

NEWS FROM THE STREETS

12th April marks the International Day for Street Children. The day provides a platform for millions of children around the world to speak up about their rights, and what needs to be done to ensure they have access to them.

12th April 2018

Jinja District Local Government in great partnership with NGOs/CBOs and children on the streets are celebrating the International Day for Street Children

In this issue, we speak to Jinja's incredibly talented young street poets, artists and story-tellers to hear directly from them how they access their human rights, and what is stopping them.

We look at the right to education, how the community can help, and how the children themselves can work to put their rights into action.



“The Community should stop isolating the street kids. You find the community calling the street kids thieves, killers, losers. They see us as liars, and this forces street kids to hate themselves.”

Richard, 18

How do we access our rights?

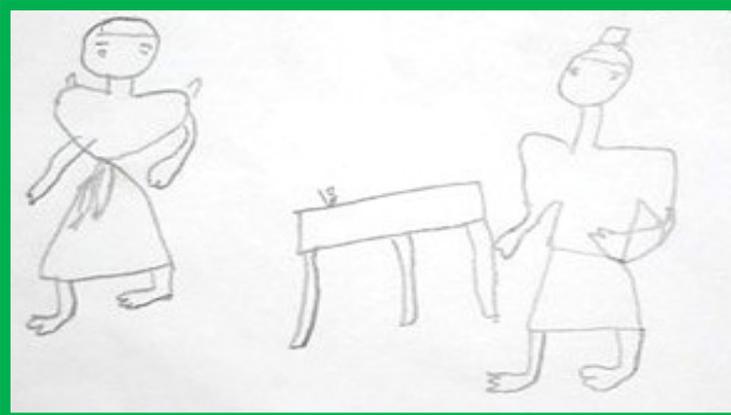
The theme for our 2018 edition is *Turn Words to Action*. We want to encourage governments to recognise and carry out the promises in the 2017 UN General Comment on Children in Street Situations.

In this issue, we're exploring what this means to children living and working on the streets of Jinja Uganda. What do their human rights mean to them? How can they realise their rights?

'Children on the street need the right to medical attention' read more on page 6

WHAT RIGHTS DO YOU KNOW?

Did you know that children have rights that are internationally protected? This means that everyone in the community should work to promote and protect these rights for children. In this section, we asked children about what rights they have, and which were the most important to them.



Right to healthcare by Kafuko, 13

“Right of protection from violence and harm”

“Right to good treatment by the police”

“Right of respect”

“Right to information”

“Right to clean water”

“Right to life”

“Right to stay with my family”

I have the right to play. My parents allow me to play whenever I finish the domestic work.

I do wish all parents to be like my parent because my parents allow me to play.

When I went to school that was also one of children's rights.

I feel happy because my parents put all my rights in action.

I have seen some parents don't give their children rights in Uganda.

Kantono, 13



MY RIGHT TO EDUCATION

‘Governments should take action to secure the ability of children in street situations to gain access to basic services such as health and education.’

UN General Comment 21 on Children in Street Situations.

I have a right to tell my parents to pay for my school fees. I have a right to be free from punishment at school. I have a right to go to school.

David, 12

I have the right of going to school. I have the right to study very hard. I have the right of trying to pass exams. I have the right to accepting counselling services from my parents or people who mentor me.

John, 13



Parents should protect our rights. They can do this by taking children to school, protecting a child to go to school. Education to be safe for all children.

Juma, 16

I can turn the right to education into action by doing the following;

- * Going to school.
- * Studying very hard.
- * Passing exams.
- * Accepting counselling by careers masters.

Ibra, 15

“Right to sleep”

“Right to speech”

“Right to work”

“Right to play”

“Right to worship”

“Right to medication”

“Right to be happy”

Oboth

“For children on the streets to have the right to medication because this is everybody's right”

Moses

“I believe I have the right to health.”

REPRESENTING OUR RIGHTS THROUGH PICTURES

“I love playing football, it is my right to play” Jonan, 12

“I wish to have a right to stay with my relatives especially my grandparents. With them they give me a chance to make decisions and I can have a say in some things.”

