



EYE OF THE CHILD FIRST EVER NEWSLETTER



We are excited to introduce our inaugural newsletter. In this edition, you will find the latest on our work as implemented from 1st January to 31st March 2024, especially in Malawi, Southern Africa.

We have also covered two major stories that demonstrate the impact of our work in transforming the lives of victims of violent crimes and vulnerable people who most of the time are at risk of human trafficking.

We also take this opportunity to introduce key people behind the establishment of the organization and some current leaders.

OUR TOP STORIES »

WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

STREET CONNECTED CHILD SCORES 12 POINTS

OUR ORGANIZATION

Our organization was established and registered on 28th February 1998 as a response to the need for a strong advocacy organization that works actively and holistically for the protection, care, and justice of children in Malawi.



OUR MISSION

To promote the respect and protection of children rights in Malawi through advocacy and social mobilisation.

OUR VISION

To contribute towards the creation of “Nations free of abuse, exploitation and Violence against Children.”

OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE

To protect and promote Child Rights through Advocacy, Child Protection and free Legal Services, Capacity building training, and Social Welfare Services.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Desiree Namachotsa, a secondary language teacher with a Bachelor's degree in education, is a dynamic force in the world of film and entertainment. She is known for her talents as an actress, filmmaker, costume designer, and educator. She is also an activist for climate justice and gender-based violence. With a strong track record in education and the arts, Namachotsa brings passion, creativity, and expertise to our organization. She has inspired countless students and is committed to excellence and innovation in education.



BOARD MEMBER

Meya Chinula Muronya is a holder of a Master's degree in Business Administration from UNICAF University, a Bachelor of Law from CAVENDISH University in Zambia, Bachelor of Law from Blantyre International University, Associate Degree in Legal Studies from Institute of Commercial Management-England, Diploma in Business Administration from Association of Business Executives-UK and Diploma in Insurance-pending from Chartered Insurance Institute.



BOARD MEMBER

Lucy Nkhoma joins Eye of the Child as a board member. A social worker, entrepreneur, and activist, she champions women's health and youth rights. With a degree in rural development and expertise in gender issues, Nkhoma brings over a decade of experience from various NGOs like ActionAid Malawi and the Malawi Girl Guides Association.

STREET CONNECTED CHILD SCORED 12 POINTS IN HIS MSCE EXAMS



Meet Steven Kachigodo, a young boy whose journey from the streets to the pursuit of becoming a surgeon is nothing short of extraordinary.

Born into poverty, Steven's early years were marked by struggle and hardship. With both parents absent from his life, Steven found himself navigating the harsh realities of street life at a tender age. Despite the hardships surrounding him, Steve possessed an insatiable hunger for knowledge. Education became Steve's beacon of hope amidst the darkness of his circumstances.

Despite the challenges of balancing school with the demands of street life, Steve's dedication never wavered. As he progressed through his academic journey Steve's resilience began to yield remarkable results. His inborn intelligence and persistent work ethic drove him to the top of his class, earning him an impressive 12 points in his Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) exams in the year 2023 from Dzedza Secondary School.

For Steven, however, this milestone is just the beginning. With dreams as vast as the African sky, he aspires to become a surgeon doctor a profession that holds the power to transform lives and communities as a way to break the cycle of poverty of his family. Steve's story serves as a poignant reminder of the resilience of the human spirit.

This is a call to take these children as a



priority as far as education is concerned to uplift these vulnerable youths. The calls are made for governments, NGOs, and communities to prioritize funding and resources to ensure access to quality education for all street-connected children, thereby fostering a brighter future for these marginalized youths.

A VISIT TO LILONGWE REHABILITATION CENTER



In a heartening display of compassion and community spirit, Eye of the Child, Renee Jones Empowerment Centre and Share the Dignity embarked on a meaningful journey to Lilongwe Social Rehabilitation Center. Fueled by a shared commitment to make a positive difference, the team set out to donate essential food items and uplift the spirits of vulnerable children and youth in need.

Arriving at the center, they were greeted by resilience and perseverance, permeating the atmosphere. Individuals undergoing rehabilitation welcomed the team with open arms, faces lighting up with gratitude at the sight of the donation, a reminder of the transformative power of kindness and solidarity.

Engaging in heartfelt conversations, the team listened to stories with empathy and understanding, each interaction a touching reminder of challenges overcome.

Amidst trials, there was unwavering determination to embrace hope. In addition to food items, the team organized uplifting activities fostering joy and solidarity. From musical performances to interactive games, every moment was infused with laughter, creating lasting memories.

One touching moment came as children expressed gratitude, a testament to the impact of the gesture, reaffirming compassion's importance in healing.

The rehabilitation center, providing shelter and support services, expressed deep gratitude. Peter Magomero, center manager, stated, "Their donation is invaluable."

Departing, hearts were filled with fulfillment. The visit wasn't just about aid; it was about forging connections, nurturing hope, and reminding each other they're never alone in overcoming adversity and creating a compassionate world.





EYE OF THE CHILD SPORTS DAY

As a means of raising awareness of human trafficking among street-connected children and those at risk, Eye of the Child, in conjunction with Renee Jones Empowerment Centre and Share the Dignity, hosted a groundbreaking tournament under the REDCORD project.

The tournament promoted sportsmanship and raised awareness about human trafficking, child marriages, menstrual hygiene, and teenage pregnancies. At the end of the match, participants received medals for athletic prowess and anti-trafficking advocacy. Towera Chikalipe vowed, “We won’t stay silent.” Whoopy Jede highlighted the event’s importance in protecting every child’s po-

tential. Joseph Banda emphasized sports to engage children and combat early marriages. The Children Sports Bonanza’s theme was raising anti-human trafficking awareness for street-connected children in Malawi.





