

The Pre-Conference for Children on Child Sexual Abuse

Venue: Kenyatta Conference Centre (K.I.C.C)
22nd September, 2007



Pre-Conference Report

September 2007

(Preceding the First International Conference
in Africa on Child Sexual Abuse)

Organised by ANPPCAN REGIONAL
Supported by Save the Children Sweden

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Acknowledgements

ANPPCAN head office would like to specially acknowledge and thank children and adults who took part in the procession and all children who took part in the Pre-conference. They all put their best foot forward. Special recognition to all. Together they took a critical step to ensure that children's voices are heard in the First International Conference in Africa on Child Sexual Abuse.

Special thanks to Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch for accepting the call of children to be the guest of honor in their conference. Indeed this was a demonstration of her commitment to children's issues. Sincere thanks also to the members of the Children's Parliament, especially Mr. Tim Gitau, Antony Kagwara, Alfred Otieno, Frank Njoroge among others' who sacrificed their time and studies to ensure that the children's conference was a reality. special mention to the committee that worked tirelessly to organize the children's Pre-Conference.

Finally the children's Pre-conference would not not have succeeded without the support of organizations like Save the Children Sweden, HOPE HIV, the police Department and other organizations and institutions that gave their Financial and human resources together to ensure that the children's event was realized.

To One and ALL ASANTE SANA.

Procession of children against child sexual abuse through the streets of Nairobi

The day began with a peaceful procession by 350 children, teachers and representatives from different organizations. The procession was flagged off by Prof. Carol Plummer of Louisiana State University at the Railways roundabout in Nairobi. Prof. Plummer is an ardent campaigner for children's rights. The objective of the procession was to denounce child sexual abuse. It not only sensitized people on the issue, but children realised their power to denounce violence against them, especially sexual violence. The children were neatly dressed in white T-shirts and caps that carried messages condemning sexual abuse against them. They also held placards and banners to protest rampant sexual abuse. Some messages included 'Say No to Child Sexual Abuse' and 'Adults, please protect us from Sexual Abuse'. They were accompanied by the Lang'ata High School Scouts Band and attracted a large crowd.



Children carrying placards with messages condemning CSA during the procession

Conference Proceedings

Presiding MC: Elizabeth Anyango

Entertainment

The Master of Ceremonies (MC), Elizabeth Anyango, a former member of the Children's Parliament, welcomed all the guests. The day began with the National Anthem and prayers that were led by children from the Muslim and Christian community. Abdirahman Mahat of Don Bosco Secondary School represented the Muslim community, while Joseph Wainaina of Carwiltons Secondary School represented the Christian community.

This was followed by a host of entertainment groups from the various schools and groups represented.

Introduction

The MC gave an official welcome and introduced the guests at the high table. They included:

Chief Guest	The Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch: Head, Family Division of High Court of Kenya and Chairperson of Task Force on Sexual Offences Act, 2006.
Dr. Philista Onyango:	The Regional Director- ANPPCAN Regional
Wambui Njuguna:	The Director of Programmes- ANPPCAN Regional
Antony Kagwara:	Junior President - Children's Parliament
Alfred Otieno:	Junior Vice-President - Children's Parliament
Guest Speaker:	Prof. Carol Plummer - Louisiana State University, U.S.A

Introductory Speech

H.E Junior Vice President, Alfred Otieno

The junior vice-president made an introduction of the other members of the Children's Parliament 2007 as follows:

Anthony Kagwara	Junior President
Alfred Otieno	Junior Vice President
John Njoroge	Junior Attorney General
Tabitha Tongoi	Junior Minister of Education
Jared Babu	Junior Minister for Foreign Affairs

He went on to give a definition of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) as 'a gross violation of the rights of the child - perpetrated by those who should be protecting them'. He urged his fellow children not to suffer in silence if this violation was occurring and instead to speak out and report such occurrences. This would ensure that the perpetrators would cease to be in a position to violate other children. He further stated that despite the powerlessness and fear the children may feel, the law protected them, under the Sexual Offences Act which contains sections specifically relating to Child Sexual Abuse

