



*The Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations  
And*

*Refugees International invite you to the launch of*

## **Must Boys Be Boys?**

### **Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in UN Peacekeeping Missions**

a report by Refugees International

**Tuesday, October 18  
10:00 am - 11:30 pm**

**777 UN Plaza (Church Center)  
at 1st Ave. and 44th St.  
2nd Floor Conference Room**

*The event features a panel discussion with:*

- **His Royal Highness Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid al-Hussein**  
Permanent Representative to the Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations
- **Sarah Martin**  
Advocate, Refugees International and author of *Must Boys Be Boys? Ending Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in UN Peacekeeping Missions*
- **Anna Shotton**  
Focal Point on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations
- **Moderator: H.E. Mr. Augustine Mahiga of Tanzania**  
Permanent Representative to the Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations

Effective peacekeeping operations can transform conflict and bring about a stable peace so that displaced people can return home and societies can begin to rebuild. Yet, Refugees International's new report, *Must Boys Be Boys*, argues that UN peacekeeping missions have a hyper-masculine culture that encourages sexual exploitation and abuse and that a tradition of silence has evolved within UN peacekeeping operations. The common "boys will be boys" response to the behavior must end so that peacekeepers can accomplish their goals of protecting the vulnerable. The report is based on Refugees International's assessment missions to Liberia and Haiti.

The report and panel discussion provide a comprehensive look at the causes of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers, the efforts made by the UN to address the problem, and concrete recommendations for further action. Recommendations include: mainstreaming gender principles more thoroughly throughout UN peacekeeping missions, changing attitudes within senior management, increasing focus on civilian personnel, establishing effective and mandatory training programs, assisting local women's groups in filing complaints with the UN and ensuring all programs empower women in post-conflict societies.

**For more information, please contact Michelle Brown at 646-379-0542, [michelleb@refintl.org](mailto:michelleb@refintl.org)  
or Megan Fowler at 202-828-0110 x214, [megan@refintl.org](mailto:megan@refintl.org).**

Refugees International generates lifesaving humanitarian assistance and protection for displaced people around the world, and works to end the conditions that create displacement. Learn more at [www.refugeesinternational.org](http://www.refugeesinternational.org)