



# When “real” men stop to fight

**Tuesday | 31<sup>th</sup> January 2012 | 6 – 9 pm | Albert Schweitzer Haus |  
Schwarzspanierstraße 13 | 1090 Vienna**

## **Programm**

Welcoming | Nadja Schuster | VIDC

Presentation of VIDC Study  
**Rita Schäfer** | independent consultant

Men as agents of change for gender equality and human rights  
**Dean Peacock** | Sonke Gender Justice Network South Africa

## **Break**

Armed conflicts and gender dynamics  
**Ruth Seifert** | University of Regensburg

**Panel discussion** | Rita Schäfer, Dean Peacock, Ruth Seifert

**Moderator** | Sabine Mandl | Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights

## **Reception and networking**

**Languages** | German, English with simultaneous interpretation

**Curators** | Rita Schäfer, Nadja Schuster

## **Background**

Post conflict societies are confronted with many structural problems. One of them is gender based violence. Not only women become victims, violence between young men is a serious issue. Thus, strategies against these forms of violence are important for sustainable peace processes. Furthermore, overcoming violence is a key for gender equality, human rights, social justice, health and democratic development. Changing violent behaviour patterns which were used during war times is a challenge for development programs and projects. Fortunately there are several organisations which already work in this field.

In 2011 VIDC commissioned a desk study about masculinities during and after wars and innovative gender projects, which particularly focuses on child soldiers and young men. The study "Men as perpetrators and victims in warlike conflicts – innovative projects to overcome male violence" describes the approaches by various UN-organisations and different non-governmental organisations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and South-East Europe. Besides this study documents the work Austrian development cooperation is involved with. Its geographical focus is on African countries. In addition, innovative organisations from other Central American and Asian countries are outlined. It becomes clear that many organisations work with men and boys as change agents. They include health issues and human rights approaches in their innovative work with groups of men and boys. Often these organisations network with women's rights, children's and HIV organisations. This cooperation is important in order to strengthen civil society groups as "watch dogs" that observe governmental institutions and demand the fulfilment of governmental duties.

The emphasis of this event will be on the necessity of working with men and boys in order to change masculinities and to reduce violent behaviour patterns as an important step to fulfil the guidelines and goals of Austrian Development Cooperation. These include the realization of human rights, children's rights, women's rights, the support of peace processes and gender equality.

This event and the study are linked with the VIDC work on gender issues, children's rights and child soldiers in post-conflict societies.

## Panelists

**Dean Peacock** is executive director and co-founder of the Sonke Gender Justice Network as well as a co-founder and co-chair of the MenEngage Alliance. In 1985, while in high school, he joined the End Conscription Campaign to oppose Apartheid army violence and later worked with homeless youth in Managua, Nicaragua, and with perpetrators of domestic violence in San Francisco. Mr. Peacock is a member of the UN Secretary General's Network of Men Leaders, advising the UN's UNITE Campaign to end violence against women. He is also a member of the Nobel Women's Advisory Committee on ending sexual violence in conflict settings. He has served as a consultant to many UN agencies and civil society organisations including UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Family Violence Prevention Fund. His writings have been published in many books and journals including *The Lancet*, *The Journal of AIDS*, and *the American Journal of Public Health*.

**Dr. Rita Schäfer** is an independent researcher, lecturer and consultant. She conducted several studies on gender issues in wars and the construction of masculinities in conflict and post-conflict societies, particularly in Africa. In addition, she did research on women's rights and the role of local women's organisations in development cooperation. Besides field studies in post-conflict societies like South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Sierra Leone she published several books, i.e. *Frauen und Kriege in Afrika* (2008), *Im Schatten der Apartheid* (2008)

**Prof. Dr. Ruth Seifert** is Professor of Sociology at the University of Applied Sciences in Regensburg. Currently her main research topics are gender and war as well as post-conflict reconstruction. She has conducted a research project for the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Culture on "War experience, identity and gender" dealing with Bosnian and Kosovar refugees. Before she worked on various research projects on gender issues in the German army. She was a guest professor at the University of Prishtina in 2007 and since 2005 she organizes research cooperations and student exchange programmes with this university. Her main areas of interest are: feminist theory, military sociology, gender and violence, masculinities before, during and after wars. She is author of numerous books and articles on gender and the military, gender and war, gender theory and post-war developments in Kosovo. Her publications include *Gender, Identität und kriegerischer Konflikt, Das Beispiel des ehemaligen Jugoslawien*, 2004; *Gender und Militär*, 2004, *Gender dynamics and post-conflict reconstruction* (2009) (co-author of the two latter is Christine Eifler).

**Sabine Mandl** is a researcher at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights. She works on women's rights, particular in the context of war, peace and democratization. Currently she is engaged in the EU-project "Strengthening women's capacity in peace building in the South Causasus Region". In this framework she conducted desk research on women's rights, peace and democracy in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. For several years she teaches at the Faculty of History, University of Vienna. She gives lectures on civic and human rights education, especially in the field of women's rights, political systems, media and politics. Her diploma thesis focused on mass rape in Bosnia and Herzegovina in consideration of the history of international law. She was head of the former "Service Center of Civic Education" for Austrian schools. She is a member of the network "friends of 1325". Her publications include a teacher manual on women in war, armed conflicts and peace-building, published by Center polis, Vienna 2010.