Reviewer's report

Title: Traumatic episodes experienced during the genocide period in Rwanda influence life circumstances in young men and women 17 years later.

Version: 2
Date: 13 November 2013
Reviewer: Petra Brysiewicz

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
It does not mention if the respondents gave consent – please clarify this.

Minor Essential Revisions:
The title of the article does not accurately reflect the article contents as it is not just about traumatic episodes but also associated effects. The abstract is appropriate and reflects what is found in the article.
The question posed by the authors is fairly well defined, however there are a number of terms that should be defined early on in the article. These terms are “traumatic episodes” and “young adults” – as these terms can mean different things to different readers and the authors need to make this clear from the beginning. It is also important for the authors to explain exactly what they mean by “during lifetime”, “the genocide period” and “in the past three years” as I find these to be confusing – please make it very clear in the beginning exactly what these three episodes in the respondents lives refers to.
More detail is needed regarding the questionnaire developed – it is mentioned that the developed questionnaire was based on previously validated instruments however only one instrument is mentioned – please make this clear. Please provide more details regarding the questionnaire development as well as who translated the tool into Kinyarwanda, and how this was checked.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare I have no competing interests