H.E Anthony Kagwara, Junior President, Children's Parliament

His Excellency the Junior President acknowledged Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch, Dr. Philista Onyango, the distinguished guests and fellow children. He began by reminding the children that they shared the unique privilege to witness the upcoming CSA conference as the first forum of its kind in Africa. He then stated that Kenya is a great country not only for its physical beauty, but also people of great minds and vision. Contrary to the media portrayal of the African Child as malnourished with a bulging stomach and desperate eyes, he said that the African child was healthy, intelligent, smiling and visionary. He said that this was evident in the children present at the conference. He further stated that the greatness of a country is not measured by its wealth, status or power but rather by the state of its children. However, the vice of Child Sexual Abuse has robbed children of their dreams, aspirations and dignity. He went further to detail that Child Sexual Abuse (Under the Sexual Offences Act) comprises of defilement, indecent acts, attempted defilement, child trafficking, child sex tourism, child prostitution and child pornography. He stated that the current statistics indicated that CSA was on the rise. It was therefore necessary that this, previously-unspoken vice, be brought to the limelight and the input of the stakeholders taken into consideration to formulate solutions. His Excellency Kagwara went further to identify the roles of different groups in combating child sexual abuse as follows:



Junior President, His Excellency Anthony Kagwara, addressing the participants

The role of Children in combating CSA:

- To be informed on acts of sexual abuse by understanding Laws concerning CSA and other

forms of child abuse

- To Report cases of sexual abuse
- To Avoiding being involved in immoral acts

The Role of the Community in combating CSA:

- Promote awareness by having open and frank discussions with children about CSA
- Expose the culprits within the community
- Be watchdogs of the society to drive out sexual abusers
- Change community attitudes towards child sexual abuse



Lang'ata Scouts Band lead the procession

The Role of the Government:

- The judicial system should be more efficient by expediting cases speedily
- More resource investment to cater for the complexity of children's cases and the need for child-friendly police officers
- The Children's Department should be challenged to empower children in their role in combating CSA

In conclusion, H.E Hon. Kagwara stated that the children of this nation would want to register their opinion on the upcoming General Elections. He said that the ideal president would be the one that considered the interests of the Children's Parliament and would invest and support the children of Kenya.

Welcoming Speech

Dr. Philista Onyango, Regional Director ANPPCAN

Dr. Onyango acknowledged the presence of the key-note speaker, Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch, Prof. Carol Plummer, Mrs. Wambui Njuguna of ANPPCAN, the representatives of the Children's Parliament, other distinguished guests and the children. She welcomed the guests on behalf of ANPPCAN and explained that the primary reason for the pre-conference was to give the children a chance to speak and have their voices heard in the main conference that would take place the following week. Saturday had been chosen as the day of the pre-conference purposefully so that children would not miss school during the week. She urged the children to articulate their opinions so as to have strong recommendations which would eventually be handed over to the Attorney General, Hon Amos Wako by Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch. This was significant as Hon. Lady Justice Aluoch was the founder and head of the Family Court and thus it was a matter close to her heart. She also thanked Dr. Carol Plummer and Wambui Njuguna for accompanying the children to show support, during the morning procession. She then formally invited the Key-note speaker to give her address.

Key Note Address and Official Opening

Honourable Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch - Head, Family Division of the High Court of Kenya and Chairperson of Task Force on Sexual Offences Act 2006

The key-note speaker began by acknowledging the Regional Director of ANPPCAN, invited guests, the representatives of children present and the children themselves. She also acknowledged that it was an important day for the children as it provided an opportunity for them to exercise their right to be heard in matters affecting them, as stipulated in Article 7 of the African Charter and Article 12 of the UN convention on the rights of the child.



Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch shares a word with His Excellency Anthony Kagura, while Junior Vice President Alfred Otieno looks on

She pointed out that she will officiate the First International Conference in Africa on Child Sexual Abuse, both at the opening and closing ceremonies which would be officially opened by the Vice President, Honourable Moody Awori and officially closed by the Attorney-General, Honourable Amos Wako. She highlighted a few areas in the Law, which touched on children and needed to be addressed by appropriate authorities.

