

## **Marital conflict in the aftermath of genocide in Rwanda: an explorative study within the context of community based sociotherapy**

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Family conflict is very prevalent in post-genocide Rwanda and appears to be increasing. A qualitative study conducted among genocide survivors, genocide perpetrators, and their respective has identified a range of genocide-related contributing factors, which are often overlooked by policy makers and practitioners. The study was conducted within the context of a psychosocial support program, community based sociotherapy (CBS), which has been implemented in Rwanda since 2005. The findings of the study indicate that these contributing factors generate a relational trauma, which affects everyday lives of the studied population and can be classified in five categories: factors related to victimisation by genocide and its consequences, genocide perpetration and its consequences, refugeehood, intermarriages, and being a descendant of a genocide survivor or a genocide perpetrator. The Study participants highly rated genocide perpetration among contributing factors and suggested that the prevalence of traumatic marital conflicts among the second generation is likely to increase unless sufficient preventive measures are taken.

### **Bio**

Emmanuel Sarabwe is a PhD candidate at the Stellenbosch University in South Africa. He holds MA in Social Work and Social Administration, and MA of Human Rights, Gender, and Conflict in Social Justice Perspective. Since 2005 he is a staff member of Sociotherapy projects in Rwanda, and he is currently head

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