

IN ITS EFFORTS TO ASSIST POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES IN AFRICA the international aid community has actively promoted projects of psycho-social healing among people traumatized during wars and violent conflict. To a large degree these projects have been established in the tradition of Western psychology. More recently, however, it has been realized in order to help survivors of war effectively it is necessary to adapt projects and enhance "local" psycho-social healing.

This policy report locates the structures - with local legitimacy - that are available to young people who experienced sexual abuse during the Sierra Leone civil war (1991-2002). To this end, this booklet discusses a healing complex that comprises a number of overlapping actors, including herbalists, Zoe Mammies (heads of the female secret societies), Mori-men (Muslim healers); Karamokos (Muslim teachers) and Christian pastors.

Sexual Abuse Survivors and the Complex of Traditional Healing

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*(G)local Prospects
in the Aftermath of an African War*

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