

Title of presentation

Artisans of Peace: empowering children and youth to promote sustainable peace (SDG 16)

Presenters

Ms Cadhla O'Sullivan

Abstract

I would like the opportunity to talk about my PhD research based in Colombia. I am working with children and youth in low and middle income settings on a performing arts based intervention. This project aims to promote pro-social behaviour that will empower children and youth to become 'artisans of peace' both now and in the future. This intervention is set with the intention of striving to achieve SDG 16 (to bring about peace, justice & strong institutions) by building the resilience of these children who have been affected by war and conflict. Through a mixed method research methodology, we have found evidence to suggest that investing in children's social emotional skills and promoting prosocial behaviour can contribute significantly to the peacebuilding process. A social ecological model has been applied to this research suggesting that changes children make within their micro-system can have a wider societal impact at the macro and exosystemic level. This demonstrates a bottom-up approach as opposed to a top-down approach making the peacebuilding process more sustainable for future generations. Although I have chosen the wild card selection, I believe the potential impact of these findings is of significant relevance to this conference, relating both the themes of education and sustainability. As my research is still in the collection phase, I believe this conference would be an ideal opportunity to disseminate some of my findings among like-minded scholars working across a variety of academic fields. Furthermore, I believe the Pecha Kucha format would be suitable considering my research is still not completed.