# My Body is My Body

## Keeping Children Safe

*July 2023*

*By: Chrissy Sykes*





# I would like to welcome you all to the My Body is My Body Foundation Newsletter

Over the past years, I have been inspired by the incredible MBIMB Ambassadors and Volunteers who have been part of our journey. It has been such a great pleasure to share these stories through our newsletters.

In a world that sometimes feels overwhelming with pain and sadness, it fills me with tremendous hope to witness the genuine compassion and selflessness of the people we collaborate with. They dedicate their time, resources, and care to various projects, making a positive impact on countless lives.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the remarkable MBIMB Ambassadors who are making a real difference in children's lives. Through their efforts, they are empowering children, educators, and parents by educating them about body safety.

The heartfelt letters we receive about how the MBIMB Programme is transforming communities are truly touching. However, our work is far from complete.

If you haven't yet joined us and you share our passion for The MBIMB Programme, which is GGAF's core educational programme, I invite you to reach out to me at www.mbimb.org. or on Linkedin. Together, we can continue to make a lasting difference.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your support and dedication.

Chrissy



## I would like to share some feedback by Dr John Harrison LITERA VALLEY SCHOOL



*** Ms. Sneha Kumari (Computer Teacher Grade 4-5 Teacher)**

"The students absolutely love the MBIMB Class in which they are taught how to say NO to child abuse and how to protect themselves. MBIMB Program has helped them immensely as thy now even educate their parents about it."

*** Ms. Rashmi Pathak (Primary Coordinator)**

"The kids absolutely love the MBIMB Songs. They enjoy singing it. SO much of learning through fun happens during the MBIMB Class. The small kids have actually understood a lot about their bodies through this beautiful program."

*** Ms. Rohini Roy (Maths Teacher Grade 9-10)**

"The students have become so aware about this topic. The whole family stands educated. The parents are so grateful that we've educated their kids on this pertinent topic. The students are so respectful now towards one another. All of them have become MBIMB Ambassadors".

WEBSITE

ON OUR WEBSITE YOU WILL FIND

- MBIMB PROGRAMME IN 27 LANGUAGES
- FREE COURSES
- FREE RESOURCES IN 27 LANGUAGES
- OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- OUR HISTORY
- OUR AMBASSADORS
- OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS
- HOW TO DATE TO MBIMB
- OUR NEWSLETTER
- OUR BLOGS

FACEBOOK

YOUTUBE

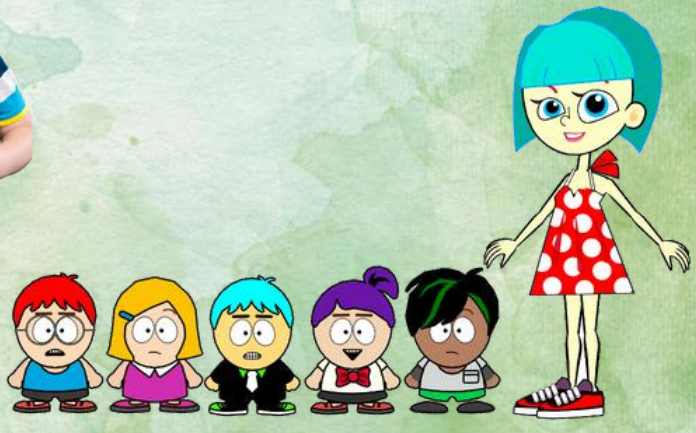
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LINKEDIN

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# GGAF & MBIMB COMPETITION 2023

## *Entry closing date 31st August*

## Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of children and join the movement of child abuse prevention?

***We are excited to announce the GGAF and MBIMB Competition, where you and your students/children can actively participate and spread awareness about the crucial issue of child safeguarding. Not only will this competition engage your students/children in a creative and interactive way, but it will also empower them to take ownership of their bodies. Plus, there's a chance to win 3 X $300 prizes!***

# Singing Competition:

## Let Their Voices Be Heard

Music has a powerful way of conveying messages, and we invite your students to showcase their singing skills by participating in our GGAF and MBIMB singing competition. With six inspiring MBIMB songs to choose from, children can select the one that resonates with them the most. Whether they perform as a class or individually, they have the freedom to create their own backing track using any instruments they have or utilize the track we provide. This competition not only nurtures their musical talents but also amplifies the message of body autonomy and child safety education through the power of their voices.

**Click Here to Register and download the songs**



# GGAF & MBIMB COMPETITION 2023

***Entry closing date 31st August***

## Dance Competition:
## Unleash Creativity and Individuality

Dancing is a universal language that allows individuals to express themselves in unique and captivating ways. In our MBIMB dance competition, your students have the opportunity to choreograph a dance routine to any of the "My Body is My Body" songs. Encourage them to embrace their creativity and showcase their individuality through their dance moves. This competition not only fosters self-expression but also reinforces the importance of personal boundaries and body autonomy. Let the rhythm guide them to spread the message of child protection through their artistic movements

## Poster Competition:
## Inspiring Creativity and Body Safety

Encourage your students to unleash their artistic talents and design eye-catching posters that promote body safety. The posters should prominently feature the empowering phrase "My Body is My Body," which serves as a reminder to children that they have the right to personal boundaries and autonomy over their own bodies. Let their imaginations soar as they create visuals that convey the importance of respecting one another's boundaries

**Click Here to Register and download the songs**



## Who can enter?
## Schools, Charities, NGO's, Children's Clubs

Participating in the GGAF and MBIMB Competition not only engages your students in a fun and interactive manner but also serves as a platform to initiate conversations about child abuse prevention. By encouraging them to express their understanding of body safety through posters, singing, and dancing, you empower them to become advocates for themselves and their peers.

# GGAF & MBIMB COMPETITION 2023

## Calling all Schools and NGO's
## Enter the GGAF & MBIMB Competition for a
## Chance to Win $300!

### Poster Competition




### Dancing Competition




### Singing Competition






**Click Here to Find Out More**

# GGAF & MBIMB COMPETITION 2023



## Design a Poster
## Sing Your Heart Out
## Dance to Empower!



## Enter the GGAF & MBIMB Competition






**Click Here to Find Out More**




# MYTHS BUSTERS – WHAT TEACHERS ARE… AND WHAT THEY ARE NOT

By: Dee G. Russell-Thomas




***Everyone has been to school***
***Everyone remembers their teachers***
***Everyone recalls their school-days***
***Everyone feels they know everything about teachers, schools and teaching***
***BUT…. DO THEY?***

Teachers have a position of influence…. They will be remembered…. It could be for the right reasons. It could be for the wrong ones.

Just as with any other profession in the world… there are “The good, the bad and the ugly!”

In my experience most teachers go into the profession because they want to make a difference… a positive difference.

## MYTH or TRUTH Teaching is easy!

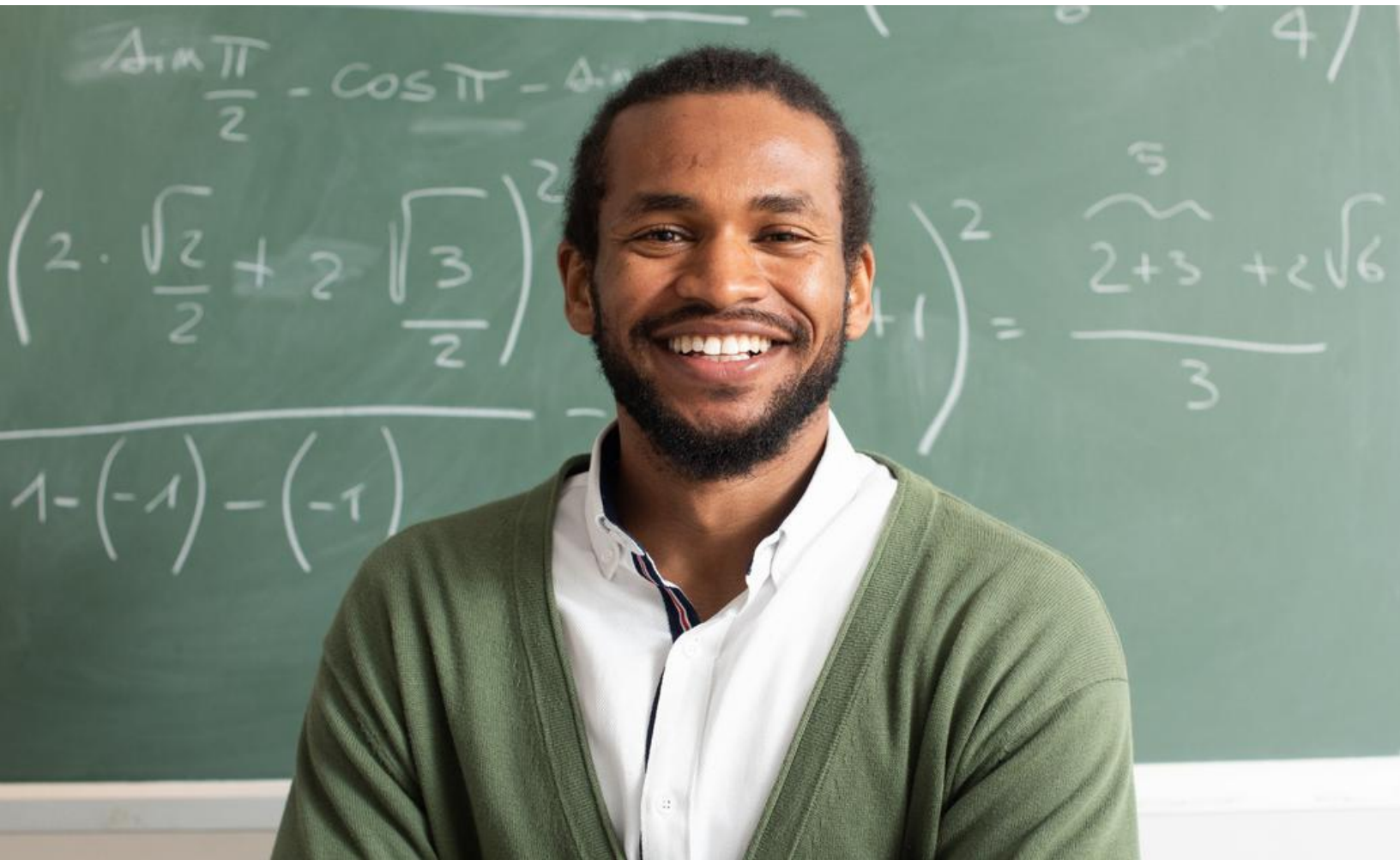
Whoever says this has never taught or understood, the need for...preparation, marking, patience, exam preparation, classroom management, reports, parents evenings, deadlines, nurse, child minder, carer, social worker, parent, counsellor, mediator and on and on

## MYTH OR TRUTH Teachers work 9.00- 3.00 and have endless holidays

Teachers work before and after school hours
They work a large percentage of their holidays and over every weekend

## MYTH OR TRUTH Teachers just sit behind desk all day

Teachers work before and after school hours
They work a large percentage of their holidays and over every weekend



## MYTH OR TRUTH
## Primary teachers don't need to be very academic

Teachers require a degree to be able to teach in most countries nowadays. They are expected to understand methodology, pedagogy.

