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International Lounge

*Who Will Care for Me?
Children without Parental Care in Tanzania*

Bayreuth | Iwalewahaus

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Who Will Care for Me? Children without Parental Care in Tanzania

„Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation. They will be the leaders of our country, the creators of our national wealth who care for and protect our people.“ [Nelson Mandela, 3 June 1995]

The orphaned, abandoned, abused, neglected, exploited, trafficked or lost child who lacks parental care: Who cares for him? For her? Who gives this child adequate care, protection and support in a happy, loving and understanding family environment? In Tanzania, for a long time, the extended family, kin or community cared for the child. However, effects of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, chronic poverty and social disintegration have gradually weakened the traditional childcare structures. Children without parental care are left in need of alternative means of care and protection.

A study of the law and practice of alternative childcare in Tanzania attempts to answer the question of the research. It also aspires to influence reforms in the area of child welfare in Tanzania. A special reference is paid to child adoption by resident non-Tanzanians and non-resident Tanzanians to expose the role adoption could play in providing family-based care should the existing law, policy, institutional setup and practice be improved.

Biography

Florencia Kimario is a Junior Research Fellow at the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies. She is currently doing doctoral research on child adoption law in Tanzania. Ms Kimario holds a Bachelor of Law degree (LL. B-2012) and Master of Law degree in Migration and Refugee Law (LL. M-2013) from the University of Dar es Salaam. She is an academic member of staff at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law in Tanzania. Ms Kimario is passionate about the promotion and protection of human rights and access to justice. In pursuit of her passion, she worked with the Legal Aid Committee of the University of Dar es Salaam where she served as project manager from 2014 to 2016. At present, she serves as committee member to the Centre for the Study of Forced Migration at the University of Dar es Salaam. Her areas of interest include: Law of the Child, Family Law, Migration and Refugee Law, and Human Rights Law.