Reviewer's report

Title: Ethical approaches to research with street children and youth in low- and middle-income countries

Version: 1 Date: 27 May 2015

Reviewer: Solina Richter

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:

Thank you for asking me to review this manuscript. This is especially a population that is close to my interest as part of my program of research on homelessness. The ethical consideration and application of 'western' ethical principles within the context of a low socio economic country need much more attention. This a very good attempt to explain how a research team has addressed ethical principles when conduction research in a challenging environment.

I found the paper to address the contextual issues which they bumped up against. The flow of the paper is difficult to follow. I question if they have consulted their different ethics review boards for their inputs and legal advice. I do appreciate that they used community forum to influence their decision making but this the Ethics review board found that legally and ethically acceptable.

What is the main leanings that you will advise another researcher to do if they attempt a study with a similar population and in a similar context? Can you transfer the new knowledge on the process followed to another context?

Many statements has been made without following up. I found that some of the statements made need much more critical explanations. I have added multiple sticky note within the manuscript where more explanation is needed.

My recommendation is:
- Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interest.