

Njia Panda Ya Tumaini

Transforming Children's Lives

E-newsletter

Issue No. 3, November 2007

NPYT survey reveals shocking abuse

Between July and September 2007 NPYT carried out a survey of 100 Kitale street children entitled 'Survey of Abuse of Street Children by Security Forces'. The children surveyed were between the ages of 10 and 19 years of age and frequented different areas of Kitale town. Our conclusions are stunning:

The vast majority of Street Children and Youth in Kitale have their basic rights regularly abused by the forces who are supposed to protect them.

Apart from the physical and mental abuse these young people receive the time they are held in cells is in violation of their constitutional rights and the fact they are held with adults is in violation of the Children's Act.

The Constitution of Kenya and the special rights afforded children in the Children's Act 2001 and subsequent amendments are not being implemented by the Kitale security personnel. Nor does it appear that the law courts insist on legal implementation.

NPYT distributed these finding to the relevant authorities with the following recommendations:

- (a) Kitale Police to identify shortfalls in training, capacity and to identify infrastructural shortcomings.
- (b) Municipal chiefs identify training needs and caution their.
- (c) Owners of Private Security Firms be advised to caution their personnel.
- (d) Once identified NPYT to try and raise funds and facilitate these.

These are the statistics:

	Boys	Girls
No. of children interviewed	74	26
Average age	14	15
Whipped	83%	69%
Slapped	18%	23%
Hit with an object	32%	4%
Tied up	12%	0
Punched	9%	4%
Shouted at	7%	8%
Pushed/shoved	8%	0
Humiliated	0	8%
Average time held with adults	87 days	13 days
Those held but not convicted/charged	68%	72%
Of those convicted, petty offences were	57%	100%

Sex Education:

At last the ice has been broken and teenagers have been able to access frank, honest and informed information on sex, sexually transmitted diseases and peer to peer HIV/AIDS prevention. Facilitating workshops at both Liyavo and Birunda projects, Gladys Gathoni (Gigi), Public Health Nurse, targeted children who are either already sexually active or likely to become so in the near future. So far she has reached out to seven primary schools and to our project children during 3 workshops. The children were very enthusiastic asking if the workshops could be repeated and if their friends could come. Gigi has a remarkable ability in facilitating such events as she is able to make people relax and encourages full participation from all her audience. This combined with her enormous knowledge database has been invaluable. One family planning workshop has also been held specifically targeting the families of children in our care. We hope that through awareness and provision of family planning numbers of street and other destitute children will reduce in future generations.

Income Generation:

NPYT has started renting out plastic chairs as an income generating activity. Chairs and tents are often hired for functions such as weddings and funerals. With the initial 510 chairs we hope to raise funds to purchase more - eventually totalling 1,000 we can generate enough income to completely cover the food costs of all NPYT projects. Book online at www.npyt.org Also for hire are the Liyavo Community Hall and advertising space on our website.

NPYT website www.npyt.org

please visit.

Contact us: info@npyt.org

PO Box 945, Kitale 30200, Kenya.

© npyt 2007

Subscribe or unsubscribe at info@npyt.org