She pointed out that she will officiate the First International Conference in Africa on Child Sexual Abuse, both at the opening and closing ceremonies which would be officially opened by the Vice President, Honourable Moody Awori and officially closed by the Attorney-General, Honourable Amos Wako. She highlighted a few areas in the Law, which touched on children and needed to be addressed by appropriate authorities.

a) **The declaration by the Court of Appeal** in a judgement last year that the provisions in the first schedule of the Children's Act, under the child offenders rules, were null and void. This judgement nullified the following provisions that were providing protection to children:

- (1) "Every case involving a child shall be handled expeditiously and without unnecessary delay"
- (2) "Where the case of a child appearing before a children's court is not completed within 3 months, after the plea has been taken, the case shall be dismissed and the child shall not be liable to any further proceedings for the same offence"
- (3) "Where, owing to its seriousness, a case is heard by a court superior to the Children's Court, the maximum period of remand for a child shall be six months, after which the child shall be released on bail"
- (4) "Where a case to which paragraph 3 of these rules apply is not completed within 12 months after the plea has been taken, the case shall be dismissed and the child shall be discharged and shall not be liable to any further proceedings for the same offence"

With the Court of Appeal declaring these provisions un-constitutional, children now face long remand periods with no protection. This is a serious issue which needs urgent attention

b) **The Sexual Offences Act 2006** - the Act carries severe penalties on those who sexually abuse children and has also introduced new offences which included Child trafficking, deliberate infection of a minor with HIV and gang rape. These new offences are punishable by a minimum sentence of no less than ten years. She urged all children to report sexual abuse and hoped all courts would impose the correct sentencing for children. The Act says that having sexual intercourse with a child is illegal; as such a person is committing the offence of defilement, even if the child

agreed to have sex with that person. The punishment for defilement will depend on the age of the child, i.e.

- Defilement of children aged 11 years and below, the sentence is life imprisonment
- Defilement of children aged between 12-15 years, the sentence is imprisonment for 20 years or more
- Defilement of children aged 16-18 years; the sentence is 15 years or more.

Some of the defences used by accused defilers are that the child made him/her believe that s/he was above 18 years of age or the accused person reasonably believed that the child was above 18 years old. Despite the legal provisions, there are still two challenges to face:

- a) The implementation which is invested mostly in the courts
- b) Failure by children to report such cases

c) But where should children report? Currently children are expected to report to the nearest police station or to children's officers based in districts, provinces or the Director of Children's Services. But in the very near future, there will be available a three-digit toll-free line (no charge for calling) installed. This has been a joint initiative by Child-line Kenya, Ministry of Home Affairs and Communications Commission of Kenya. This helpline will be manned by qualified personnel who will respond to queries, and tell the child what to do, wherever they are.

The CRADLE; a Children's Foundation, based in Nairobi, currently runs a programme that has a list of lawyers that do pro-bono work on behalf of children. This resource base should be utilized to help turn the tide on CSA.



Honourable Lady Justice Aluoch poses for a photo with some of the participants

d) Many children are disinherited by greedy relatives upon the death of parents/guardians. There is need for the government or any other authority to appoint some people who may come to court, to apply for letters of administration and/or grant, on behalf of children whose parents have died, leaving behind property which relatives are grabbing.

Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to Chief Guest

Tim Gitau - National Coordinator, Children's Parliament

The national co-ordinator of the Children's Parliament, on behalf of his team, offered congratulations to the Lady Justice for her exemplary work in the field of children's rights and particularly her effort to be the voice for children in the legal arena. He quoted Plato who said 'to know the greatness of a country, look at its children'. It is evident that African children have been left behind because lack of information still plagues children in this continent. Children are the bed-rock of the generation and it is thus important, to educate children, so as to reverse this trend.