Not only do they need subject knowledge they need to understand how children learn, why children fail, how they can be motivated, what are the barriers and how to personalise learning

Just try it!
Teaching needs patience, understanding,
Anyone can be acreativity, ability to reach children, classroom management, knowledge, commitmet, energy....teacher

## MYTH OR TRUTH
## Anyone can be a teacher

## MYTH OR TRUTH
## Teachers build up a resilience against germs and bugs and do not get sick

Not true ... as the recent pandemic has shown.... Teachers pick up germs and viruses just like other people



## MYTH OR TRUTH
## Those who can do... those who can't teach

Teaching is an under-valued but highly specialised field. Teachers teach all other professions... they educate future scientists, business entrepreneurs, doctors, surgeons, astronauts, reporters, judges, lawyers, dentists, engineers .... Everyone who goes through school!

## MYTH OR TRUTH
## Teachers are over-paid

Anyone wanting to make a huge amount of money would never go into the teaching profession!

No-one is saying it is awful pay but... it is certainly not on a par with many other professions..

## MYTH OR TRUTH
## Teachers have a lot of spare time during the day

No they do not. They have lesson after lesson with few gaps in between. In the break and lunch times they may be on duty, if not they are often dealing with an incident, a distressed child or preparing the class for the next session. If they do have a prep lesson it is often taken to cover a staff absence



**MYTH OR TRUTH**
**Students always behave**

All teachers know this is not true and that classroom management can be one of the hardest things for a new teacher to learn. Discipline , respect, interest and motivation are all key aspects of class control and this can be exceptionally tough and has been known to break a teacher.
It is not always easy.

**MYTH OR TRUTH**
**Teachers have all the resources they need and don't buy extra**

Many schools operate on a low budget. Teachers want the best for their pupils so they often buy extras out of their own money.

**And, the last one....**
**MYTH OR TRUTH**
**Going into the teaching profession is a waste of time**

Absolutely not!
Although we have explored the myths around how easy teaching is and we have acknowledged the work-load, the challenges and the misconceptions....
Teaching can be VERY rewarding.
To all dedicated, hard-working teachers, Head Teachers, support staff and teaching assistants...



# MYTH OR TRUTH
# Going into the teaching profession is a waste of time

Absolutely not!

Although we have explored the myths around how easy teaching is and we have acknowledged the work-load, the challenges and the misconceptions.... Teaching can be VERY rewarding.

To all dedicated, hard-working teachers, Head Teachers, support staff and teaching assistants... THANK YOU






# Parent's guide to protecting children online

By Chrissy Sykes



*In the digital age, children have unprecedented access to information and interactions. While this presents many opportunities, it can also expose them to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content, and potential violations of their privacy. As a parent, it's essential to understand these risks and learn how to help your child navigate this terrain. Let's discuss three significant concerns: encountering upsetting images, cyberbullying, and the sharing of explicit images.*

## Encountering Upsetting Images Online

Children stumbling upon inappropriate or disturbing content online can be a deeply unsettling experience. **Here's what you can do as a parent:**

**Open the lines of communication:** Encourage your child to share their experiences online, the good and the bad. Make sure they know they can come to you if they stumble across something that makes them uncomfortable.

**Empathy is key:** React calmly and empathetically. Thank them for confiding in you, acknowledge their feelings, and assure them they've done nothing wrong.

**Implement safety measures:** Employ internet filters, parental controls, and monitor online activities for younger children. Show your older kids how to block or report inappropriate content.

**Educate:** Teach your child about the realities of the internet. Explain that not all content online is appropriate for their age or true, and how to discern trustworthy sources.



## Addressing Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying can have significant psychological impacts on a child. Here are some ideas on how to address it:

**Listen and Validate:** If your child shares they're being bullied, listen attentively, and validate their feelings. Avoid blame. These issues can be incredibly painful and real for your child.

**Gather Information:** Collect all the details about the bullying, including saving relevant emails, texts, or social media posts.

**Report:** Report the bullying to the appropriate authorities, including school officials and, if applicable, social media platforms or law enforcement.

**Educate:** Teach your child about the realities of the internet. Explain that not all content online is appropriate for their age or true, and how to discern trustworthy sources.

**Empower:** Help your child understand that they don't deserve this treatment and provide them with coping strategies. Encourage them to engage in offline activities they enjoy to maintain a positive self-image and sense of worth.

**Monitor and Support:** Regularly check in on your child's online activity and mental health. Provide professional support if necessary.



## Sharing of Explicit Images

Discovering your child has shared explicit images can be a distressing revelation. Here are some ideas on how to handle the situation.

**Stay Calm:** Your child is likely already scared or embarrassed. Reacting in anger can push them away. Stay calm and open up a conversation about the situation.

**Get the Facts:** Understand the whole scenario before taking action. Who was involved, where were the images shared, are they still accessible?

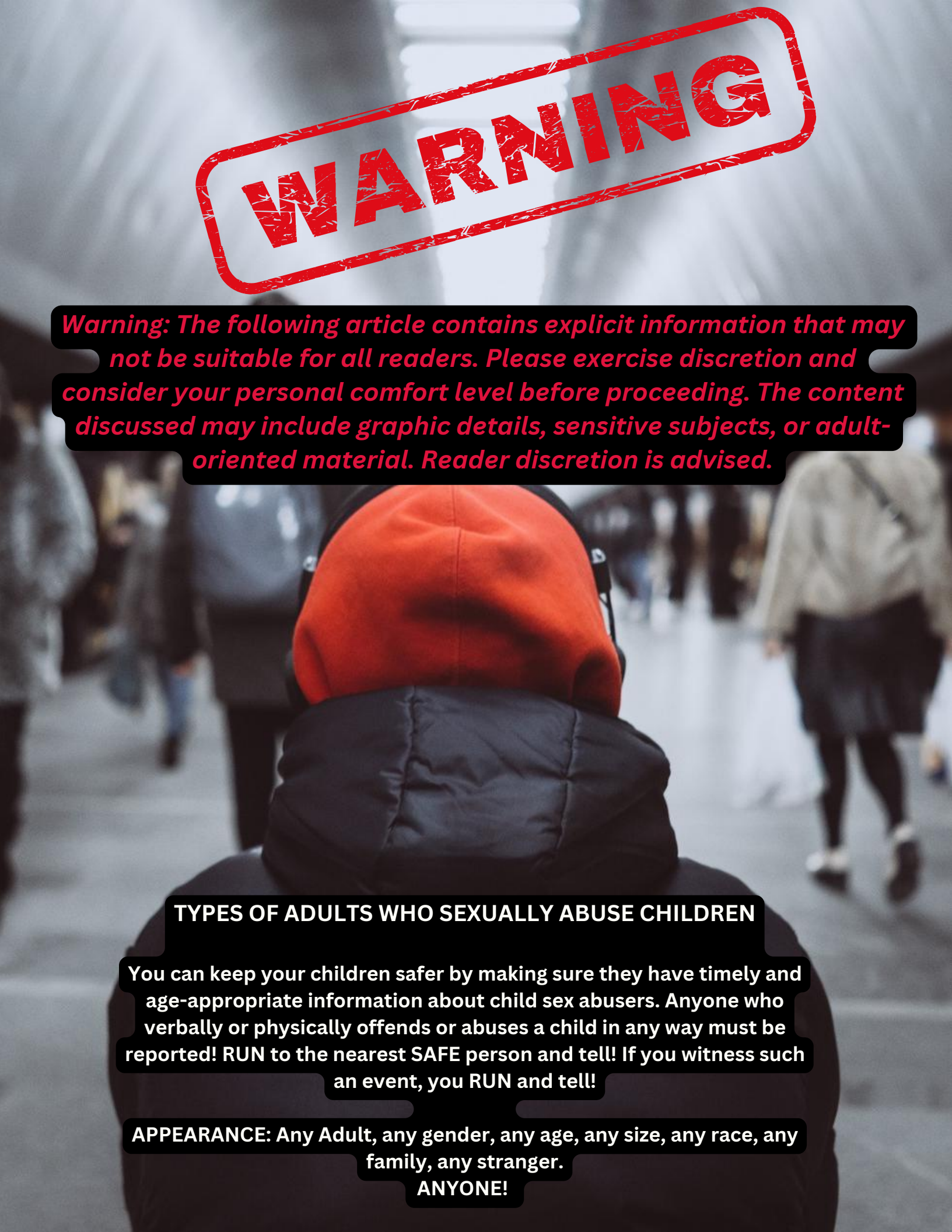
**Report and Remove:** Report the situation to any platforms involved and ask for the images to be removed. If the images were shared without your child's consent or if the recipient is an adult, report this to law enforcement.

**Educate:** This is a crucial moment to discuss the implications of sharing explicit content, including the legal consequences and potential emotional and reputational harm.

**Provide Support:** It may be worth consulting with a mental health professional who can provide your child with coping mechanisms to deal with any resulting shame, guilt, or anxiety.

