerational Reflection and Dialogue on Rediscovering Humility and Humanity amid the COVID-19 Pandemic in April 2021. He also attended the Memorial Day of Shanti Ashram’s founder, Dr. M. Aram, in May 2021.

As a member of the UN Multi-Faith Advisory Council (MFAC), he participated in the planning of the Council’s annual retreat held on the 4th and 5th of April April 2022.

Addressing Various Forms of Violence Against Children and Youth

Dr. Ali was actively involved in the *Deep Dialogue* program to address violent extremism in Kenya. The Government of Kenya, GNRC Kenya, and local faith leaders have partnered to help previously radicalized young people reintegrate into their communities. He also negotiated with Kenyan government officials on extending financial support to the BRAVE program for another year.

Dr. Ali joined the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (NRTP) in the working group’s first meeting on 7th June 2021.

On 18th May and 18th June 2021, Dr. Ali joined members of the NRTP to discuss the growing turmoil in Somalia. He helped shed light on the advocacy efforts needed to help address increasing tensions in Somalia.

Participation in Peace Processes

The Secretary-General was selected to join the “go-to” eminent persons on the national mediation team with regard to Kenya’s upcoming general elections. He participated in the Diplomacy Round table Meetings organized by Religions for Peace and Ring for Peace, a symposium organized by Kenya’s National Cohesion and Integration Commission, and in a two-day online conference on “Violence in East Africa and the Horn – Religion’s contribution to conflict and peacebuilding.” During the World Bank Group-International the



The Government of Kenya, GNRC Kenya, and local faith leaders have partnered to help previously radicalized young people reintegrate into their communities.



Faith Monetary Fund 2021 Annual Meeting, the SG participated in the Moral Imperative Session, *Faith & Moral Agency: Building Resilience and Human Capital for a World in Crisis*. Dr. Ali applauded the organizers for involving children and challenged the participants to take recommendations from the children seriously and ensure that children’s rights and their well-being are the top agenda of the Faith & Moral Agency, especially during the current global crisis.

8.0 NETWORK BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING

“

Through the GNRC, religious leaders and religious communities have a unique opportunity to build their capacity to protect the rights and well-being of children and youth. These processes have ensured significant reach; thousands of young people now have hope and plans for the future and can engage their peers towards a common good.

– Sh. Ibrahim Lethome, Secretary General, Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution, and Legal Advisor, Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims

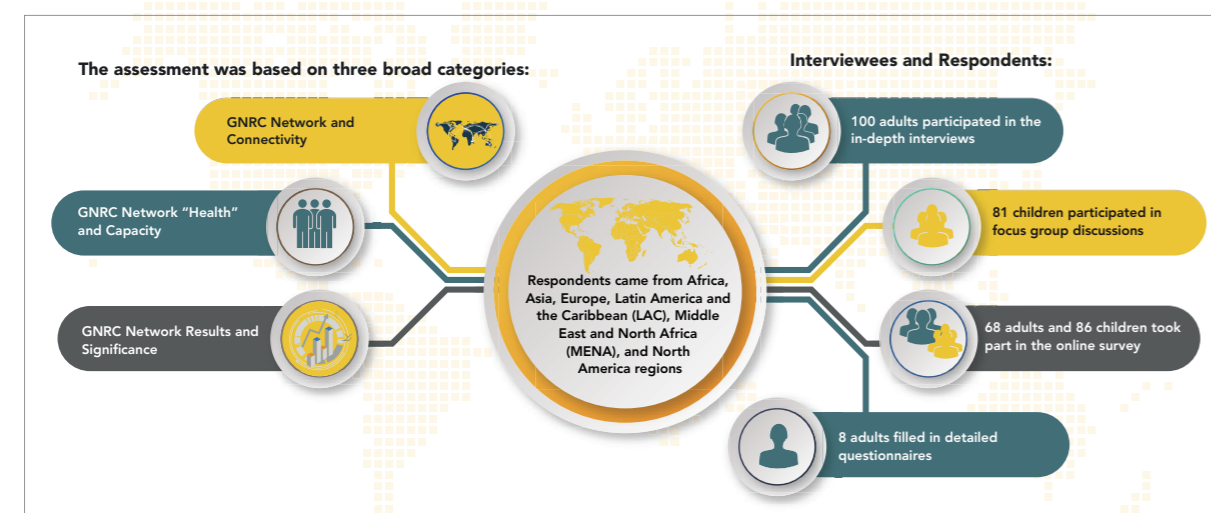
8.1 GNRC Network Assessment

Between April 2020 and October 2021, the GNRC Secretariat undertook a comprehensive Network-wide Assessment of its key elements, successes, gaps, and challenges. The goal of the Assessment was to reinvigorate, strengthen, and map out the next steps for the GNRC while building on 20 years of extensive interfaith collaboration in shaping and advocating for a better world for children.