He then proposed an initiative that would go towards developing a children's parliament for Africa- in conjunction with ANPPCAN. He talked of inter-generational equity for the progression of the country's development. He reiterated the sentiments of the junior president by describing the African child as much more than the portrayal by media. With this, he presented the Lady Justice with a plaque which honoured her rulings that have been beneficial for children and he applauded her efforts, which the members of the children's parliament had participated in and watched over the years. It was thus a token of their appreciation. He concluded by urging the children, yet again, to formulate their recommendations from the issues raised so that they can take advantage of the support that they had been given in this pre-conference forum



Participants stand in unity at the Pre-Conference venue

Protecting Children from Child Sexual Abuse - The Role of Children

Prof. Carol Plummer, Louisiana State University

The key speaker of the day was Prof. Carol Plummer who used a power point presentation (Appendix 2) and interactive discussion to give an overview of Child Sexual Abuse. The children were given the opportunity to share their understanding of CSA and using an analogy of 'one stone is just a stone but many stones can build a house' the children were urged to unite to fight the monster of child sexual abuse.

Group Discussions

Group discussions consisted of six groups of approximately 45 members each with a facilitator drawn from the Children's Parliament and a secretary selected from among the group members. Each group discussed one question in detail and gave recommendations regarding the role of chil-



Participants pay attention to presentations

dren, parents/community and government in combating CSA. They then presented their findings on a flip chart.

Their deliberations are as follows:

a) What do you consider as child sexual abuse?

They defined Child Sexual Abuse as the act of an adult exploiting a child sexually through rape, child trafficking, child pornography, touching of private parts, sexual intercourse etc. It takes away children's dignity and misuses them because it involves sex before marriage.

b) What are your experiences with child sexual abuse (where does it occur- at home, school, church and amongst what groups?)

Child sexual abuse occurs in different parts of the country (e.g. Nairobi, Nakuru, Kakamega, Naivasha, and Coast) and involves both boys and girls.

Those who cause this abuse can be anyone including, fathers, uncles, teacher, pastor, classmates, strangers and thieves.

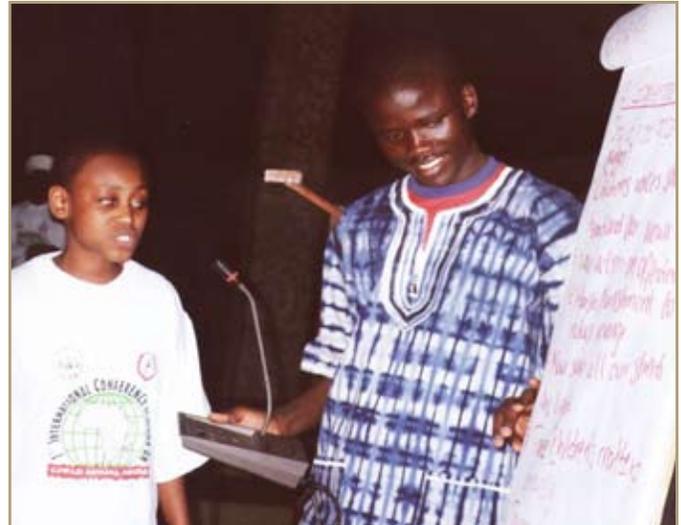
Child Sexual Abuse occurs anywhere and at any-time- at home, in school, in church, in unfinished buildings, on the way home, in strange places where children are taken after being kidnapped

The reasons why people abuse children are many and they include:

- To Hurt children as a form of revenge to adults related to them e.g. when a relative abuses a child to get back at a parent who they have a feud with.
- Abusing children to prevent them from becoming prosperous and strong e.g. when a girl is a bright student, some people may rape her out of jealousy.
- Abusing children to punish them for the guilt they have.
- Taking advantage of children's fear e.g. when someone like a teacher wants to punish them and tells them to have sex with him in order not to be punished
- Tricking children to believe that they will get something good e.g. in church when a pastor tells a child to have sex with him in order to give her or him blessings or everything the child wants or teachers giving children favors like free marks.
- The abusers have power over children e.g. At home when the parents are not there and a child has been left with the uncle
- Drug addicts when they are under influence of the drugs
- When abusers want to harvest body parts for witchcraft
- When abusers want to traffic children

When CSA happens children may:

- Be killed
- Die from injuries



Junior Vice-President Alfred Otieno presenting the group findings with one of the group members

- Be maimed for life
- Get pregnant
- Get diseases
- Become violent or withdrawn
- Stop performing well in school and other duties
- Change their attitude towards life and people around them
- Commit suicide- especially if they do not get support from caregivers

But, if children get medical help immediately and support from their parents and guardians, there is hope in the end and they can go on with their lives and even become successful in life

c) What should children do for other sexually abused children?

