

The Hague, 07 April 2016

Subject: Fully Funded Opportunity: Refresher Course in Uganda 1 - 12 August 2016

Call for applications (deadline 22 May 2016)

Dear ISS Alumni,

We are delighted to invite you to apply for a Refresher Course on the theme

Implementing Alternative Care in East Africa: policy trends and best practices for children deprived of parental care

This course will be held in Kampala 1 - 12 August 2016 and is organized by the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS/EUR, The Hague; www.iss.nl) in collaboration with Alternative Care Initiatives (ACI) (www.alternative-care-initiatives.org). The Refresher Course will be led by Kristen Cheney (ISS) and Mark Riley (ACI).

Background to the objectives of the refresher course:

The number of children in institutional care in eastern Africa has increased by a factor of 15 in the last two decades. The proliferation of orphanages often encourages unnecessary separation of children from families. This deprives children of their family environment with profoundly adverse effects on their development. To reverse this trend, regional governments are re-emphasizing alternative care, i.e. foster care, kinship care, and domestic adoption, to ensure that children without parental care have a safe family environment.

The refresher course will provide the knowledge base and theoretical framework for understanding and developing best practices in alternative care. Alternative care provides an alternative to institutionalization, which is damaging to children's development, by ensuring that children without parental care have a safe family environment. The course will further participants' skills required to deliver services according to recently developed Alternative Care Frameworks (ACFs) in the region. The training will give participants a deeper understanding of ACFs and refresh their capacities in the region's formal and informal national child protection structures.

The refresher course will provide alumni of ISS Development Studies the opportunity to develop their knowledge of why children are without parental care: specifically, the push and pull factors of institutionalisation; weak child protection systems; and over-reliance on and investment in institutional care. Further the (inter-)national guidelines and legal frameworks that support alternative care models and practices will be outlined to participants, and trends, challenges and solutions for the implementation of alternative care will be discussed. The training intends to mobilise ACF advocacy and implementation actions and assist participants

in sharpening and adding new skills, e.g. in setting up and strengthening alternative care systems, advocating for family preservation, etc.

The two week refresher course will work with regional childcare professionals to improve implementation of ACF in their respective organizations, with a specific focus on gender sensitivity, through the policy formulation, social work and M/E skills acquired, creation of individual Back-Home-action-plans, and the development of a regional network for sharing knowledge, experiences and good practice. It is expected that by the end of the training participants will be able to formulate ACF-based projects and policies through a participatory, inclusive development approach and measure their progress through self-assessment, development of an action plan, and follow-up activities. Further, participants will acquire the skills necessary to analyse the key issues affecting institutionalized children and others without parental care from a child-centered, rights-based perspective. Participants will complete a self-assessment and develop a 6-month action plan that will be followed up by the organisers.

Who can apply and is eligible for the refresher course?

You are an **eligible candidate** for the refresher course if you meet the following criteria:

- You are alumni of a Dutch university and hold an MA or Diploma in Development Studies; particularly Social Policy for Development (MA); Children and Youth Studies (MA); Children, Youth and Development (postgraduate diploma); Human Rights, Development and Social Justice (MA); Women, Gender and Development (MA); or comparable disciplines;
- You received a NFP, MSP and NICHE/NPT scholarship (thus, those who were self-paying students or those with a scholarship from any other donor are not eligible);
- You are a national of, **AND** also working and living in, one of the following seven countries: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda;
- You are an alumni, having completed your NFP, MSP or NICHE/NPT-funded training or education course at least **two years** prior to the start date of the refresher course.

In addition, to apply for a refresher course you must also:

- be a professional with at least three years' work experience;
- be employed in the fields that are the focus of the refresher course, and/or can demonstrate the relevance of the refresher course for the capacity development of yourself, as an individual professional, as well as that of your organisation; have a clear-cut, functional relationship within your employing organization and/or with other relevant organisations and be in a position to introduce the newly acquired skills and knowledge into that organisation;
- be available for the entire period of the course;
- not have participated in any other NFP refresher course in the years 2014/2015 & 2015/2016;
- endorse the objective and the aims of the NFP and use the new knowledge and skills to support your employing organisation and country.

Please note that you are **NOT** eligible for a NFP fellowship if you are employed by, or have a contract with, any of the following national or international organizations:

- a multinational corporation (e.g. Shell, Unilever, Microsoft);
- a large national and/or large commercial organisation (does not apply to national level NGOs and universities);
- a bilateral donor organisation (e.g. USAID, DFID, Danida, Sida, Dutch ministry of Foreign affairs, FinAid, AusAid, ADC, SwissAid);
- a multilateral donor organisation, (e.g. a UN organisation, the World Bank, the IMF, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank);
- an international NGO (e.g. Oxfam, Plan, Care);

A small number of places are also open to:

- direct colleagues of participating alumni who work in the same organisation or organisational unit;
- one or two staff members of the partner institution, Alternative Care Initiatives, involved in the design and execution of the refresher course.

Application and selection procedures:

In order to apply, you need the following documents:

- A letter of motivation (max. 600 words) outlining:
 - your current field of work, how this relates to the refresher course, and what specifically you would hope to work on during the course;
 - your interest in the course; and its relevance for your personal development and the capacity development of your organization;
- An updated CV (max. 3 pages);
- A letter from your employer endorsing your participation in the refresher course and confirming your availability for its duration; and how the course will aid you in your role and in the organization's capacity development (max. 300 words).

Applications must be submitted **online**.

The ISS selection committee will pre-select and rank the applicants in consultation with ACI, in accordance with the criteria of regional, professional and gender balance of the refresher course participants. The pre-selected applicants will be contacted by **3 June 2016** and informed of whether or not they have been short-listed.

The final list of participants will be discussed with Nuffic. The definitive decision will be announced by **15 June 2016**.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Kind regards,

Kristen Cheney (ISS) and Mark Riley (ACI), course leaders

N.B. The same announcement and call for applications is placed on the ISS Alumni Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/issalumni>) and the ISS Alumni LinkedIn group ([https://www.linkedin.com/edu/international-institute-of-social-studies-\(iss\)-of-erasmus-university-rotterdam-42258](https://www.linkedin.com/edu/international-institute-of-social-studies-(iss)-of-erasmus-university-rotterdam-42258))

This document has been revised to reflect the extended application deadline of 22 May 2016.