

# **Children Exposed to Humiliation: From Self-Destructiveness to Healing and Hope**

by Ya'ir Ronen

Abstract presented at the 2011 Workshop on Transforming Humiliation and Violent Conflict,  
Columbia University New York, December 8-9, 2011

Children exposed to humiliation may choose paths of self-destructiveness when shame is perceived by them as inherent to their being. They are liable to find it difficult to express their authentic voices and succumb to belittling voices which they have internalized and see as their own .

It is explained how exposing the cultural biases in child upbringing and offering a child-centered rights oriented vision to the individual may free within him or her an inner potential inspiring hope and promoting healing.

It is explained how different relationships can serve this process of healing and why and how it is not limited to the therapy room.