As we venture deeper into the Internet era, we must take active steps to protect our children from the hidden dangers that lurk beyond the screen. By blending education, technology, and open communication, we can transform the Internet into a safe, enriching space for our youngest digital citizens.

**Look our for our New Course for Parents and Teachers Called:**
**Digital Discoverers: Young Explorers Navigating the Internet**




*Warning: The following article contains explicit information that may not be suitable for all readers. Please exercise discretion and consider your personal comfort level before proceeding. The content discussed may include graphic details, sensitive subjects, or adult-oriented material. Reader discretion is advised.*

## TYPES OF ADULTS WHO SEXUALLY ABUSE CHILDREN

You can keep your children safer by making sure they have timely and age-appropriate information about child sex abusers. Anyone who verbally or physically offends or abuses a child in any way must be reported! RUN to the nearest SAFE person and tell! If you witness such an event, you RUN and tell!

APPEARANCE: Any Adult, any gender, any age, any size, any race, any family, any stranger.
ANYONE!

# TYPES OF SEXUAL ABUSERS



***By Wanda Holding***
***MA, Clinical Psychology***

**“Look at me” Abuser (the Exibitionist):**
This abuser wants to show his private parts to children or vulnerable adults. Often the abuser will be in a car parked where fewer children walk by. The abuser will open his window and offer candy to children walking by or invite them to see his puppy. The abuser enjoys the shock when children view his private area. RUN to the nearest SAFE person and tell!

**“The Charmer” Abuser (The Seducer):**
This abuser is very friendly and able to talk to children about things they like. He will often tell them they are pretty or handsome. This is called “grooming”and the goal is to seduce the child with subtle flirting. The abuser soon begins to touch as he believes the child likes him and will soon as for a kiss or hug. The hope is that the child will willingly engage in other sexual touching and penetration. RUN to the nearest SAFE person and tell!

**“Stay at Home Abuser” (The low self-esteem or lazy Abuser):**
This abuser treats his children like possessions, whether his children or their friends and feels free to “tease” them by squeezing a nipple or putting hands on the private areas. The abuser starts at early ages and children often think it's normal. Unless the child realizes abuse is happening, it may progress to penetration. RUN to the nearest SAFE person and tell!

**“No Conscience or Morals Abuser ”** (The Most Dangerous!)
Sexual penetration is the goal. This abuser will use physical violence to get what is wanted. KICK, SCREAM, BITE, PULL HAIR, DO ANYTHING TO GET AWAY. THEN RUN to the nearest SAFE person and tell!

**WE RECOMMEND THE “MY BODY IS MY BODY” PROGRAMME FOR YOUR CHILD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

# Darren Hart Foundation

On 2nd July 2023, The Darren Hart Foundation (DHF) and the Global Goodwill Ambassadors Foundation (GGAF) made a most successful visit to an area of deprivation in Kenya. They undertook this initiative to provide food to the hungry children in the Kibera slum area. At the same time, they also taught the “My Body Is My Body Program” to help children gain greater awareness into how to protect themselves and learn how to say “No” if approached to do anything they feel uncomfortable with.

Children also received a menstrual hygiene talk and discussions on academic mentorship. This area suffers from extensive and intensive poverty and is in great need of support.

During this planned visit. The foundation was able to feed a hundred children as well as providing sanitary pads to forty girls. The children were aged between three to sixteen years old. Led by Darren Hart from GGAF and Mesry Lung’ato from the DHF, they supported the children by providing them food for the day.

On the topic of “My Body is My Body.” children were made aware of saying no to secrets and speaking out against the abuses they can receive such as being beaten too hard, kicked, burnt, punched as well as touched inappropriately. They were sensitized on having a right to their body and if, at any point they are abused, they are encouraged to report it to a safe adult.

The response received from the children’s home visit was really motivational, the children were really happy and open to the visitors and could not hide their joy. They were willing to express their feelings and ideas and were really bold in how they interacted with all those present. It was a most successful experience for all

**KEY OBSERVATIONS:**

- Most of the youngsters were walking bare footed because they did not have shoes.
- Several had torn and very dirty clothes and some you could see several repairs on their clothes.
- Some of the children really don't go to school, and investigations revealed that some parents are just unable to pay school expenses.
- There was also the presence of young mothers who clearly need help; both in material support and their mental wellness.

These visits not only assist the children in their education, awareness of protection, the chance of better food and clothing but the also serves to inform and plan for the future.

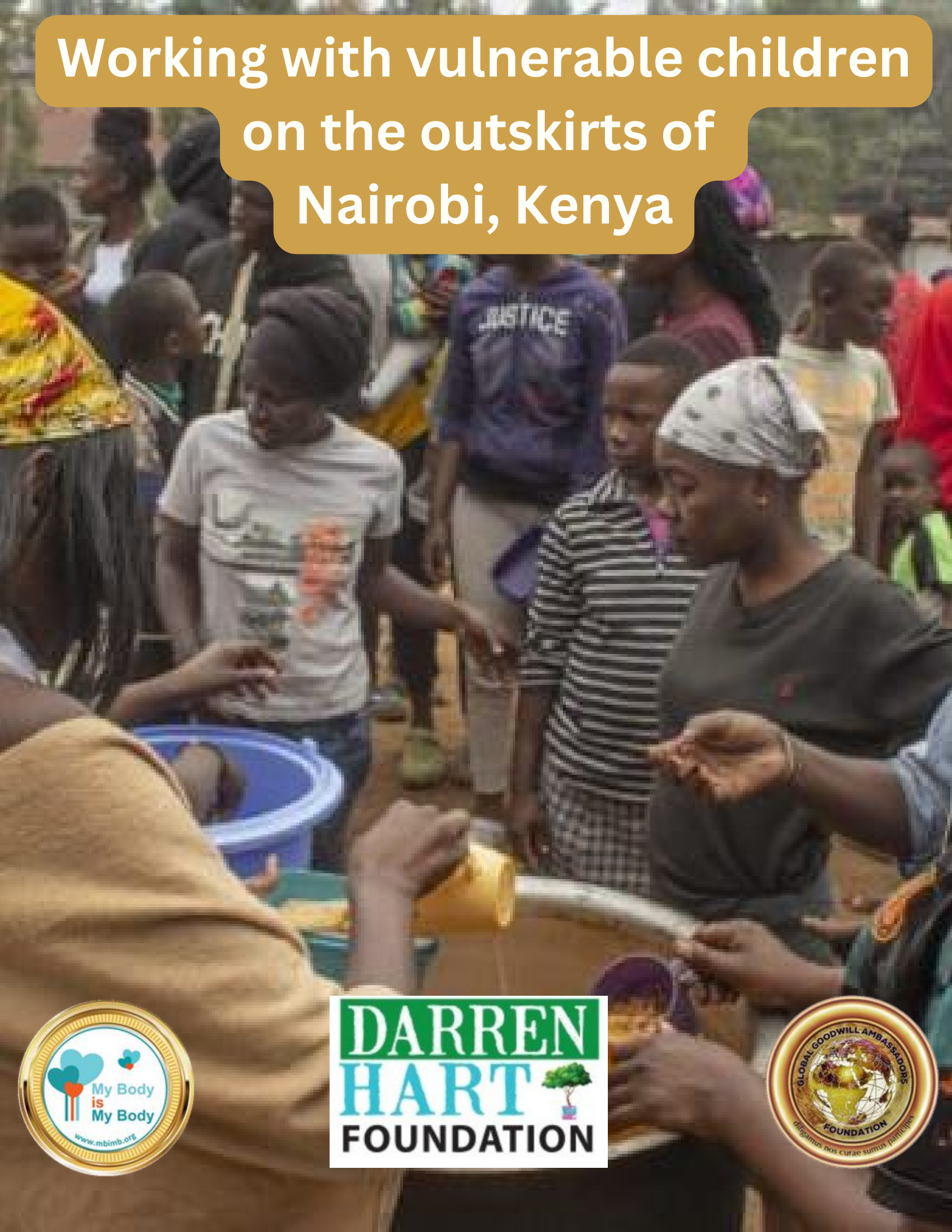









# Working with vulnerable children on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya




My Body is My Body
www.mbimb.org

DARREN HART FOUNDATION

GLOBAL GOODWILL AMBASSADORS FOUNDATION

# Working with vulnerable children on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya

The Memorial Children's Centre Orphanage has approximately 75 children who have neither mothers nor fathers nor, indeed any family to support them. They are aged between one and 13 years. Due to the shortage of food in this area, this home however, takes on board fare mor than the allocated 75 and sometimes needs to host over 200 children who come from vulnerable homes. They arrive hungry and in need of a basic meal. The children come to the orphanage to learn and to be taught basic but valuable life skills such as washing utensils, maintaining cleanliness in their environment and proper hand washing techniques for the little ones.
This centre is located about seven kilometres from Naivasha which is just outside Nairobi in Kenya. When the children attend the centre, they are provided with donations as well as food.

During a recent visit by members of the Darren Hart Foundation who conducted a background check, it was noted that there is still a severe shortage of food, clothing, shoes for both the children as well as the need for stationary to enable them to learn. The younger children rely on porridge and are facing severe difficulties in accessing easily consumable food.

**The report has recommended addressing the following objectives: –**
**√** Securing donations of dry foods, clothes and stationery for the memorial Children's Centre orphanage
**√** Allocating a portion of the received funds to pay for the examinations of older children who are eligible to take them
**√** Providing dewormers for the children
**√** Conducting the My Body Is My Body Programme in order to keep children safe from abuse
**√** Cutting a cake with children
**√** Dancing with the children

It is anticipated that on the 24th of July the Darren Heart Foundation will deliver donations and support the orphanage in achieving these objectives.
The vision continues and it is hoped that greater support can be given to covering the examination fees for older children who are eligible to take exams, deworming for the children to ensure their health and well-being are being safeguarded, finding appropriate foods which will help to sustain children's nutritional needs, donations of clothing shoes and toys to support the vulnerable children and also stationary supplies to assist with their educational development and helping them to thrive academically.