- Counseling the children by giving them emotional support and treating them equally, that is, without discrimination of any kind, be it physical or emotional.
- Report the matter to adults/ parents, and if possible to the police.
- Organize conferences and groupings so as to create awareness between children and stakeholders in the children sector.
- Give hope to the affected children as fellow friends.

d) Who are the perpetrators and Why?

These are people who carry out the actual offence of exploiting a child sexually. They are irresponsible, selfish and criminal people and they should have the harshest possible sentence- life imprisonment

Perpetrators abuse children for different reasons such as

- Some believe in myths.
- To satisfy themselves.
- Because children can't defend themselves
- Because of revenge
- Jobless people: to keep themselves busy
- Drug abusers: lack of self control
- Guardians: when parents die and leave the children in the hands of relatives or guardian
- Victim of HIV: some do it purposely to transmit the virus



Happy participants show a light moment at the K.I.C.C.

e) What should be done to the perpetrators?

- Should be given long-term jail or life sentence.
- They should be castrated.
- Should be taken for special counseling/rehabilitation.
- Isolate the perpetrators from the community
- Investigation should be done before the offenders are jailed.

f) What should be done to support children that are sexually abused?

- More medical centres with special ward for child sexual abuse cases.
- The children Should be encouraged by telling them how important they are in the society despite what happened to them
- Taken to hospital for medical examination and treatment
- Given protection in school and at home
- HIV positive children should be given balanced diet and drugs to prolong their life
- Children should be given legal representation
- Abused children should be given spiritual encouragement by praying for them.
- Counselling and guidance of the affected children by parents, elders or professional counsellors
- Educating and informing to create awareness- e.g. introducing non-examinable subjects dealing with child abuse and other current issues affecting children and ways and solutions or prevention
- Children can be educated on how to handle strangers- e.g. they shouldn't receive any sweets or gifts from someone they don't know
- Coming up with more facilities such as judiciary courts and correction centres which should be child-friendly.
- Centres in various parts of divisions and constituencies where cases on child abuse could be reported and handled with confidentiality
- Encourage children to report these cases by training the police to be child-friendly and how to handle cases dealing with children and their rights
- Up-to-date investigative techniques should be adopted to make it easier to catch perpetrators without endangering children's life

g) Do you think there are enough services for children who are affected?

Children gave valid opinions towards this question. Some believed that there are enough facilities while others didn't, and requested more. The answers were as follows:

Yes:

- Yes, there are more children homes where children can be accommodated after abuse.
- The introduction of the Sexual Offences Act with 10 sections that have been allocated for child sexual abuse that are protecting children.
- Introduction of hospitals for the abused e.g. Nairobi Women's Hospital

No:

Children still request for more centres dealing with children's rights. These may include:

- More children medical centres possibly with free medication for those who are not financially able



Members of the public join children in the procession

- More juvenile courts to deal with children's cases and better prosecution
- Collecting evidence more effectively
- More child-friendly correctional systems that will help the children who were misled and who took the wrong path to change their ways and by so doing, create a better society

Recommendations

a) To the Children

- After school, young girls and boys should not walk alone- they should walk in groups
- Children should avoid gifts from strangers or agree to go anywhere with them
- Children Report to nearest police station, to teachers, to parents or scream when attacked
- Avoid company of bad friends because they might take them to dangerous places
- Listen to parents advice and dress decently
- Children Should not accept to be sent to the shop or any place at night or lonely and bushy streets
- Children Should not engage themselves in sexual behaviors
- Children Should not watch pornography

b) To Parents and Community

- Be mindful of the welfare of children. Do not allow them to go to school alone and constantly talk to them to know their problems
- Parents should know what time a child leaves the house and what time they come back so that in case of any delay they can investigate
- Give attention to children and respect their rights
- Should avoid sending children at night
- Parents should not expose children to their pornographic movies
- Parents should set a good example for the children by protecting them against all forms of abuse.
- Parents should stop taking drugs and rendering children vulnerable to abuse.
- Parents should take their parental responsibilities seriously
- Advise their children on issues concerning sexuality
- Should accompany their children when they can
- Parents should provide children with basic needs so as to prevent child prostitution
- Parents should train girls in good moral behaviors and how to protect themselves against abuse.



