

**REPORT OF THE WORLD DAY
OF PRAYER AND ACTION
FOR CHILDREN**

NAMIBIA

November 2012

A Joint Initiative

Between

The African Council of Religious Leaders—*Religions for Peace* (ACRL—RfP),

The Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC Africa)

And the

The Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)

Introduction

Observed on 20th November every year, the Day of Prayer and Action for Children (DPAC) is celebrated globally on Universal Children's Day (1958) and on the anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Purposely commemorated on this date, this further emphasizes that children are the priority. They have rights that need to be protected, respected and enjoyed.

The World Day of Prayer and Action for Children brings people together to pray for the well-being of children and recommit to take specific action in ensuring each child duly enjoys his/her rights. Universal Children's Day, established by the United Nations in 1954, also commemorates the 1989 adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The World Day of Prayer and Action for Children connects people and organizations to protect children. Improving the welfare of children is an urgent global challenge. By working with the world's diverse faith communities, governments and non-governmental organizations can accelerate and magnify their efforts to help children worldwide.

1.0 Namibia

Namibia joined the rest of the world in marking its first World Day of Prayer and Action for Children (DPAC) celebration that was held at the WIN Afrikaner Hostel and orphanage in the disadvantaged region of Katutura. The orphanage houses about 50 vulnerable children victims of the war in Angola, abandoned children as well as those affected and infected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic and virus respectively.

Religious leaders present spoke about the significance of DPAC and its origin while emphasizing the importance of protecting children and treating them well as prescribed in holy scriptures.



Photos: Children participating in the DPAC event in Namibia

A young representative of participating children, by the name Jahimisa, read out the children's demands which was:

“We want to live in a world free from violence, free from abuses, free from hunger free from preventable diseases and in a prayerful environment”

Later on, small tokens in form of clothes and Christmas gifts were given to the children donated by events organizers that made them very excited and thankful. Before the event's closure, participants were reminded and encouraged to always thank God, despite their problems and strive for a better world for children with the spirit of: ***“Together we can make this world a better place for our children”***