This work is important and all support and encouragement is greatly appreciated.
Our children are our future




JIMETA, YOLA
ADAMAWA STATE

# MUJIB HOPE FOUNDATION

## By Muniratu Jibrin

On Tuesday, July 4th, 2023, the dedicated team from the Mujib Hope Foundation Adamawa embarked on an impactful mission. They conducted an enlightening and empowering Child Abuse Sensitization Program under the banner of "My Body Is My Body" at the esteemed Wonder Kids Academy in Jimeta, Yola, located in the vibrant Adamawa State of Nigeria.

The program focused on instilling in the young pupils a deep understanding of the paramount importance of keeping their bodies safe. They were taught to recognize and speak out against any attempts of inappropriate touch, bullying, or uncomfortable situations. The children were also introduced to the concept of a safety network, understanding the vital role it plays in their well- being. All of these crucial lessons were beautifully illustrated on the colorful MBIMB fliers that were distributed during the program. **We would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to the GGA Foundation for sponsoring the Flyers.**

The enthusiasm and active participation of the students were truly inspiring. They eagerly absorbed the knowledge imparted, singing the heartfelt MBIMB song with joy and passion. Their ability to provide accurate answers to the questions posed demonstrated their attentiveness and comprehension of the valuable lessons shared.

The Headmistress and the dedicated staff of Wonder Kids Academy warmly welcomed the Mujib Hope Foundation team with open arms. They expressed their genuine excitement and gratitude for choosing their school as the venue for this significant program. The collective effort to empower and protect the children resonated deeply with the entire school community, creating a profound impact that will be remembered for years to come.

**Members of MHF in attendance were;**
Friday Bitrus (Program Officer)
Tanyisu Roberts (Team Lead) Mukoro Ajiri Precious (Volunteer)
Rebecca Oluwakemi Shaibu (Volunteer) Abel Kwandodzuat Everest (Volunteer)
Blessing Dick (Volunteer)



JIMETA, YOLA
ADAMAWA STATE

# MUJIB HOPE FOUNDATION



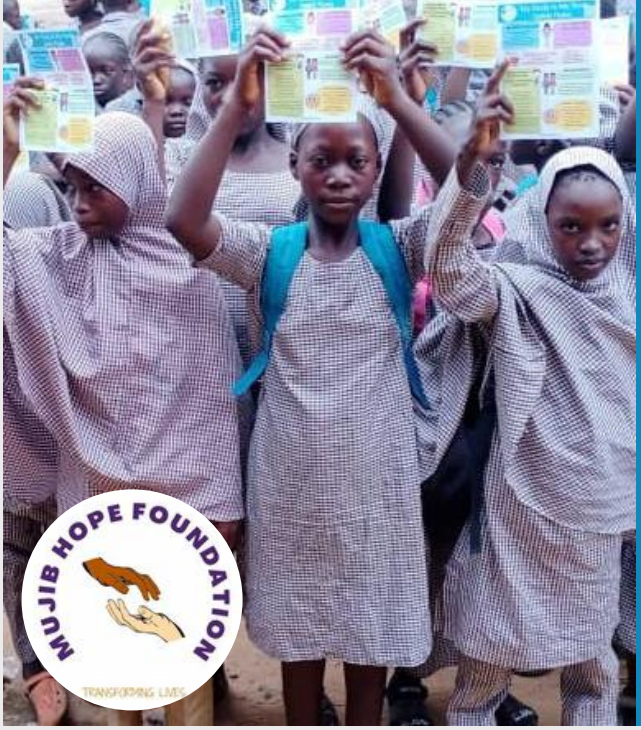
## By Muniratu Jibrin

On Monday, July 3rd, 2023, the dedicated Mujib Hope Foundation Adamawa Team undertook an impactful mission. Their goal was to conduct a transformative Child Abuse Sensitization Program under the inspiring banner of "My Body Is My Body" at Luggere Primary School, located in the heart of Jimeta, Yola, within the vibrant Adamawa State of Nigeria.

The program aimed to instill in the young pupils a deep understanding of the crucial importance of safeguarding their bodies. The children were taught to recognize and courageously speak out against any form of inappropriate touch, bullying, or uncomfortable situations. Enlightening them about the significance of their safety network, the program empowered the students to build a strong support system. The essence of the "Say No to Secret" rule was vividly captured on the brilliantly colorful MBIMB fliers that were thoughtfully distributed, leaving a lasting impression on the children.

The students' active engagement and eagerness to learn were truly commendable. They absorbed the valuable knowledge shared with enthusiasm, grasping the concept with remarkable clarity. Singing the captivating MBIMB song, the children exuded confidence and joy, showcasing their deep connection to the program's message. Notably, their ability to provide accurate answers to the questions posed highlighted their attentiveness and comprehension of the important lessons taught.

The Headmistress and the esteemed staff at Luggere Primary School warmly welcomed the Mujib Hope Foundation team with open arms. Their excitement and appreciation were palpable, as they recognized the incredible significance of choosing their school as the venue for this crucial program. The MHF team's presence underscored their commitment to creating a safe environment for the children, leaving an indelible mark on the school community.



JIMETA, YOLA
ADAMAWA STATE

# MUJIB HOPE FOUNDATION

## By Muniratu Jibrin

Through their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts, the Mujib Hope Foundation Adamawa Team has yet again exemplified their commitment to protecting and empowering children. Their impactful presence at Luggere Primary School has ignited a transformative shift, instilling a culture of awareness, safety, and resilience within the hearts and minds of the students. This unforgettable program serves as a testament to the power of education and collective action in shaping a brighter future for the young generation.

Members of MHF in attendance were
Tanyisu Roberts (Team Lead)
Dorcas Garba (Volunteer)
Julius Sami Alheri (Volunteer)
Blessing Dick (Volunteer)
Friday Bitrus (Program Officer)
Muniratu Jibrin (Program Manager)





MUJIB HOPE FOUNDATION

# The Impact of the MBIMB Flyers

**By Muniratu Jibrin**

**On behalf of Mujib Hope Foundation, I am writing to express how the MBIMB flyers on safety tips helps to fight child abuse using the MBIMB programme educative materials. It has been transforming the lives of countless children, parents and teachers in the North Eastern Nigeria through the school and community sensitizations carried out by Mujib Hope Foundation.**

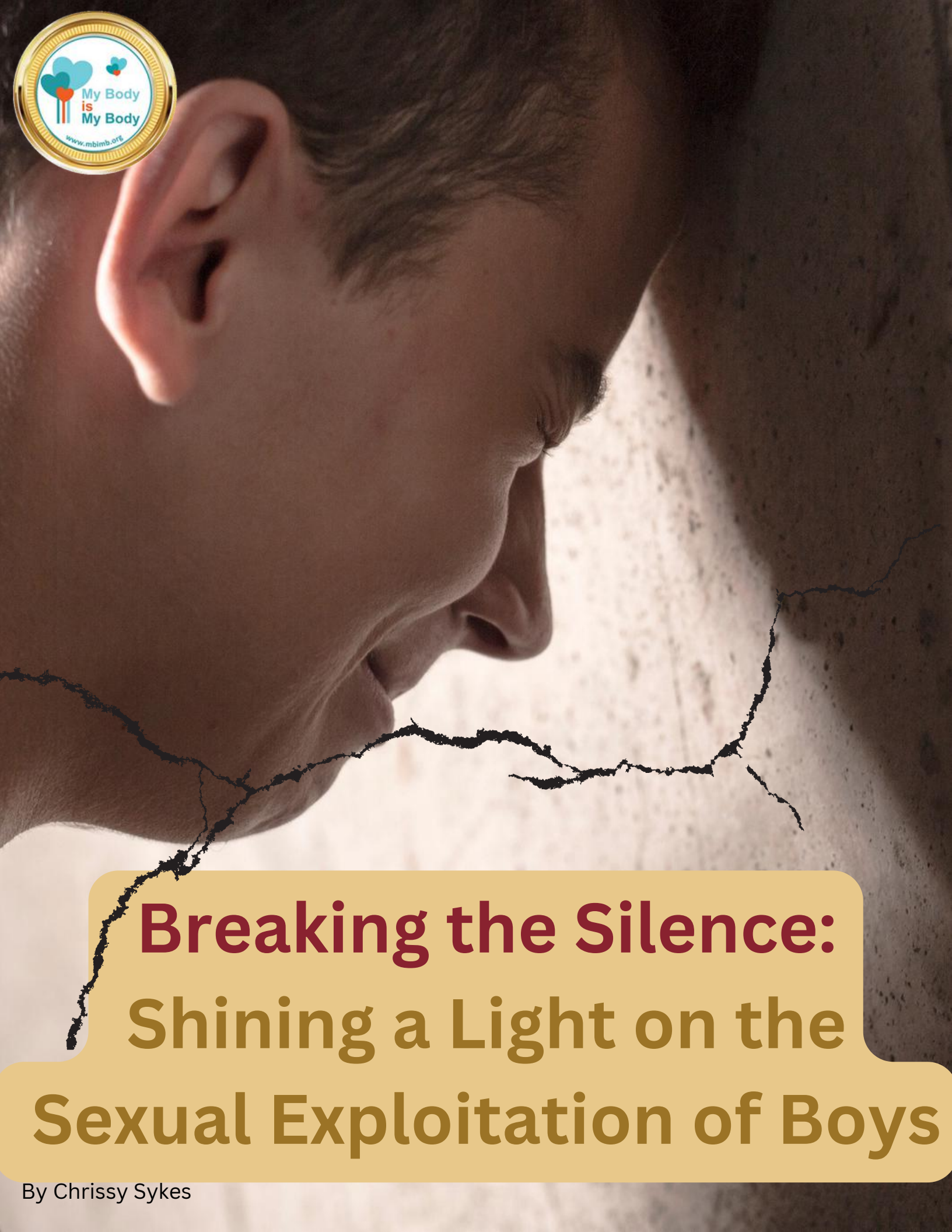
The headmistress of **Luggere Primary School**, Jimeta-Yola Adamawa State Nigeria mentioned that the MBIMB fliers distributed in her school were helpful and there have been a change in bullying amongst children of the school. She said more flyers are needed to reach the children who couldn't get flyers.

