

EMPOWERING
CHILDREN OF WAR
TO BECOME
LEADERS FOR PEACE



exile international
empowering children of war to become leaders for peace

OUR STORY

**Their stories deserve to be heard.
Their tears cannot be ignored.**



In DR Congo and northern Uganda, more than 60,000 children have been abducted by armed forces and rebel factions. Children as young as seven years old are forced to carry weapons and participate in violent atrocities. Some are even forced to kill members of their own families and communities to rob them of any possibility of returning home. 40% of those abducted are girls - many of whom are used as sex slaves. These children are subjected to extreme levels of psychological torture and trauma.

Exile International exists to bring rehabilitative care, hope and empowerment to a generation of war-affected children and former child soldiers - because children of war can become the next leaders for peace.

OUR MISSION

Child soldiers of peace - not war

Bringing rehabilitative care and expressive trauma therapy to former child soldiers and war-affected children. Providing direct care, training local leaders and partnering with local organizations to empower survivors and caregivers in wounded communities of DR Congo and Uganda.

Given enough time and God's power, we believe Africa's next generation will be soldiers of peace rather than soldiers of war.

education



psychological care



destigmatization



art therapy



medical care



poverty/hunger



spiritual care



mentoring

AWARENESS

Through speaking engagements and events, raising awareness of the wars in DR Congo and the atrocities of numerous rebel forces, specifically the Lord's Resistance Army. By displaying the children's stories and artwork, we hope to provide information and evidence of the long-standing wars in Central and Eastern Africa to those less knowledgeable.

ADVOCACY

We are dedicated to being a voice for voices not heard. Exile International is involved in social justice initiatives - committed to increasing awareness of war-affected children, child soldiering, sexual exploitation and violence, and those oppressed in Africa. We partner with organizations seeking to educate political leaders and encourage communities to become involved in advocating for war-affected children.

2011-2012 **MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN**

1000

war-affected children, former child soldiers, and those orphaned in DR Congo, Uganda, and Sudan were provided art/expressive trauma care

300

war-affected children and former child soldiers receiving weekly group therapy, mentoring, skills training and support

200

counselors, caregivers and leaders on the ground were provided trauma care training

20

former child soldiers sponsored through Exile -- covering school tuition, housing and health care

Delivering Handwritten Letters from Child Soldiers to the President



We had the incredible opportunity to hand deliver letters from children orphaned by the LRA directly to the White House. When these children know their stories are being heard and are making a difference, it helps restore what the LRA stole from them and empowers them to take back control of their lives. Our Advocacy campaign, in partnership with Resolve in Washington, DC, enabled these young voices to be heard by congressmen and committees addressing US involvement in LRA disarmament and humanitarian relief.

COUNSELING

Providing direct care and partnering with local caregivers to bring weekly group therapy and counseling to children.

CONSTRUCTING

The first dormitory at the Peace Lives Rehabilitation Center for former child soldiers in Goma, Congo. Built with the help of the boys themselves!

ADVOCATING

We were honored to speak at the Child Soldier Education Symposium at The Hague in conjunction with the Thomas Lubunga trial at the International Criminal Court.



ART THERAPY

Workshops incorporating art, music, dance and drama provide children with avenues to share their stories - this expression being the first steps on a path of healing and finding hope.

Communicating their stories with caregivers and other children helps rebuild a sense of normalcy lost to physical and emotional traumas.

Art and expression are empowering mediums to small voices that were once taken away.

A young child with dark skin and short hair is smiling and looking towards the camera. They have a small pink sticker on their forehead. They are wearing a bright red hoodie with the word "Lawson" written in black cursive on the left chest, and blue pants. They are leaning against a wooden frame, possibly a ladder or a piece of furniture. The background is slightly blurred, showing a blue wall and a red structure.


CHILDREN of PEACE

“What we could provide during the war was crisis management. Now the hard work of rehabilitation has begun.”

- Jane Ekayu, Children of Peace

Led by social workers who have aided war-affected women and children throughout the heights of LRA attacks in northern Uganda.

Rebuilding the capacity of former child soldiers, child mothers and children born in captivity through psychosocial support, education, and livelihood support to improve their quality of life and promote self-reliance.

A group of children and adults are in a room, with many hands raised in the air. The children are in the foreground, and an adult is visible in the background. The scene suggests a group activity or therapy session.

TRAUMA CARE and COUNSELING

Bringing rehabilitative care and expressive trauma therapy to former child soldiers and war-affected children. Providing direct care, training local leaders and partnering with local organizations to empower survivors and caregivers in wounded communities of DR Congo and Uganda.



LETTERS to the PRESIDENT

We had the incredible opportunity to hand deliver letters from children orphaned by the LRA directly to the White House as we actively participated with our teammates at Resolve in Washington D.C. in our Advocacy Campaign to bring the voice of the children we work to light.

Exile International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization bringing rehabilitative care to war-affected, traumatized children.

Our work is made possible through the financial contributions of individuals, churches and other institutions.

We invite you to be part of the vision and part of our team.

There is much to be done and we are excited to be a part of their journey.

Join us. Support Exile International.
www.exileinternational.org

5123 Virginia Way B-11
Brentwood, TN 37027