



Press Release

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Nationwide Competition on Corporal Punishment Announcement of Winners

Raising Voices works to prevent violence against women and children. Physical violence against children, despite being outlawed in the Children Act, Domestic Violence Act and through guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education and Sports to all schools in Uganda, occurs far too frequently. In A study conducted by Raising Voices in collaboration with Save the children in Uganda, 98% of children said they had experienced physical violence. A third of these children said they experience physical violence at least once a week from people known to them such as a family member or a teacher (http://www.raisingvoices.org/children/communication_materials_reports.php).

As part of our work on preventing violence against children, in November 2009 we launched a nationwide competition calling upon the public to share their views and ideas on corporal punishment. **We received 623 entries from both children and adults from all regions of the country.** The entries include stories of personal experiences, stories about children who have experienced corporal punishment, opinions on what people think corporal punishment is and what should be done to prevent it. These are in the form of essays, poems, drama skits, recorded programs, songs, drawings and paintings. All of them echoed one theme: **the physical violence against children is too much, happens too often and is most commonly perpetrated by people known to the child such as a parent, neighbor, teachers or a relative.**

Entries were assessed by an independent panel of judges that included members from civil society organizations, a representative from a child centered government institution, a member from a higher institution of learning and a journalist. While the quality of entries was very high, we are glad to announce that the following emerged winners:

Children Category

1. Ochen Ambrosse – Entebbe
2. Lisa Minelli Ericsson – Kampala
3. Isabirye Mark - Jinja
4. Nansambu Daphine Stella – Kampala
5. Saasi Marvin Augustine – Kampala

Adult Category

1. Mbogo Besmeth - Mbale District
2. Alenyo Marks – Luzira Upper Prison

3. Kayuki Theophilus – Kampala
4. Ochen David – Moyo
5. Ntege Rashid – Kampala

The judges also recognize the following entries for their outstanding creativity and presentations.

1. Kirunda Ibrahim (Child) – Jinja
2. Samara Madhvani (Child) – Kampala
3. Anena Juliet (Child) – Amuru
4. Otto Justine (Child) – Amuru
5. Namatovu Selina V. (Child)– Kampala
6. Bwambale James (Child) – Kabaale
7. Naggita Kezia (Child) – Kampala
8. Aol Sara (Adult) – Gulu
9. Kasolo Eddie, Roger Bolton and Children – Kampala
10. Nambozo Beverly – Kampala
11. Kuteesaakwe David

Entries from children were judged separately from that of adults, but prizes are of equal value. It was not an easy task for the judges to select winners because all the entries had something special about them. We thank all those who participated in the competition for sharing their views and ideas about corporal punishment.

Therefore, today (27th April 2010) winners of the competition will be announced at Hotel Africana at 2.00p.m and each will receive a prize of 100,000/- (one hundred thousand shillings). We congratulate all the winners and celebrate their willingness to speak out on corporal punishment!

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