Fintana Fidelis, a parent and beneficiaries of the MBIMB Program from Malamre community, Jimeta-Yola Adamawa state Nigeria mentioned that her home has changed as she has set up body safety rules and enlightened her children about MBIMB program using the educative materials given.

**Gift Edison,** a parent and beneficiary from Jambutu Community confessed to having a positive lifestyle in her home where parents check on their children often and ask how they feel about what happened in school each day.

Chrissy, Your support means the world to us and the individuals we serve. Once again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your incredible contribution. Together, we can create a world where compassion and solidarity prevail.

We give special thanks to the GGA Foundation for funding the flyers for Mujib Hope Foundation and would like to encourage others to **donate** through MBIMB Foudation website or GGA Foundation website to the printing of our flyers, it makes such a difference in communities.



# Breaking the Silence: Shining a Light on the Sexual Exploitation of Boys

By Chrissy Sykes



In a groundbreaking webinar by ISPCAN titled "Global Insights on the Sexual Exploitation of Boys," a panel of esteemed experts including Dr Ana Maria Buller, Dr Mark Kavenagh and Dr. Christine Wekerle convened to shed light on a deeply troubling issue often overshadowed by its female counterpart. The webinar delved into the unique challenges faced by boys who fall victim to sexual exploitation, particularly in lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

Through their enlightening discussion, the speakers not only unveiled critical insights but also ignited a call to action to address this pervasive issue head-on.

Central to the webinar's message was the urgent need to challenge rigid gender norms that hinder boys from speaking out about their experiences and seeking the help they desperately require. By encouraging a societal shift that promotes open dialogue, support, and understanding, we can create an environment where boys can safely disclose abuse and access the support they need to heal.

While it is crucial to recognise the prevalence of sexual violence affecting both boys and girls, the speakers emphasised that the exploitation of boys should not be overlooked or underestimated. By acknowledging the unique challenges faced by male victims, we can develop comprehensive strategies to combat sexual exploitation more effectively.

The research presented during the webinar brought to light a disheartening reality: boys from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are more susceptible to contact forms of exploitation. Poverty and social isolation exacerbate the vulnerability of these young boys, leaving them more exposed to predators seeking to exploit their dire circumstances.

These findings underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions and support systems that reach these marginalised boys, offering them protection and avenues for recovery.

**The speakers highlighted the alarming rates of reported male victims in certain countries, challenging preconceived notions about sexual exploitation.**



**Moreover, the speakers highlighted the alarming rates of reported male victims in certain countries, challenging preconceived notions about sexual exploitation. It is imperative that our response to these disclosures be compassionate and empathetic, providing a safe space for boys to share their traumatic experiences. By fostering an environment of trust and understanding, we can help survivors heal and prevent further abuse.**

The impact of this groundbreaking research extends far beyond the confines of the webinar. Organizations like ECPAT International are utilising these insights to strengthen their interventions and advocate for policy changes that prioritise the protection of boys at risk of sexual exploitation. By aligning their efforts with empirical evidence, these organisations strive to make a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable boys worldwide.

To truly address this issue comprehensively, it is essential to expand research efforts in the global South and prioritise the inclusion of vulnerable boys in future studies. By understanding the unique factors that contribute to their vulnerability, we can develop tailored prevention and response strategies that address their specific needs.

The webinar also emphasised the critical importance of ethical considerations when conducting research on such a sensitive topic. It is incumbent upon researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to ensure that the voices and experiences of male survivors are respected, protected, and properly represented. By doing so, we can create a more equitable and just society for all.

The "Global Insights on the Sexual Exploitation of Boys" webinar served as a rallying cry to confront the hidden epidemic that plagues boys worldwide. Through their thought-provoking discussion, the panelists sparked a renewed sense of urgency and commitment to address this issue head-on. By challenging societal norms, expanding research efforts, and advocating for policy changes, we can break the silence surrounding the sexual exploitation of boys and ensure that no child suffers in the shadows. Together, let us build a future where all children are safe, protected, and free to thrive.

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**To find out more about ISPCAN click here to visit their website**



**Dr Ana- Maria Buller, Department of Global Health and Development, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**



**Dr Mark Kavenagh, Director of Evident Consulting Bangkok, Thailand.**

"As Guest Editors for this Special Issue of Child Abuse and Neglect, Ana and I took extensive steps so that we could showcase research regarding the sexual exploitation of boys from countries outside the Global North. We are very grateful to the more than 21 authors whose careful work features in the issue. It's been a privilege to bring the issue together. And it's completely free to access thanks to Oak Foundation!"

"The research featured in the special issue tells us a few important things. While the silence regarding sexual abuse of boys is being broken, there is still a long way to go. Research exists – the global literature review in the issue identified 81 studies from 38 countries. However, that's a far cry from comprehensive. Additionally, new data in the papers from lower and middle income countries show contextual and methodological differences in boys' victimization – with rates at gender parity in some settings."

"The Special Issue shows us a few ways forward as practitioners: There is a real urgency to challenge gender norms as part of the solution - this helps all children who are victimized and those who work with them. We must also work harder to ensure psychological safety for survivors - trauma-informed approaches are vital, and it is recommended that practitioners are enabled to provide support without requiring explicit disclosure. It's incredibly hard to talk about abuse and might take years. That should be ok."

"In terms of research priorities, existing data is somewhat limited to particular contexts, so there is an urgency in integrating data collection regarding sexual exploitation of boys into population level studies. While we also set out to highlight work from the Global South, we were still only partially successful – there is a clear research agenda emerging for robust and ethical research from all countries around the world."





# INTRODUCING KITAIRE ANDREW

Hi my name is Kitaire Andrew and I am an ambassador for MBIMB in Uganda.

When I joined “Teach for Uganda” back in 2022, I was shocked to see how deprived the children in my class were. They came to school in bare-feet. They had no scholastic materials or stationery and also no uniforms. As an educator, I had to think of ways of how I could help these children to be smart and tidy.

I came across the MBIMB program which provided may solutions. I attended a course of child safe-guarding and through the My body Is My Body songs, I learnt a lot of things that helped support these little children.

After gaining the knowledge and achieving the certificates, I had to implement what I had learnt and understood from the on-line courses and put this knowledge into practice. I downloaded the tutorial songs and encouraged the children to listen to them, mainly focusing on how to keep their body clean and also for the youngsters to protect their private parts. Through those song and my teachings, I was able to encourage a pride in the student appearance and an improved smartness in at least 30% of the population in the class.

Now children come with their teeth brushed, uniforms clean and ironed. Through a Facebook fundraiser, I was able to buy uniforms for 10 students and distribute pairs of sandals to 49 children. I also promoted sanitation and good health. Besides that, children and teachers were sharing the same urinals and latrines which was absurd.

I did my campaign through my Facebook and LinkedIn platforms to solicit funds for the renovations and to ensure that children can live safely in suitable environment. We are so grateful for the My Body Is My Body program and for the tutorial songs. I can't wait to share more testimonies as we continue to work together.



# INTRODUCING JEAN MERCI KAZAROHO

I am writing to express my deep gratitude for the My Body is My Body (MBMB) programs, as they have had a profound impact on my life. This program has provided me with invaluable knowledge and skills in child safeguarding, empowering me to guide and protect children and equip new mothers with essential child-rearing techniques. It is through the protection of children that we can truly make a difference and create a safer world.

I have eagerly shared information about MBMB with my community and friends, urging them to join this remarkable and fruitful program. As a result of my commitment and completion of the required courses, I have been blessed to become one of the Ambassadors. This role has not only enhanced my professional growth but also enabled me to support fellow refugees, assisting them in understanding and addressing the traumatic effects they have experienced, while ensuring the well-being and protection of their children.

Being a refugee, I once felt hopeless, but through my involvement with children and participation in MBIMB, my hope has been restored. I take great pride in supporting the vision, mission, and overall objectives of the MBMB program, not only within my local community but also on a global scale.

I wholeheartedly encourage anyone reading this to seize the opportunity to join this transformative program. Since I started my journey with MBMB, my life has been continuously enriched and improved.

Together, we can create a joyous and safe environment for children, and I implore you to discover the profound impact this program can have on your own life.

Thank you for your attention, and I sincerely hope you will consider becoming a part of this remarkable program.

# MBIMB TEAMS OF SUDAN CONTINUE SPREADING AWARENESS FOR CHILDREN ..



***By: Ghada Saleh GGA Child Welfare Country Director Sudan, MBIMB Ambassador***

Despite the ongoing war, the dedicated teams of MBIMB in different states of Sudan persist in their efforts to spread awareness among displaced communities. Recognising that children require our utmost attention, especially in the aftermath of war when their lives have been dramatically altered, we are committed to addressing the challenges they face. These children now find themselves living among strangers in camps, where incidents of sexual abuse and violence are on the rise.

In order to mitigate these risks, we have reached out to local kindergartens and collaborated with them to create safe spaces for children to play during the summer months. By providing them with a dedicated environment, we aim to shield them from potential abuse they might otherwise face while confined within the camp surroundings.

Recently, the MBIMB team in the middle state of Aljazera, specifically in Madni, received an invitation from a local kindergarten to work with over 70 children from diverse backgrounds. Our team, consisting of Ambassador Hiba Hassan, PP Makarem Ameen, and PP Rogaia Hussain, diligently taught the children about body safety rules. The educational sessions were designed to be engaging and enjoyable, incorporating music, dance, and interactive activities. It was heartening to witness the children embrace the lessons while having fun in the process.

As the MBIMB team, we remain dedicated to spreading awareness and empowering both children and the community at large. We understand the urgent need to prioritize the safety and well-being of our children. Together, we strive to create a protective and nurturing environment for them.