More information on GNRC Assessment Report is available [here](#).



Key Highlights of the GNRC Assessment



Strengthening and Reinvigorating the GNRC

Reach and impact: 2016 – 2020

REGION	Number of Religious Leaders Reached Directly	Number of Other Adults Reached Directly	Number of Children Reached Directly	Total Direct Reach	Estimated Indirect Reach
Africa	6,417	201,060	187,704	395,181	>47,934,460
Asia	599	32,511	240,033	273,143	>5,696,468
Europe	78	18,218	38,534	56,830	176,536
LAC	2,865	14,778	20,473	38,116	>878,836
MENA	252	11,072	9,610	20,934	132,984
TOTAL	10,211	277,639	496,354	784,204	>54,898,372

8.2 Africa

Tanzania

GNRC Tanzania participated in an exercise organized by the Ministry of Healthy Community Development, Gender, Children and Elderly through the Kinondoni Municipality to confirm its registration as required by the government.

GNRC Tanzania also focused on reviving student peace clubs.

Kenya

GNRC members in Kenya convened virtually to inaugurate their new GNRC Country Committee.

Twenty-one participants, including the GNRC Secretary General, Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, attended the event organized by the GNRC Kenya Coordinator, Sh. Ramadhan Aula.

The GNRC Kenya Coordinator, Sh. Ramadhan Aula was among the Eminent Persons Ecumenical Program for Peace in Africa (EPEPPA) delegates who met the African Union (AU) Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security, H.E. Amb. Bankole Adegboyega Adeoye at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 17th September 2021.

South Africa

GNRC members in Durban, South Africa, in partnership with St. Francis College organized an activity on 23rd March 2022 on building and strengthening the network. Twenty-one (21) children and five adults attended the in-person event facilitated by Saydoon Nisa Sayed, the GNRC South Africa Coordinator.

8.3 Europe

As part of efforts to strengthen the Network, GNRC Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted a webinar on May 8th, 2021, to engage children, young people, and women in a free and open discussion on the work and impact of Arigatou International and its initiatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

GNRC Romania Community of Practice held a virtual meeting on September 20th 2021, aimed at strengthening the GNRC in Romania; setting up a GNRC youth network; and analyzing the needs of Romanian children. The meeting was attended by 43 people, including teachers and NGO representatives. At the meeting, various aspects of GNRC Romania’s structure were clarified. The meeting also sought to identify common objectives guiding the Network and how members cooperate.



This community of practice is a real resource for me. I meet role models here, and it inspires me a lot in my work.

– School director, Magherus

8.4 Asia

GNRC Pakistan Member, Search for Justice organized an orientation and planning meeting for the newly formed GNRC Pakistan Committee. In attendance were representatives from other organizations, including UNICEF–Pakistan and the Child Advocacy Network (CAN) Pakistan, among other grassroots partners. Representatives from the Pakistani government also attended.

