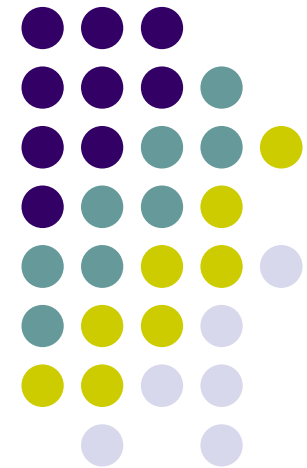


# "IMPLICATIONS OF HARMFUL CULTURAL PRACTICES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH: THE CASE OF CHILD SORCERY ACCUSATIONS

IN SOUTHERN NIGERIA"

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ELEANOR ANN NWADINOBI





# INTRODUCTION

- MWIA- New possibilities, New Frontiers
- Akwa Ibom, S.S. Nigeria, Oil rich Niger Delta region, 3,920,208, 2006 census, Land of Promise
- Child abandonment due to witchcraft accusations
- Deep-rooted belief in the existence of witchcraft
- Media, poverty and sheer greed on those profiting from the practice
- Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Congo, PNG and Angola, Zimbabwe , migrant population UK

# European Inter-University Centre



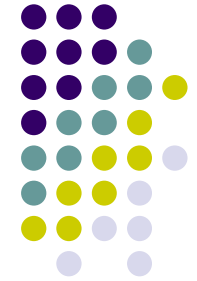
- European Union masters in Human rights and Democratisation
- Monastery San Nicolo, Lido
- Venice, Italy
- 41 participating European universities
- Thesis supervision University College Dublin, Ireland.

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



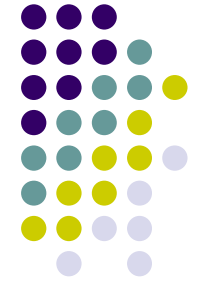
- NGO Child Rights and Rehabilitation Network (CRARN) shelter and school
- Vulnerable population
- Ethical considerations
- Semi-structured interviews
- Direct observation

# CASE STUDIES



MWIA MUNSTER 2010

# CASE STUDIES CONTINUED





# OPTIONS

## Institutionalisation- short term ,Rehabilitation, Reunification





# DISCUSSION

- Scarred, maimed and stigmatised children
- Protective layers of the ‘onion peel’ has been eroded –family, community, church, Government
- (UDHR) in Article 25 (1) adopted by the General Assembly of U N December 1948
- *Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being ....*
- *CRC Art 3 In all actions concerning children, ....the **best interests of the child** shall be a primary consideration*
- Freedom from harm, remaining healthy, and maintaining bodily integrity





# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Attitudinal change
- Heightened awareness of the Right to health
- Govt to enforce laws, counsellors, monitors
- Child “ambassadors”
- Strengthening of the protective role of families, reorientation of parents
- Faith Based Organisations change mind set of the people, CSOs
- Involvement of high profile personalities

# POST SCRIPTUM



- Channel 4 Dispatches documentary 12 of November 2008 titled “Saving Africa’s child witches”
- Child Rights Bill ,jail term of 10years for any body stigmatizing child, as a witch or wizard.
- UNICEF - radio programme, monitoring committees
- CSOs, philanthropists, MNCs, [www.crarn.net](http://www.crarn.net)

# CLOSING



- “Every child needs a home”- Desmond Tutu
- *Mahatma Gandhi "we ought to judge each society by how it treats the most vulnerable and weakest of its members"*
- “Do no harm”
- THANK YOU