Samsung Quad Camera














# *"A fairytale come true"*

## by Andrew Ramjohn



# *“A fairy tale come true”*

***by Andrew Ramjohn***

***Here is a story that depicts all we are trying to achieve through the MBIMB programme. It may sound like a fairy-tale or a dream beyond reach but…. together, under the leadership of Chrissy, with the support of GAAF and with the many MBIMB ambassadors now in place, this will be a fairytale come true. Let us all weave our magic powers; let us unite in the common cause to protect children and let us create a “fairy-tale come true”***

Once upon a time, in a colourful and vibrant world, there lived a young girl named Chrissy Sykes. Chrissy was a kind-hearted and spirited child, full of curiosity and dreams. She loved exploring nature, playing with her friends and using her imagination to create wonderful stories. However, there was something very special about Chrissy that made her unique. She had a magical power within her that she called. “My Body Is My Body” or MBIMB for short. MBIMB was a superpower that helped her to protect and take care of herself.
One sunny day, as Chrissy skipped along a meadow, she noticed a group of children playing nearby. Among them was a little boy named Alex who seemed upset and uncomfortable. Chrissy approached him with a warm smile and asked if everything was OK.

Alex hesitated for a moment but then opened up to Chrissy. He shared that he was feeling scared and confused because someone was touching his body without his permission. Chrissy listened attentively and gently reassured Alex that he had the power to protect himself using MBIMB. She explained that everyone has the right to their own body, and no one should ever touch them without their consent. Chrissy taught Alex how to say, “Stop! This is my body!” and to say it confidently so that others would know to respect his boundaries. Inspired by Chris’s words Alex started practising MBIMB. He stood tall and began to feel empowered knowing that he had control over his own body. Chrissy encouraged him to speak up and seek help from a trusted adult whenever he felt uncomfortable.

Word of MBIMB quickly spread throughout the town, and children from all walks of life began to embrace their own superpower. They learned to recognise the signs of unwanted touching, to trust their instincts and to assert their boundaries with courage and confidence. Together, Chrissy and her new found friends formed a team of superheroes, protecting themselves and each other. They spread the message of MBIMB far and wide, reaching children all over the world. No child would ever feel alone or powerless again.

Through the power of MBIMB, children learned that their bodies were sacred and deserving of love, respect and protection. They understood that they had the right to say no and the power to keep themselves safe. Every child, no matter where they came from, embraced their own unique strength.

And so, the story of my body is my body by Chrissy Sykes became a beacon of hope and empowerment for children everywhere. It taught them that they were not alone, that they were worthy of respect, and that they had the power to shape their own destiny.

Remember, dear childrene, just like Chrissy and her friends you too have the superpower of MBIMB with you. Embrace it, protect it, and let it guide you on a journey of self-love and empowerment. Your body is your own, and you are the hero of your own story, thank you kindly.



YORGHAS FOUNDATION

# In the world of collaboration and making a difference, PARTNERSHIPS reign supreme.

By Chrissy Sykes

***Introducing***
***Alinafe Magombo Kolopo***

***In the world of collaboration and making a difference, partnerships reign supreme.***

When it comes to realizing our goals, MBIMB understands the power of joining forces. That's why we take immense pride in our alliances with the Yorghas Foundation and the GGA Foundation, as together we embark on a remarkable journey to bring the captivating Chichewa songs of the My Body is My Body project to life in the beautiful land of Malawi. A special note of gratitude goes out to GGAF for generously sponsoring the studio costs, making this endeavor possible.

Now, with great excitement, we introduce our dynamic team working tirelessly to bring the MBIMB Program to communities across Malawi. Alina Pelka and Moses Busher, remarkable individuals associated with the Yorghas Foundation, have joined hands with us. Their passion and dedication will be the driving force behind our mission to empower communities and spread awareness.

But that's not all! We are honored to have the incredibly talented Alinafe Magombo Kolopo on board. Alinafe, a gifted singer, has selflessly volunteered to lend her enchanting voice to these meaningful songs. Her soulful melodies will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on the hearts of listeners, capturing the essence of the My Body is My Body project in every note.

Alinafe Magombo Kolopo, is a remarkable musician whose passion for singing ignited at an early age. Growing up alongside her siblings, music became an inseparable part of their lives, thanks to the influence of their incredible mother. Inspired by her mother's teachings, Alinafe and her siblings formed the Revival choir, enchanting audiences with their captivating harmonies within the sacred walls of their church.

With an ever-growing repertoire of talent, Alinafe has now produced an impressive collection of 10 songs. However, her musical journey doesn't stop there. In 2023, she embarked on an exciting collaboration with the "My Body Is My Body" Programme, a project that holds great significance for her. This collaboration has brought her back to her roots, recording these heartfelt songs in Chichewa, her native language, adding a touch of cultural authenticity and depth to her mesmerizing melodies.

From a young age, she discovered her love for all things stylish and trendy. With her keen eye for fashion, family and friends naturally turn to her for advice on what to wear for various occasions. Recognizing her talent, Alinafe goes the extra mile by offering fashion and design lessons to girls and women in her community. Her mission is to empower them economically and transform them into productive citizens of Malawi, ensuring that fashion becomes a catalyst for their personal growth and success.

Alinafe Magombo Kolopo is not just a musician and fashion enthusiast; she is an inspirational figure who uses her talents and passions to uplift others. Through her music and fashion endeavors, she leaves an indelible mark on the hearts of those who encounter her, spreading joy, empowerment, and a vibrant sense of community wherever she goes.

# HIS MARVELLOUS GRACE SUPPORT FOUNDATION.






**By: Anifowose Folashade**

A thought-provoking musical programme "My Body is My Body," has been making waves among young children, creating awareness and instilling a sense of consciousness about their personal boundaries and environment. The initiative, led by the HMGSF team, has successfully reached out to schools in Ikorodu, Nigeria, educating students from pre-nursery to secondary classes. The empowering message of the MBIMB song has resonated deeply with the pupils, who have enthusiastically embraced it and continue to sing its uplifting tune.

## Impacting Schools in Ikorodu:

Two schools in Ikorodu, Lagos state, have been fortunate enough to experience the powerful message of "My Body is My Body." **Springup Schools**, a private institution with around 150 pupils encompassing both boys and girls with over 20 class teachers. The school founder was so happy to see her pupils singing the song happily because she believes that anytime they are singing it, they will always remember that they should not allow anybody to defile them. The second school is the **Methodist Primary School**, a government-owned institution with over 700 pupils and 45 teachers who have warmly welcomed the initiative. The pupils were so delighted and they sang the song happily and they requested that we come again.

## Testimonials Reflecting Empowerment:

The feedback received from pupils and teachers demonstrates the profound effect "My Body is My Body" has had on their understanding of personal boundaries and self-empowerment.

**John Nnamdi**, an 11-year-old student from Methodist Primary School, expressed, "I learnt that my body is my body and nobody has the right to touch me."

**Esther Osunwumi**, a primary 4 student, gained the insight "In the music I learnt that I will only tell you what I want you to know about me with my mouth and not my private part".

**Wisdom Emmanuel**, a 12-year-old student from Springup School, expressed, "I learnt that we should not allow anyone to touch our private parts."

Teachers have also lauded the initiative for its effectiveness. **Mrs. Falayi Ayobami**, a teacher from Methodist Primary School, commended HMGSF and MBIMB for their musical pep talk, believing that the song will encourage students to speak up against any potential abuse.

**Mrs. Adeleke**, a counselor at Methodist Primary School, highlighted how the song helps students identify their private parts, thereby enhancing their knowledge and reinforcing the importance of maintaining personal boundaries. **Mrs. Ekpetubu**, the founder and Head of School at Springup Schools, expressed gratitude for the program and believed that the students' ongoing singing of the song would foster self-awareness and self-belief.

The musical programme, "My Body is My Body," delivered by the HMGSF team, has proven to be a valuable resource in educating young children about personal boundaries and empowering them to protect their bodies. The initiative's impact has been remarkable, as evidenced by the positive responses from both students and teachers. **Mrs Adeleke,** counselor at the Methodist Primary school said “the song will help them to identify their private parts, and by singing the song, they will have more knowledge and know the area that is not be shown to people. This programme is different from the ones we have being hearing and its unique because it is musical.

**Mrs Ekpetubu** founder and HOS of springup schools “ I really thank the organizers of this program, I believe the students will never stop singing the song , this will make them to be conscious and to believe in themselves





HMGS FOUNDATION





My Body is My Body
www.mbimb.org



# Addressing Child Abuse Prevention in Northern Nigeria:
## MBIMB Program Initiates Change

*By Bala Bako*

The introduction of the MBIMB program, offering a new approach to tackling this pervasive issue.

Raising awareness about child abuse prevention in the northern region of Nigeria has emerged as a significant challenge. Particularly concerning is the prevalence of forced girl-child marriages, which occur with alarming regularity in this area. Advocacy efforts to combat this issue have faced resistance. However, with the introduction of the MBIMB programme, hope has been reignited among parents, teachers, and community members, who believe that this initiative holds the potential to bring an end to child abuse in their communities. A recent visit to Durum Village Community Primary School, Hope Ambassadors garnered tremendous appreciation from school authorities and village leaders, as the program successfully educated children on Body Safety Rules and the dangers of keeping secrets.

# Addressing Child Abuse Prevention in Northern Nigeria

## The Prevailing Challenge

Child abuse prevention has long been a pressing concern in northern Nigeria. In particular, the distressing practice of forcing young girls into early marriages persists in the region. Overcoming cultural barriers and instigating change has proven to be an arduous task for those advocating against child abuse. However, a glimmer of hope emerged with the introduction of the MBIMB program, offering a new approach to tackling this pervasive issue.

## Excitement and Hope for Change

Upon introducing the MBIMB program to various communities, parents, and teachers were filled with excitement and hope. They recognized the potential of this powerful initiative to reduce child abuse within their communities. The message conveyed by the program resonated deeply, fostering belief in the possibility of change and a brighter future for their children.

## Appreciation for Durum Village Community Primary School

A recent visit to Durum Village Community Primary School proved to be a significant milestone for the MBIMB program. School authorities and village leaders warmly welcomed the initiative, appreciating the efforts to educate children about **Body Safety Rules** and the dangers of keeping secrets. By equipping young minds with this vital knowledge, the program aims to empower children to recognize and report instances of abuse, fostering a safer environment for all.