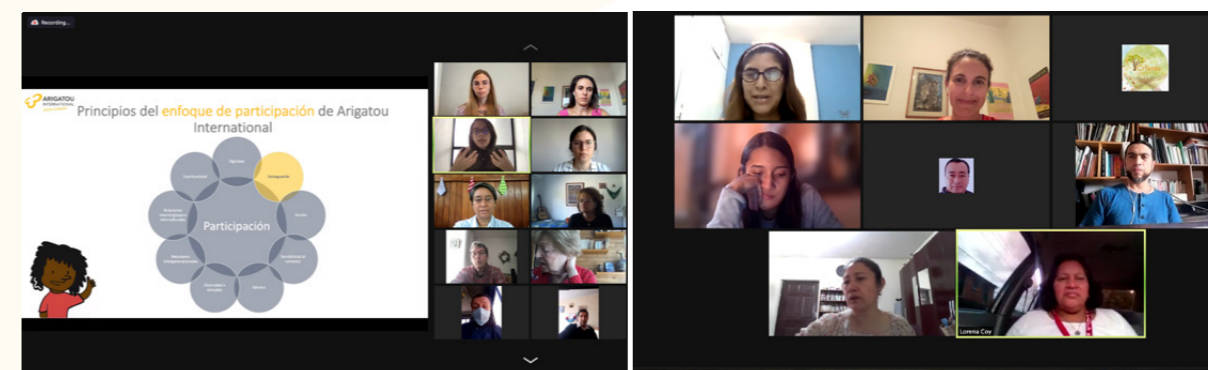
8.5 Latin America and the Caribbean

Ms. Ornella Barros, Ms. Vera Leal, and the GNRC LAC Coordinator Ms. Silvia Mazzarelli, held a webinar to introduce Arigatou’s Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct to GNRC members in LAC. The advocacy and research manager of Keeping Children Safe was also invited to introduce the concept of Child Safeguarding. The webinar was an opportunity to reflect on the links between child safeguarding and child participation and to analyze the types of child safeguarding concerns or incidents that GNRC members may face as part of their work and how to report them.

GNRC Guatemala focused on strengthening its committee, especially on membership engagement. A virtual meeting with members of the committee was held in July to discuss challenges and opportunities for GNRC-Guatemala’s development. The GNRC Youth Committee was also selected with input from the Geneva office and support from the GNRC Secretariat. As part of the strengthening process, the Committee in Guatemala organized a three-part workshop series for 115 children and youth aged 13-18.



GNRC Colombia Committee held its first face-to-face meeting of the year. It was an incredibly special moment for members to connect and energize! On August 4th 2021, Rev. Telésforo Ramos Castañeda, member and Treasurer of the National Committee of GNRC-Colombia, passed away. He was the Spiritual Director of Escuela Científica Basilio Culto a Dios and a member of the GNRC since May 2018. Thanks to his great inter-personal skills, strong alliances and cooperation agreements were forged to advance the mission of the GNRC in Colombia.



GNRC Country Communication Associates (GCCAs)

The GNRC Country Communication Associates are representatives appointed by the country coordinator and/or contact person to assist the GNRC secretariat and the Network animate its work.

The First Cohort



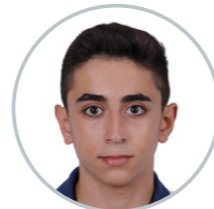
Ammar Begić
GNRC Bosnia and Herzegovina



Azhar Bacar
GNRC Comoros



Ruwaida Bana
GNRC Kenya



Jean Saade Anthony
GNRC Lebanon



Mario Alfahel
GNRC Lebanon



Mudasser Ahmad
GNRC Pakistan



Claudette Mübarak
GNRC Palestine



Teodora Ioana
GNRC Romania



Vedhan Singh
GNRC South Africa



Venance Temu
GNRC Tanzania



Nageeba Hassan
GNRC Uganda



Shadrack Bukanya
GNRC Uganda

Follow us on the following GNRC Country Social Media platforms

Country			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Gnrc_BosniaandH	gnrcbosniaandherzegovina	GNRC Bosnia & Herzegovina
Comoros	GNRCComoros	gnrccomoros	GNRC Comoros
Kenya	GnrcKenya	gnrc_kenya	GNRC Kenya
Lebanon	GNRCLebanon	gnrclebanon	GNRC Lebanon
Pakistan	GnrcPakistan	gnrc_pakistan	GNRC Pakistan
Palestine	GnrcPalestine	gnrc_palestine	GNRC Palestine
Romania	GnrcRomania	gnrcromania	GNRC Romania
South Africa	GNRCSouthAfrica	gnrcsouthafrica	GNRC South Africa
Tanzania	GnrcTanzania	gnrctanzania	GNRC-Tanzania
Uganda	GnrcUganda	gnrcuganda	GNRCUganda

GNRC Children's Committee

Since 2019, Arigatou International has supported the GNRC Children's Committee, seeking out children's insights and recommendations for our work. This year's committee included nine children from 15 to 18 years of age from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The program involves mentoring to strengthen members' understanding of child safeguarding and children's rights. The members plan for and participate fully in local, regional, and global activities, including the Online Symposium on Ethics Education and the World Day of Prayer and Action this year.

Sara, Colombia

"When children are denied the right to be heard, negative consequences such as violence can result."