WHOOPY JEDE METEWERE'S VISIT TO RENEE JONES EMPOWERMENT CENTER

Whoopy Jede Metewere, Eye of the Child's global representative, recently visited the Renee Jones Empowerment center from the USA to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations. This visit highlights a commitment to collaborative efforts in addressing human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Renee Jones Empowerment Center a (50C)(3) non-profit organization, uniquely provides holistic restorative services for both adult and minor victims of human trafficking and sexual assault. These victims face adverse challenges such as physical and emotional abuse, poverty, and addiction. The center's mission is to empower these

individuals to advocate for themselves and enhance their quality of life through personal, social, and professional development. Moreover, the center is dedicated to preventing human trafficking and sexual exploitation by actively engaging the community in anti-trafficking efforts. It educates service professionals, law enforcement, educators, students, parents and the broader community. Jede's visit aimed to strengthen the partnership between Renee Jones Empowerment Center and Eye of the Child, fostering international collaboration for enhanced community engagement, resource sharing, and victim support.



PROTECTING OUR FUTURE: UPHOLDING CHILDREN RIGHTS

In a world where every child's voice should be heard and valued, our organization (Eye of the child) stands as a beacon of hope, dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the rights of children everywhere. From the bustling streets of urban landscapes to the tranquil corners of rural communities, every child deserves the chance to thrive, to dream, and to be protected. The Right to Safety and Protection: Every child deserves to feel safe and protected from harm. Whether it's physical, emotional, or psychological, no child should ever have to endure abuse or exploitation. Our organization works tirelessly to advocate for policies and programs that ensure children are shielded from violence, trafficking, and any form of exploitation.

The Right to Health and Well-being: Healthy children are happy children. Every child deserves access to proper healthcare, nutritious food, clean water, and a safe environment to grow and develop. We strive to ensure that healthcare services are readily available and affordable, leaving no child behind in the pursuit of good health and well-being. The Right to Education: Education is not just a privilege; it is a fundamental right. Every child, regardless of their background or circumstances, deserves access to quality education. It's the key that unlocks doors to endless possibilities, empowering children to shape their own futures and contribute positively to society. The Right to Play and Leisure: Play is not just a pastime; it's essential for a child's holistic development. Every child has the right to play, to explore, and to engage in recreational activities that nurture their creativity and imagination. Through our efforts, we advocate for safe and inclusive spaces where children can freely express themselves and enjoy their childhood.





THE GATEWAY OF HOPE INITIATIVE



Women living in Dzaleka refugee camp face a lot of challenges to meet their daily needs and this is a group that requires all the necessary support to ensure their successful transition into financial independence. It is against this background that Eye of the Child with funding from Renne Jones Empowerment center embarked on an economic empowerment program targeting women in Dzaleka refugee camp.

Through the gate way of hope initiative, they

are trained in small scale entrepreneurship and vocational skills. The project also focuses on providing a monthly cash transfer of MK 50,000 to alleviate their immediate hardship allowing them to focus on building a sustainable future. EYC recognize that true empowerment comes from self-sufficiency that is why alongside the cash transfers we provide training in tailoring and designing to equip the women with a valuable skill to generate sustainable income.



PREPARATION FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 2024 WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS. THEME: LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Anna is one of 367 Child survivors of Sex trafficking at Eye of the Child Safe House, the Gateway of Hope. She was rescued by a group of women trained by Eye of the Child at the age of 12 while 8-month pregnant leaving in the house of the trafficker who killed her mother during recruitment. Eye of the Child therefore welcome the 2024 global campaign for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons which urges accelerated action to end child trafficking. Children represent a significant proportion of trafficking victims worldwide, with girls being disproportionately affected.

Children are subjected to various forms of trafficking including; exploitation in forced labour, criminality or begging, trafficked for illegal adoption, recruitment into armed forces, and online or sexual abuse and exploitation.

Root causes are manifold, including poverty, inadequate support of unaccompanied children amidst rising migration and refugee flows, armed conflicts, dysfunctional families, and lack of parental care. Notably, in low-income countries, children are often trafficked for forced labour, whereas in high-income countries, sexual exploitation remains prevalent among child victims.

Identification and protection of child victims remain challenging due to underreporting, lack of awareness, and inadequate resources for victim support services. Traffickers often employ coercion, deception, and threats to maintain control over their victims, making it difficult for authorities to intervene.

“To date, we have not effectively addressed the

issue of child trafficking.

This must change.

Urgent and comprehensive action is essential to tackle this dire situation, protect vulnerable groups from exploitation and support child victims of trafficking”

The Eye of the Child welcomes the 2024 global campaign for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, urging accelerated action to end child trafficking. Children represent a significant proportion of trafficking victims worldwide, with girls disproportionately affected. They endure various forms of trafficking: forced labor, criminality, begging, illegal adoption, recruitment into armed forces, and online and sexual abuse. Root causes include poverty, inadequate support for unaccompanied children amidst migration and armed conflicts, dysfunctional families, and lack of parental care. In low-income countries, children are often trafficked for forced labor; in high-income countries, sexual exploitation prevails. Identification and protection of child victims remain challenging due to underreporting, lack of awareness, and inadequate resources. Traffickers use coercion, deception, and threats to control victims, impeding authorities’ intervention.

“As we approach the 10th World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July 2024, it is crucial to address the shortcomings and accelerate action to #EndHumanTrafficking.”





Eye of the Child



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