## Building a Safer Future

The MBIMB program is instrumental in shifting the narrative around child abuse prevention in northern Nigeria. By providing children with the necessary tools to protect themselves and encouraging them to speak up, the program aims to break the cycle of abuse. Through its collaborative approach with parents, teachers, and community leaders, the initiative holds the promise of transforming attitudes and behaviors, ultimately creating a safer and more nurturing environment for children.

Addressing child abuse prevention in the northern region of Nigeria demands concerted efforts, particularly in combating the distressing practice of forced girl-child marriages. The MBIMB programme brings hope and renewed determination to this cause. Its recent visit to Durum Village Community Primary School exemplifies the program's impact, receiving appreciation from school authorities and village leaders. By imparting knowledge on Body Safety Rules and the importance of speaking out, the program takes a crucial step towards safeguarding children and creating a future free from abuse. With continued support and engagement from communities, the MBIMB programme has the potential to drive lasting change in the fight against child abuse in northern Nigeria.

# BALA BAKO IN NORTHERN NIGERIA:






SPECIAL REPORT

# IMPACT OF MBIMB PROGRAM IN OUR COMMUNITY




*By: John Omusugu, Ambassador Uganda*
*Teach for Uganda Fellow*

Am John from Uganda, teacher by profession and fellow at Teach for Uganda .I happened to have had the opportunity to take the three courses on MBIMB programmes, this was due to the rate at which children and vulnerable groups were violated and abused in the hard to reach communities which include denying children education, food, shelter, inflicting pain on the young ones to mention but a few.

Parents and community leaders in the community appeared indifferent, treating it as a daily habit, according to their perception. These practices were considered normal by many, as they were inherited from grandparents and passed down through generations.

Last year, I came across Chrissy Sykes, the founder of MBIMB, on LinkedIn. She suggested that I should consider taking a course related to the program. Initially, I dismissed the idea, thinking it would be a waste of time given my hectic schedule. However, after contemplating how I could utilize the resources at hand to positively impact numerous lives, particularly benefiting children and the entire community, I reconsidered and decided to enroll in the courses.

Later after the courses, I started with my own family as a way of implementing what I had learnt.its here that I realized that I can use the same teachings to help lives get out of trauma, child abuse, neglect and all sorts of violence/abuse

Later I applied to be an Ambassador, which was really another progress but because of the love for humanity I pushed on till I finally succeeded.

Being a teacher of learners who are in several ways abused, I introduced this program to my learners and shared with parents every time I met them during home visits. I strongly agree that the impact created in the community now is diverse compared to before.

SPECIAL REPORT

# IMPACT OF MBIMB PROGRAM IN OUR COMMUNITY



Community leaders have witnessed the significant impact that the MBIMB program is having on families and children. They believe that if similar teachings are implemented in other districts, it would bring about a remarkable transformation.

Majority of families have violated the rights of children especially education wise where a girl child is looked as wealth to the family thereby forcing them into early marriages hence high poverty illiteracy levels in such regions and families .

Through this program, majority of children have been reconciled to their families, and broken families and marriages brought together.

Currently community leaders and I are pushing for back to school campaigns and community sensitization meetings against child abuse, we are also trying our level best to fundraise for furniture of over 50 desks for one of the schools I volunteer as a Teach For Uganda fellow aimed at making children feel safe while at school and same desks will be used as seats while conducting MBIMB meetings.

I also to establish a small office as an ambassador where local leaders and community members can easily reach out in case of need for support once I get finances for rent with time.

I wish to extend my gratitude to all the resource developers of MBIMB programmes.



# Successful Launch of the "New Mothers Course" by MBIMB in Dzaleka Refugee Camp



# Successful Launch of the "New Mothers Course" by MBIMB in Dzaleka Refugee Camp

***By Prince Lokendo***

The "New Mothers Course" recently launched in the Dzaleka Refugee Camp, heralding a significant opportunity to guide teen mothers and mothers of all ages on their journey to parenthood. With an initial cohort of 89 eager students, primarily composed of teenage mothers, the course aimed to equip them with the knowledge and skills to become better mothers. The program's commencement in the refugee camp marked a crucial step towards empowering these women with the resources they need to navigate the challenges of motherhood.

At the heart of the "New Mothers Course" were comprehensive materials encompassing both pre-pregnancy and post-pregnancy phases. These resources offered a wealth of valuable content on various aspects of motherhood and raising a child. The course curriculum covered topics such as prenatal care, child nutrition, health and hygiene, early childhood development, and emotional well-being. The course materials provided these young mothers with insights and information they previously lacked, enabling them to enhance their understanding of effective parenting practices.

The positive response from the young mothers participating in the "New Mothers Course" was palpable. They expressed joy and gratitude for the opportunity to learn and grow as mothers. The course empowered them with new knowledge and skills, helping them bridge gaps in their understanding of motherhood and child-rearing. They eagerly absorbed the information, keen to apply it to their own experiences and provide the best possible care for their children.

Following the successful launch, the young mothers made a heartfelt request for the course to be delivered in other languages spoken within the camp. Additionally, the mothers expressed a desire for printable resources that they could refer to throughout their motherhood journey. Recognizing the significance of having tangible materials, the organizers to facilitated with the support from MBIMB provided translated and printable course materials, ensuring that these dedicated mothers would have easy access to the information they learned during the course.

We have initiated the recruitment process for new students who have demonstrated keen interest in the course. Recognizing the invaluable nature of this life skill for mothers of all ages, our aspiration is to eventually incorporate it into the local school curriculum. This would ensure that students acquire this essential knowledge upon completing their studies.

# BEULAH WORLD INITIATIVE

## BWI's Visit to Ljamido Children's Home

On Saturday, June 17, 2023, the dedicated team from Beulah World Initiative (BWI) had the privilege of visiting the Ijamido Children's Home. It was a timely visit, and we had an incredible time engaging with the children.

During our visit, we had the opportunity to educate and inspire the children in two significant areas: the Mathematics Appreciation Program (MAP) and the Child Sexual Molestation Awareness/Prevention Campaign, also known as the MY BODY IS MY BODY PROGRAM. The presentations on these topics were highly impactful and well- received by the children.

Additionally, we wanted to support the children practically, so we provided them with essential groceries and supplies for their daily needs. We are immensely grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of this visit. May the Lord bless you abundantly and may His favor shine upon you in the mighty name of Jesus!




Safe Adults


No Means No!
My Body
is
My Body

# BRINGING HOPE TO RAYS OF LIGHT ORPHANAGE AND SCHOOL



*Bwambale Moses*



# Bringing Hope to Rays of Light Orphanage and School: Rebuilding Lives and Dreams

By Chrissy Sykes

In the small town of Kyarumba, located in the Kasese district of Western Uganda, there exists a beacon of hope amidst the challenges faced by its community. Rays of Light Orphanage and School, a charitable organization, stands tall as a sanctuary for 286 children aged 5 to 17, offering education, support, and a chance at a brighter future. However, tragedy struck when the town was engulfed in darkness on that fateful Friday, June 16th. A horrifying attack on the local secondary school claimed the lives of over 40 innocent souls, leaving behind a community shattered by unimaginable terror. But even in the face of adversity, rays of light continue to shine, illuminating the path toward healing and rebuilding.

Rays of Light Orphanage and School serves as a sanctuary for vulnerable children, providing them with the tools and opportunities they need to thrive. Through their curriculum, which encompasses Christian religious education, mathematics, social studies, healthy habits, environmental protection, and English-speaking skills, the children receive a well-rounded education. The organization's commitment to their future is unwavering, with the goal of ensuring that every orphaned child becomes self-reliant and equipped to overcome life's challenges.

Since its establishment, Rays of Light Orphanage and School has supported 82 children, empowering them to break the cycle of poverty and dependence. Some of these children have completed their education, while others have embarked on vocational skills training, allowing them to acquire practical skills for sustainable livelihoods. The organization's dreams for the future encompass a holistic approach to development, aiming to eliminate illiteracy among children and instil good morals and a biblical worldview within the community. Their ultimate goal is to have the children adopt Jesus' way of life, fostering values of compassion, empathy, and love.

In a community where resources are scarce, Moses Bwambale stands as a guardian angel for the children of Rays of Light Orphanage and School. Despite earning a small income from subsistence farming, he selflessly dedicates half of his yields to supporting the children's needs. His commitment to their well-being embodies the spirit of sacrifice and compassion, ensuring that the children have a brighter future.

However, even in the midst of hope, tragedy can strike, casting a shadow over the children's lives. The attack on the boarding school compound in Mpondwe left 37 out of 63 students dead, their dreams and aspirations extinguished with unimaginable cruelty. As if this weren't tragic enough, vandals further violated the sanctity of the orphanage by stealing 23 mattresses, leaving the children with overcrowded sleeping conditions.

A Beacon of Support: Amidst the darkness, hope and support emerged. Lisa Jones and Chrissy Sykes, rallying the GGAF Supporters, raised $500 to help purchase new mattresses for the children. This act of kindness symbolizes the power of unity and compassion, reminding us that even in the face of tragedy, there are individuals willing to extend a helping hand. The donation brings comfort to the children who have been forced to share mattresses three at a time, providing a glimmer of solace and restoring their faith in humanity.

Rays of Light Orphanage and School stands as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. In the face of tragedy, this charitable organization continues to nurture and empower vulnerable children, offering them a chance at a brighter future. Together, with the support of individuals and organizations who rally behind their cause, Rays of Light strives to rebuild lives, heal hearts, and ensure that the light within these children's souls never wavers. Let us join hands and stand in solidarity with Rays of Light, reminding the world that even in the darkest times, hope can prevail, and a brighter future is within reach.





Bambale Moses having a meal with the children

# WORLDLITE.ONG

**WORLDLITE ONG,** in collaboration with School Teacher **Ms. Kouande Affoua Laure**, recently introduced the MY BODY IS MY BODY programme to the Primary class children of **EPP ALLOSSO School** in the rural community of Alepe, located in the western region of **Cote d'Ivoire**, West Africa. This initiative aimed to educate the children about important topics related to their bodies and personal boundaries.