Tudor, Romania

"During this pandemic, it is very important for children to get back to face-to-face classes because we learn much faster and we will have the chance to develop our social skills and feel reconnected."

Anthony, Lebanon

"Teaching people about different cultures and traditions and organizing meetings with people from around the world is a great way to protect children from discrimination."

Ivana, B&H

"We need to look at why discrimination happens, for fear of the unknown and different, stereotypes and prejudices. To solve this, we need to get to know others, their cultures, and customs, and we can only do that through education."

Pavithran, India

"When adults take children's ideas into account, they not only give children a sense of satisfaction but also of maturity to deal with a similar problem in the future."

Lucia, Panama

"Children have highly developed minds, and, like all human beings, they must be listened to and taken seriously regarding important decisions that have to do with them."

Soudjay, Comoros

"Before children had no voice, they were not considered important in the world. Now we are important, we have a voice and that makes us a little less vulnerable in this cruel world."

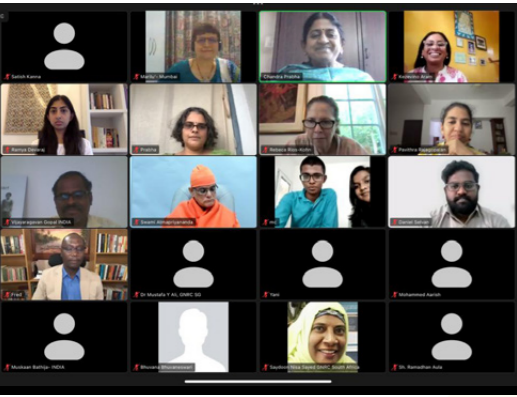
Vanesa, Dominican Republic

"Letting a child express himself and give his point of view will help him to awaken his spirit; it will also give him the ability to think for himself without being afraid."

Tamara, Mexico

"As children, we always see everything, when a situation happens, we can assess it and we can say what we believe is the best for us or for our community."

Post Assessment Implementation



9.0 RESPONDING TO COVID 19



We need to encourage a sense of solidarity as one human community and act together to overcome this threat to humankind with empathy and care for the vulnerable people including children.

– Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President of Arigatou International, Convenor, GNRC



Guatemala

In Guatemala, the GNRC produced a video on the impact of COVID-19 on the lives of children. The GNRC team interviewed religious leaders from the Bahai, Catholic, Evangelical, Buddhist, Muslim, and Indigenous traditions, and collected their testimonies and recommendations in a video that was launched on November 20th 2021, and widely disseminated through social media. Additionally, a small prayer service was organized by Puerta de Esperanza, one of the members of the GNRC, with 10 children surviving off a trash dump in Guatemala.



Sierra Leone

GNRC Sierra Leone, led by Christian Outreach Justice Mission, in partnership with the Women International League for Peace and Freetown (WILPF), held a public forum on the impacts of the pandemic on children. The meeting was held at the Freetown Community Hall, and was attended by over 125 people, including almost 50 children, their parents, religious leaders, members of parliament, government officials, teachers, and community leaders.

Ecuador

In Ecuador, the GNRC organized two face-to-face events: one in Guayaquil on December 11th 2021, and one in Quito on December 17th 2021. Both events were an opportunity to reflect on the return of children to school, evaluate the work carried out by the GNRC during the year, and to start planning for the next fiscal year. The event brought together 10 children/youth from each faith community with membership in the GNRC.



El Salvador

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to generate immense impacts in all spheres of life for the Central American countries. Even though El Salvador generated prompt policies for prevention, care, and mitigation, one of the most pressing issues is inadequate prioritization of the realities that affect “rural children” in remote or mountainous territories by different levels of state, government, and civil society.



I felt happy with the workshop because I had not seen several of my classmates for two years and although we are all from here, very close, the noise and joy were just as good as when we were at school.

– Mariella, 8 years old, El Carrizal

The people of the communities are always aware of care, not only in times of pandemic, what happens is that from urban centers we do not always recognize and value their own rhythms and times, ways of life and priorities, the wisdom with which they understand health and the community and family fabric, which is more than the Western family.

– Facilitator Rutilio Delgado, Bartolomé de las Casas Center

Uganda

Restoring and Empowering Communities (REC), a community-based initiative in Uganda and a member of the GNRC – Uganda, stepped up its outreach efforts to children and youth through phone and door-to-door meetings to counsel them and assure them of a space to engage. REC distributed food to families from underprivileged communities and worked with other community-based organizations and 10 faith leaders to sensitize the public on COVID-19. About 450 children were supported directly by the project.

