



Commission on Human Rights

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Resolution 12 (2004)

Adopted by the General Assembly at its 10th meeting, on 12 August 2004

The Commission on Human Rights,

Understanding that the aim of a truth and reconciliation commission is to provide a stable basis for democracy, and that the health of a democracy depends on the participation and belief is citizens, and that a Truth and Reconciliation Commission aims at long term sustainability of its goals,

Bearing that in order for a conflict to finish within its present generation, the younger generations participation is vital to the creation or recreation of democracy so that these younger generations can continueto maintain and protect democracy,

Recognizing that children are highly affected by conflicts, that conflicts can force children into positions of great responsibility, for example, being sole carers of younger siblings or fighting as combatants, that these experiences are traumatizing and require healing but also create children who bear great responsibilities and whose positions and ideas demand respect and consideration,

Noting that Rwanda like many other countries, the responsibility for rebuilding the country is on the shoulders of a generation even younger than 18 years of age because the previous generations had been decimated during the conflict,

Holding that children have ideas, hope and beliefs aimed at reconciliation which many can learn from,

Recommends that any Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) set up in the future should try to ensure that their structure fully takes into account the urgent need to encourage the participation of young people under the age of 18 in all its processes, and that the structure reaches a very local level and is able to react and absorbs contributions from this young people;

Further recommends that funding should be ensured by the international community in order to specifically to set up training and education programmes for younger generations in countries with TRCs in order that the younger generations can all understand what is happening and be able to gain faith in the processes;

Suggests that TRCs should aim to encourage within their countries the perpetuation of recognition and respect of the sufferings, experiences and ideas of the younger generations through encouraging the setting up of Youth Parliaments so that younger generations can continue in the democratic processes of rebuilding their countries and still have for a for their ideas after the TRC has been completed.