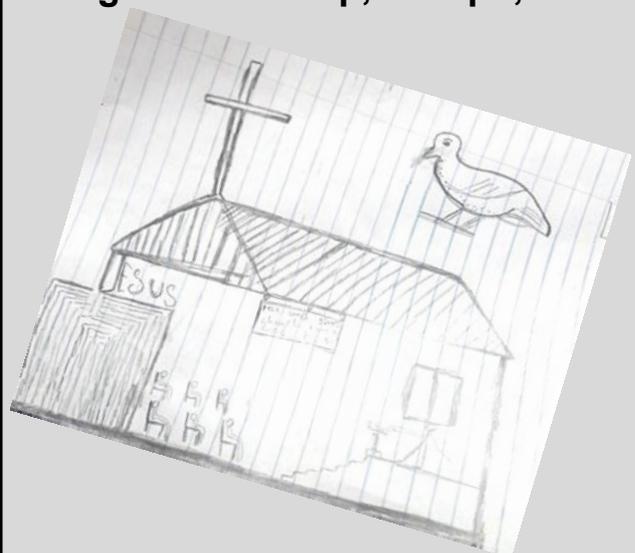
John, 14



Right to education, John, 13



Right to Worship, Joseph, 12



'RIGHTS INTO ACTION' DISCUSSED BY CHILDREN FROM THE STREETS OF JINJA

'Discrimination is one of the prime causes of children ending up in street situations. Children are then discriminated against on the basis of their connections with the street, that is, on the grounds of their social origin, property, birth or other status, resulting in lifelong negative consequences.'

UN General Comment 21 on Children in Street Situations.



"When I fall sick, my parents should take me to the hospital for treatment.

I have a right to good food at home, and being fed at all times.

I have a right to use a mattress and bed sheets at home."

Ibra, 15

Right to Play: Turn children's rights to actions

My right to play...

Parents should give children time to play.

Children should participate in all games e.g. football, netball except dangerous games like fighting, when given time.

Parents should support their children when playing, give children enough time to play and playing materials and not make children work 24/7, time off from cooking, sweeping, from sweeping to mopping from mopping to washing clothes.

I advise all parents to support and give children time to play.

Eric, 16



‘The need to protect the most vulnerable people — as in the case of street children — definitely requires an interpretation of the right to life that encompasses the minimum conditions for a life with dignity.’
UN General Comment 21 on Children in Street Situations.

Right to Education

The parents...

- * They should pay school fees in time.
- * They should provide basic needs to the children like studying materials, shoes, books, bag, pens.
- * They should follow up what their children are doing at school. For example when they take their child to school they should ask teachers if the child comes to school when they send them.
- * Parents should monitor the children's work. When it is visitation day parents should come and see the school.

The child...

- * We as children should accept to go to school and learn.
- * We should be attentive to the teachers in class when they are talking so that we can pass.
- * We should go to school daily.
- * We should ask the teachers what we don't know and they will make sure that they help us learn more.

Katilido, 13

Right to Medical Care

My right to medical care.

Parents must take children for immunisation. Parents must take children to medical centre when sick.

Ochen, 16



WHAT SHOULD THE COMMUNITY DO TO PUT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS INTO ACTION?

“The Community should not think about all street kids as thieves” Wasswa, 17

Children’s rights are basic needs or requirements that a child should have in order to enjoy and sustain their lives as children.

According to the Ugandan government a child is a person who is under the age of 18 and the following are some of the rights that the community should put into action.

A right to education, medication, food, shelter, security, a name, a right to practice a culture and some many others that have not been said.

However each right moves with responsibility that a child has to perform in order to impress the persons providing the right, hence the responsibility and right move hand in hand.

Therefore, the following are ways in which children’s rights can be put into action within the community.

Sensitising the children about the rights and responsibilities in their homes and the community at large.

Hence children then have the knowledge of their rights and responsibilities before they are put in place.

Education of ignorance in the community in order to let the community know the importance of putting children’s rights into action.

Involving collective effort of concerned persons in the community, thus stakeholders law makers, religious leaders and others.

Coming up with ways of implementing enforcement of the law should be taken in hands of law makers against people who abuse children’s rights in the public.

After the above have been done, the actions of taking children to school, for medical care, providing them with shelter, security, food, clothing and others shall be observed by the community.