Malaysia

I CAN Malaysia, the GNRC coordinating organization in Malaysia, has continued to prioritize the welfare of refugee children from the Rohingya, and other communities, whose situations have worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Forty-five (45) refugee families living in Kuala Lumpur Ampang received Ramadan relief packs with essential supplies.

To help them release stress and tension, 37 refugee children were taken on an excursion outside the camp. Capacity building in project management was also undertaken for volunteers from partner organizations to help them be more effective in their work.

Kenya

The GNRC Secretariat, through its network in Kenya, convened a roundtable meeting in Nairobi for partners on the multi-dimensional impacts of COVID-19 on children and youth. Participants included representatives from the Department for Children's Services, and several organizations, namely: - Islamic Foundation Kenya, the Pentecostal Evangelistic Fellowship of Africa – Elim Church, World Vision Kenya, Bare Care, Partnership for Economic Policy, Centre for Sustainable Conflict Resolution, National Muslim Leaders Forum, the Cry of a Young One, and Kesho Alliance.



GNRC activities helped me live through the pandemic through exchange of ideas with children from different countries, which allowed us to think together. I would advise you to increase your attention to children, to give them more opportunities and possibilities to express themselves.

– Aichat, GNRC Youth, Comoros

The major activity during the reporting period was the GNRC Network assessment, which resulted in various recommendations in all three areas of focus: Network and Connectivity; Health and Capacity; and Results and Significance. The six (6) Working Groups formed are expected to meaningfully guide the implementation of the recommendations, while offering an inclusive process with full ownership and participation of all GNRC members.

Special thanks to those who have made our work successful.



Every child born comes with a message that God has not yet despaired of humanity.

– Rabindranath Tagore

10.0 INSPIRING WOMEN OF THE GNRC

Empowering Children with Disability: GNRC Montenegro



Sabra Decević,
GNRC Coordinator,
Montenegro

The work of GNRC member “Djeca Crne Gore-Children of Montenegro” focuses on children and youth living with disability. Children attend sessions where they meet with psychologists, speech therapists, social workers, and personal assistants. We have provided these free of charge since 2016 with support from donors. In some areas where most people speak Albanian, it is a challenge to get experts who can work with children in that language. Aside from the language barrier, large class sizes prevent individualized learning plans for children in public schools, raising the potential for bullying.

Despite challenges posed by COVID-19, we assisted 21 families whose children received daily hour-long individual treatments. We organized ten workshops with families to help them overcome stress and accept their children’s unique situations. The workshops helped them establish self-care so they can be of more support to their children. Parents also learned how to play with their children and stimulate their development. Additionally, we organized trainings for 40 teachers on how to tailor educational plans to individual children and on developing transitional plans for those entering secondary school.

Our future plans include building stronger connections with institutions and practitioners to better respond to needs, and engaging more local authorities in this work. I am most grateful that our efforts are being recognized countrywide, and I feel privileged to have been awarded the Iskra Philanthropy Award, a special recognition for civic contribution to the common good.

Interfaith Cooperation in Europe



Ismeta Begić,
President, UŽ
“Mozaik,” and
GNRC Coordinator,
Bosnia and
Herzegovina

Religion in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and across Europe, is treated as a private matter, making it difficult to engage in interfaith activities that protect children. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, GNRC’s interfaith engagements began on the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children in 2012, when we mobilized children and religious leaders around advocacy and promotion of children’s rights.

Bringing religious leaders from different faith traditions to a common platform wasn’t easy. To encourage cooperation, we picked a topic they could comfortably speak about publicly. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) in 2013 also created a wonderful opportunity for interfaith cooperation. For the first time ever, religious leaders visited and supported vulnerable families. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we organized online activities to promote the role of religious leaders in providing guidance in this critical time. We now have three religious leaders from the Muslim and Christian faiths as members of GNRC Bosnia and Herzegovina committee.

In my academic studies, I conducted research which clearly showed that learning about others and cooperation are crucial to peacebuilding. We believe there is

much to be done for interfaith cooperation to gain full acceptance. What holds us back, however, is the constant uncertainty about how our messages and activities will be received in new situations and more critically, the limitations in our technical and material capacities. Working for and with children through the GNRC interfaith platform has facilitated and made it easier for us to bring faith leaders from across the religious traditions to speak together, thereby increasing mutual understanding.

