

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

SOMALILAND

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.

Hargeisa, Somaliland

School teachers and other leaders joined about 25 pupils from 6 different schools to celebrate the day with prayers. They later visited the "Dhalinta Ka'anka" children's orphanage and a centre for street children in Hargeisa.

Participants later gathered at RAYS hotel where issues of violence against children and the significance of peaceful co-existence were highly emphasized.

In his interesting presentation, activist and teacher Mohamed Hassan, narrated the importance of children and youth in a society especially the fact that children are in need of greater care and protection to make them develop to full capacity and face life with strength.

He also urged participants to pray for the millions of the world's children who are suffering and having difficult times accessing education, especially those in conflict zones and wished all children good health, peace of mind, concentration on their education, enjoyment of their full rights, protection, happiness and better life.

Participating pupils in turn asked questions such as what Islamic teachings were regarding treatment of children and criticized manipulation of young underage people by politicians to win votes.



Photos: A prayer session (L) and DPAC Participants (R) during the event in Hargeisa, Somaliland

Finally, Mr Mohammed urged the children to practise respect for each other, build peace and stability in their environments, obey their parents, work hard to learn new things and free themselves from prejudices.