Additionally, WORLDLITE ONG took the opportunity to recognize and reward the children for their excellent performance throughout the school year.

The event was truly inspiring and created lasting memories. The children displayed immense joy and enthusiasm throughout the programme, radiating happiness through their smiles and positive energy. To express their appreciation and showcase the impact of the MY BODY IS MY BODY programme, the children sang the My Body is My Body song.
Their gratitude for the gifts they received was also evident during the event.

It was an unforgettable experience for the rural region of ALLOSSO in Alepe, Cote d'Ivoire, thanks to the MY BODY IS MY BODY programme.

The children dancing to the My Body is My Body song



# MBIMB AMBASSADORS

## WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT PROTECTING CHILDREN

My Body Is My Body Ambassadors are an integral part of our program, as, without Ambassadors, children and parents would not know about our important message.
Our Ambassadors worldwide are growing every day, and I thank every one of you for the vital part you will play in making this a Safer World For Children.

## What Are An Ambassadors Duties?

As an MBIMB Ambassador, you will be someone that is involved with your community either through your school, an NGO, or a community organisation. We like our Ambassadors to be known within their communities and involved in working with children or parents. As child abuse is a difficult subject to address in your community it is really important that you keep the work you do positive, informative and empowering making safeguarding children your priority.

### There are several ways to help spread our message as an Ambassador.

You can share the My Body Is My Body Programme with your community on social media platforms You can also share the program in person:
With young children 3 - 10 years in their classroom .
With young children 3 - 10 years if they are in your family
With parents to show them how to talk to their children about body safety ( we have a community programme you can use) With older children, share the program with them and get them to share the information with their younger siblings
The intention of the programme is to get people talking openly about the subject of child abuse and how to prevent it

We would like you to share your experiences, feedback and children's response so we can keep updating and improving the program. We find that sharing experiences, videos and images (where permitted) is a wonderful way to inspire others.
Remain engaged in MBIMB groups and encourage other community members to get involved.

**CLICK HERE TO APPLY TO BE AN MBIMB AMBASSADOR**

# MBIMB AMBASSADORS

## WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT PROTECTING CHILDREN

MBIMB Core Values

CREATING A SAFER WORLD FOR CHILDREN



Creating community awareness of how to start the conversation about child abuse prevention worldwide



Educating as many children as we can on the subject of "Body Safety" worldwide



Educating parents, teachers and community leaders with our free courses



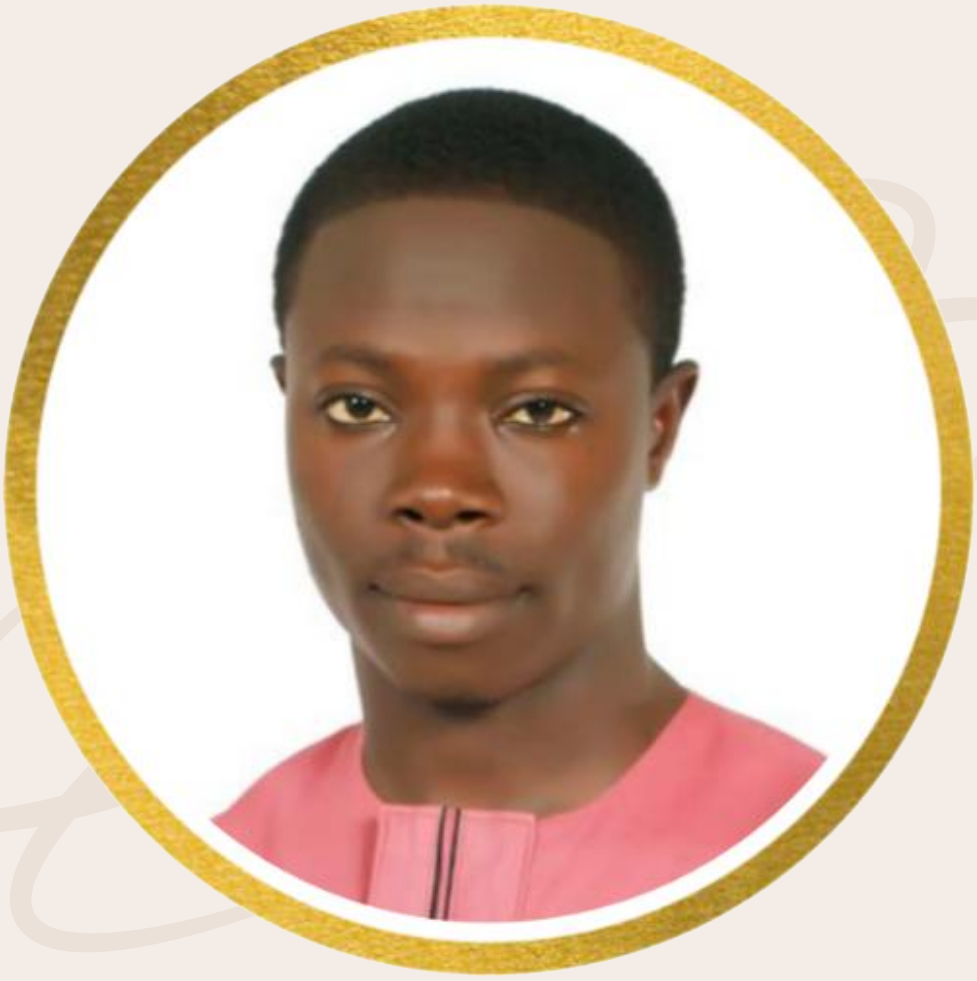
Providing resources and information on preventing child abuse for parents and other interested adults




Offering as many languages as we can to extend our worldwide reach

On behalf of the MBIMB Programme and Foundation, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Ambassadors. We are thrilled to have them on board and look forward to working with them to advance our mission of promoting education and empowering children.

# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



## Bala Bako

Nigeria

Hope Ambassadors



# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



## Prince Lokendo

Malawi

LuQuLuQu UNHCR

# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



## Aysel Alijanova

Educator

Azerbaijan

# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



## Henri-Dunant Chikuru

Founder Fobeworld

DRC

# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR

Families of Africa

## Families Of Africa

NGO

Uganda



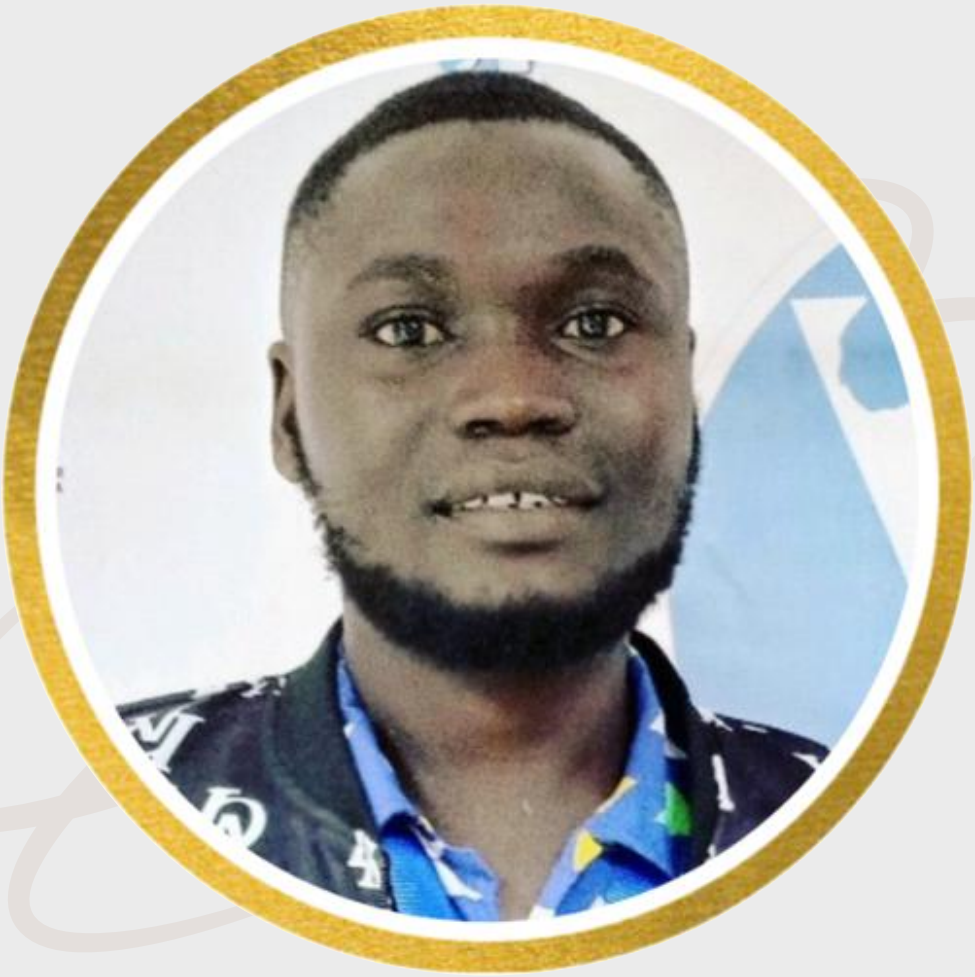
# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



**Samtani Karishma**

Early Careers Specialist
Hong Kong

# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



## Dawda Manneh

President Nyancho Orphan Foundation
Gambia

# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



## Jean Merci

CEO at People Traumatized Need Peace

Kenya

# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



## Andrew Kitaire

Education Mentor at Reseachathon

# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



## Dr. Mubina Fatima

Teacher at Bahria Town School & College

Pakistan

# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



## Reshalika Dawar

Early Childhood Years Educator

India



# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



**Simon Sekate**

Founder Byerima Children Support Uganda

# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



**Papy Maleka**

Executive Director, Social Organization For the Development of the Child - DRC

# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



**Vidya Menon**

Educator| Academic Coordinator

India

# OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



## Umar Muhammad

Education Planning: Monitoring Evaluation

Nigeria




***www.mbimb.org***

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Charity Number 1199901