Youth Responding to Climate Change in South Africa



**Ms. Saydoon
Nisa Sayed,**
GNRC Coordinator,
South Africa

With September being Heritage Month in South Africa and September 21 being the UN International Day of Peace, what better way was there to commemorate these occasions, than for GNRC South Africa to launch our Zimbali Zonke Garden4Life Project? We launched the project on September 19th 2020 at a children’s interfaith day camp held in the run-up to the United Nations International Day of Peace, and it has continued to be a platform to share and take action to mitigate climate change.

South Africa is particularly vulnerable to the impacts and effects of climate change. We see this in our weather patterns every day. Temperatures are rising and rainfall is increasing each year, causing serious problems and damage. The Sustainable Development Goals call for action to protect the planet to ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The GNRC’s mission and vision of building a better world for children include caring for our earth. We look at how we can offer balanced education to our children and youth to include care for the environment and understanding how climate change affects us. We, at GNRC South Africa, consider knowledge, understanding and action on climate change as part of our personal commitments to protect the earth.

We commit to learning more about the impacts of climate change and understand how we can support environmental action locally. It is with this in mind that we started a vegetable garden for our children at World Assembly of Muslim Youth premises in 2021. The children come in on weekends to care for the garden, and learn about environment and climate change.

The GNRC Coordinators and Contact Persons






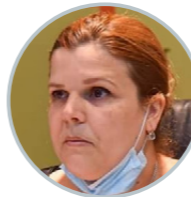



GNRC in Africa

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GNRC in Asia

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GNRC in Europe

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GNRC in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

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<p>GNRC Dominican Republic</p>  <p>Cándido Heredia Coordinator, GNRC Dominican Republic Muchachos y Muchachas con Don Bosco</p>	<p>GNRC Ecuador</p>  <p>Mr. Marco Laguatasi Coordinator, GNRC Ecuador</p>	<p>GNRC El Salvador</p>  <p>Larry Madrigal Coordinator, GNRC El Salvador</p>	<p>GNRC Guatemala</p>  <p>Lorena Coy Coordinator, GNRC Guatemala</p>	<p>GNRC Mexico</p>  <p>Sr. Diana Garcia Coordinator, GNRC Mexico</p>
<p>GNRC Nicaragua</p>  <p>Azucena Lopez Coordinator, GNRC Nicaragua</p>	<p>GNRC Peru</p>  <p>Esperanza Principiom Coordinator, GNRC Peru</p>	<p>GNRC Uruguay</p>  <p>John Hamilton Coordinator, GNRC Uruguay</p>		

GNRC in MENA

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GNRC in North America

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The GNRC Secretariat Team



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Secretary General, GNRC
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International - Nairobi



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GNRC Network and
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María José Ananías
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Sh. Ramadhan Aula
GNRC Kenya Coordinator



Madam Joyce Mdachi
GNRC Tanzania Coordinator



Zenab Bagha
Communications and Strategy

END CHILD POVERTY

Arigatou International - End Child Poverty launched its 10th anniversary campaign themed *All Out to End Child Poverty – Looking back, Forging ahead*; dubbed [ECP@10](#).



We invite you to join End Child Poverty in this campaign by taking action to address child poverty, with the help of the campaign toolkit. We also invite you to take a pledge to eradicate child poverty. Visit the campaign website for a guide on how to take a pledge and be part of the campaign in general.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AND ACTION FOR CHILDREN (DPAC)

We invite you to join us in celebrating World Day of Prayer and Action for Children (DPAC) on 20th November 2022. The day connects religious and spiritual communities and civil society organizations in a common endeavor to advocate for a world that prioritizes children's rights and that lets children flourish in caring, empowering, and protecting environments. Visit our website: <https://prayerandactionforchildren.org/>



World Day of
Prayer
and
Action
for Children

Access Arigatou International 2021 – 2022 report [here](#)



Visit our sister initiatives websites below:

Ethics Education for Children: <https://ethicseducationforchildren.org/>

Prayer and Action for Children: <https://prayerandactionforchildren.org/>

End Child Poverty: <https://endingchildpoverty.org/>



GNRC Annual Report 2021-2022

Promoting Children's Rights
Through Interfaith Advocacy

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