

Yale University

The Divinity School
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06511-2167
Telephone: 203.432.5303

Ms. Jane Wagner and Tina DiFelicianantonio
Naked Eye Productions Ltd.
130 West 26th Street, 7th Floor
(Between 6th - 7th Avenue)
New York, NY 10001

January 7, 2013

Dear Ms. Wagner and Ms. DiFelicianantonio,

I am very pleased to accept your invitation to serve as a member of the advisory board of scholars for your documentary *Seeking Refuge*. This is a most exciting and important project. Torture and other forms of sanctioned abuse is a humanitarian and social justice issue of overwhelming global importance. It is urgent that the reality of torture be brought into open discussion in the public sphere.

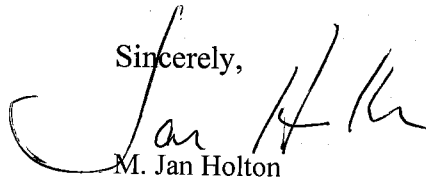
My research uses ethnographic methodology to investigate issues of psycho-spiritual care in conflict, post-conflict, and disaster zones. My book *Building the Resilient Community: Lessons from the Lost Boys of Sudan* (2011) is a study based on field research in South Sudan and refugee camps in Kenya. Here I examine and sometimes challenge conventional Western models of healing in the Sudanese context and explore how faith serves as a resource for resilience in refugee communities facing traumatic circumstances in times of war and displacement. My current book project examines the unique aspects of counseling practices related to care in communities facing various forms of displacement. Meanwhile, I am actively conducting field research among the internally displaced in eastern Congo that examines faith communities and care for victims of sexualized violence and torture.

I was impressed by the unique access this project will provide into the role of one of this country's premier rehabilitation center for the survivors of foreign torture—The Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture—I am honored to be included as a member of your advisory board. It was particularly pleasing to me to see that issues of faith and culture are inherently significant parts of the narratives of the survivors of trauma and torture in this project. I look forward to working with the project team to explore understanding ways that the personal faith of survivors have served as resources of resilience and enhance the treatment and healing process through the Bellevue Program.

Since I believe that it is vital that research be communicated to a broad audience, I think your project, combining solid scholarship with the tenets of contemporary documentary filmmaking, will provide a first-rate vehicle for the exploration of the issue of torture and its profound ramifications on every single human life affected.

Again, I am most excited by your subject matter and your plans. I look forward to hearing that you have been funded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Holton", written over the typed name.

M. Jan Holton

Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling
Yale University Divinity School
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203-432-5371
jan.holton@yale.edu