Participants carry the banner on the streets of Nairobi during the procession

c) To the Government

- The children's rights, which were taken away (by a declaration in the judgment of the Court of Appeal in 2006) should be reinstated
- The Government should establish more help lines in most government offices to cater for

children in all areas

- The Government should establish a corruption-free society (especially police, legal advisers and administration) so that the children can have access to facilities and people convicted of child abuse find it difficult to escape justice because of corruption.
- The Government should seek to establish a drug-free environment so that children do not indulge in drugs. Drugs render children vulnerable to abuse especially sexual abuse
- The government should ensure that the streets are well-lit to protect children especially at night and when coming from school at late hours.
- The Government should enact stiffer laws that ensure that child abusers are punished accordingly and the option of fines should not be extended to such offenders
- Children officers should be child-friendly and accessible
- The government should ensure that Judges are trained on children's issues and should not accept bribes to free abusers.
- More children lawyers/ magistrates should handle cases of child sexual abuse
- More facilities in the rural areas i.e. medical/ legal and counseling services.
- Include child abuse/ sexual in school curriculum
- The government should Provide protection to children after disclosing the matter
- The government should provide enough facilities and resources such as information and education to children so that they do not engage in prostitution and child pornography.
- The Government should raise awareness among children about already convicted people.
- Organize public awareness campaigns on sexual abuse

Closing of the pre-conference

Using the child participatory approach of discussion in small groups, the conference was able to capture the views of the children present and give representative recommendations.

The group presentations were then consolidated and the resolutions formulated.

These would be presented by the Junior Attorney-General (Children's Parliament) during the Main Conference.

A Vote of Thanks was given by the Junior President to the participants for attending and contributing to the agenda of the pre-conference. The guests and organizers of the conference were also thanked.

Washington Kote gave a Vote Of thanks to the participants and especially the Children's Parliament for their contribution in the success of the conference.

The participant's representative- Alice Gathoni Gachoka from Gicoco Primary School and Kiambu Child Right's Club also gave a vote of thanks to the organizers and fellow members of Child Right's Clubs for making the occasion a success.

'We have discovered that the most important thing is not money in the hands of few but information in the minds of many' (quotation by members of Group Two)



APPENDIX 1

List of participants

(Schools/number of participants per school, teachers and organizations)

Kiu River Primary school	20
Machiri Primary school	20
Riabai Primary School	13
Gichocho Primary School	13
Childrens Parliament	7
Girls Empowerment Group (Korogocho)	30
Chief Wandie Primary school	15
Kirigiti Rehabilitation Center	20
Mkuru Kwa Ruben Primary School	30
Kayole One Primary School	50
Lang'ata High School	20
Carwilton Secondary school	75
Don Bosco High school	3
Strathmore High school	4
Jamuhuri High School	2
Kenya Scouts	20
Teachers	19
ANPPCAN Kenya	7
ANPPCAN Regional	12
Chief Guest	1
Guest speaker	1
Media group	10
Total Number of Participants	394

APPENDIX 2

Protecting Children from Child Sexual Abuse

By Professor Carol A. Plummer
Louisiana State University

TOGETHER

- WE ARE BUILDING A BETTER WORLD
- THIS WORLD IS FOR YOU AND YOUR FUTURE
- We are building stone by stone, country by country, the building blocks of ending violence against children.

Protecting Children from Child Sexual Abuse

The Role of Children
Carol A. Plummer, Ph.D.
Louisiana State University

PROTECTING YOU IS THE JOB OF GROWN-UPS

- Not all grownups know how to help
- Not all grownups are helpful
- Sometimes grownups aren't around
- There are things children and youth can do to help keep themselves safe.

Our Work is for All Children

- All children need safety, love, protection
- Problems can happen to any child: rich, poor, young, older, smart, not-so-smart, strong, weak
- You are part of the solution for all children, working together worldwide to end the problem of child sexual abuse
- Look at children we work for:

Protecting Yourself

- **Trust your feelings**
 - If you don't feel safe, leave
 - If you don't feel safe, don't go
 - If someone feels bad to you, don't trust

Protecting Yourself

- **Be Aware of your Environment**
 - Are there others nearby?
 - Will you be trapped?
 - If you need help can you get it?

Protecting Yourself

- **Assert Yourself**
 - Tell them to stop
 - Get away
 - Yell or make a noise
 - Tell a grownup you trust
 - Keep telling until someone helps you

Helping Other Children

- Look out for younger children
- Talk to your friends
- Be kind and offer to help friends who have been victimized
- Talk to trusted grownups to have them help your friend
- Never blame the child

Helping Spread the Word

- Don't keep the problem a secret----secrecy and shame let offenders keep hurting others
- If you or another child you know has a sexual behavior problem, seek help
- Ask for information about healthy sexuality so youth know what it is and cannot be fooled
- Value girl children more so that they are not misused and exploited
- Be brave and come forward if you need help

APPENDIX 3

Presentation on 'Child Sexual Abuse'

By Catherine Mungai
Carlwilton's High School

Child Abuse has become so rampant in Kenya and Africa as a continent in recent days.

Being a child is the greatest thing one can have because as a child you are still discovering yourself and fantasizing about your future and everyone around you as a friend. But this has changed because the people we called our neighbors, friends and even dear people to us have changed to monsters. They sexually, physically and emotionally abuse us. A child is born in the world but now it is like he is born to the world.

The earth is supposed to be safe for children but due to the abuse some of us go through we are forced to think that hell is a place called home. They say that human beings are born with lamenting cry but its for you and me to turn this cries to joy and make the world a better place for children.

They say that children are the future leaders and we as children believe that the future is now. Rape is no longer breaking news in our media and it hurts to see a child's destiny get assassinated through rape. Let me quote the Bible which says that "the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who have the heart of a child". And this proves that a child is the most precious gift a family, neighbour and a country can have. Child abuse makes children believe that life is a mistake but my fellow African children have only one wish and that is to see life as a design and not a mistake. Children subjected to abuse grow up in fear, hatred and after turn to be violent people just because they what to forget the ordeal they went through under the hands of an abusive person.

When you sexually abuse a child despite their gender, you take away something that is irreplaceable and that is the value of life.

As I come to conclusion I want to thank you for listening and hope our grievances as children will be heard and our greatest dream is to live in a world that appreciates and takes children for who they are and not what they are.

God Bless each and every one of you accordingly.

Thank You.

Appendix 4

Programme for the Pre-conference for Children on Child Sexual Abuse

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER/LEADER
8:30 a.m.	Reporting at KICC	All participants
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Assembly and Flagging Off	Police Commissioner
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Procession	Band
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Arrival at KICC registration and refreshments	Organizers
10:30 - 10:40 a.m.	Guests seated	Organizers
10:40 - 11:10 a.m.	Welcome and Entertainments	MC
11:10 - 11:20 a.m.	Welcome Speech from Children’s Representative	Anthony Kagwara, Junior President
11:20 - 11:30 a.m.	Welcome speech from ANPPCAN	Dr. Philista Onyango, Regional Director, ANPPCAN Head Office
11:30 - 12:00 p.m.	Keynote Address and Official Opening of the Conference	Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch, Head, Family Division of High Court of Kenya & Chairperson of Task Force on Sex Offences Act, 2006
12:00 p.m.	Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to Chief Guest	Tim Gitau and the Children’s Parliament Team
12:00 – 12:10 p.m.	Entertainment	MC
12:10 – 12:30 p.m.	Introduction to Child Sexual Abuse	Prof. Carol Plummer, Louisiana State University, U.S.A
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Formation of groups (for discussion)	Organizers
1:00 2:00 p.m.	Lunch	Organizers
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Group discussion	Children’s Parliament
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Group presentation and resolutions	Children’s Parliament
4:30- 4:40 p.m.	Vote of thanks	Children’s Parliament ANPPCAN Regional
4:40 p.m.	End	Organizers