Blessing, 18



WHAT CAN I DO TO PUT MY RIGHTS INTO ACTION?

The right to clean water

Cleaning water supply sources.

Listening to programs concerning water supply and protection.

Protecting waters by not defecating or urinating in them.

Filtering water before drinking it.

Keeping animals away from the water sources.

Joseph, 15

Protection from drugs

Not bringing myself close to such areas where they are taken or tempting to test them.

Avoiding peer groups.

Accepting to be counselled and following it.

Being around people who don't allow me take drugs.

Ngobi, 16



Healthcare

Accepting to be checked up against any illness.

Accepting to take tablets and receive the prescribed medication.

Accepting counselling from doctors and nurses.

Eating well cooked food and taking boiled water.

Reporting to the responsible person about any illness I may be having or feeling.

Semboga, 15

“The right to good healthcare can mean that children are well enough to play.”

WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH EACH OTHER: THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POLICE

The Government:

The government and the community have to work hand in hand to protect children's rights and for this case we mean the street kids.

So the community need to stop those common words such as thieves, as not all street children are thieves.

The government should work with the police and the community at large to find a way to help street children and also to keep some investigation from parents, the reason some decide to go to the streets but yet still have rights.



The Police:

The police should do some counselling so that they know the reasons why children are coming to the street. Police are to keep law and order. Instead of finding a child on the street and arresting him, you should find the child and advise him or her to leave the street. You should advise them instead of imprisoning them.

When it comes to the police they do follow the law, but they also can hurt them. The street children are just human beings.

Now parents just need to fulfil your responsibilities; take your kids to school, care for them, have to be loved. Support and take them as fellow members of the communities. Street children are also human beings and they are just like you.

Karlmarx, 15 and Aguma, 18

WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH EACH OTHER: PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY

The Parents:

Parents have become reluctant to their children because you find them denying them there rights.

For example, denying children education, accommodation, food.

This forces children to leave

home to the streets because of the lack of love and care to the child.

So, parents let them implement the children's rights, let the parents be the first since they are the ones owning the child and can stop them from leaving home.

The Community:

Should stop isolating the street kids.

You find the community calling the street kids as thieves, killers, losers, so they see street kids as liars.

This forces the street kids to hate themselves, hating all the

people around them, losing hope.

So the community, you should welcome the street children and greet them accordingly.

Katongole, 18

**“The right to be loved, particularly by elders and parents”
Junior, 14**

“I have the right to protection from violence and harm by doing the following;
Obeying what elders tell me, not walking at night and in darkness.
Not moving alone, following instructions.
Walking together with elders, select good people to move with.”

David, 12

“I have the right to be with my parents”
Haruna, 14

WORD SEARCH!

I A H S S T D R E W F T E L V
 C F R E E T T X K L C R I S P
 K E B E A F N V F O L O L U F
 J K R W K L P E M K O P Y Y Z
 N T B K G V T M R A V P I N K
 S E P B D L U H F A E U F X R
 T D Z S B N N C C Z P S M V U
 T U D R I G H T S A F W X S Q
 N C P T D G X V O A R A E Q E
 Y A Y N E R D L I H C E W E B
 H T G B K I F I Q W E T D N S
 L I B M O T R J D X B D I I V
 U O H Y A I Z N S E U H A O U
 Q N Q P O W N G V S N E M S N
 T W Q Z F B N Z K D U E D J X

“I feel happy
because my
parents put my
rights into action”

Kantono, 13

ACTION
 CHILDREN
 COMMUNITY
 EDUCATION
 HEALTHCARE
 LOVE
 PARENTS
 RIGHTS
 STREET
 SUPPORT



THANK YOU FOR READING NEWS FROM THE STREETS



We work with these incredible young people every day and could offer even more opportunities to them with **your support**.

Please consider **joining us** in supporting children to leave the streets of Jinja and fulfil their potential.

Support and Love Via Education International (S.A.L.V.E.):
www.salveinternational.org

Jinja Connection: www.jinjaconnection.com

This newspaper was coordinated by:



In partnership with:



We also wish to appreciate all the partners for their great efforts and contributions towards the International Day for Street Children celebrations 2018 in Jinja, including but not limited to:

