

PRESENTING

ISSUE

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WHAT NOW?



STUDIO
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Theirworld

IN KAMPALA, UGANDA, STATISTICS SHOW THAT 46% OF GIRLS ARE LIKELY TO BE MARRIED OFF BEFORE THEY REACH THEIR 18TH BIRTHDAY.



AS A VICTIM OF EARLY MARRIAGE, I FIND THIS VERY ALARMING BECAUSE MANY GIRLS ARE DEPRIVED OF OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE A BETTER FUTURE.

MY NAME IS SYLVIA KAKYO, I'M 26 YEARS OLD, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS AND EXPERIENCES WITH YOU.

I WAS FORCED INTO MARRIAGE AT THE AGE OF 15. WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, I HAD DREAMS OF BECOMING A LAWYER BECAUSE I WAS SO PASSIONATE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND EDUCATION. WHEN I WAS FORCED INTO MARRIAGE, MY DREAMS DISAPPEARED.



WHERE I COME FROM, CHILD MARRIAGE CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST SILENT EVILS. IT IS SO SILENT THAT MANY YOUNG GIRLS ARE BEING MARRIED OFF OPENLY WHILE MEMBERS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES TURN A BLIND EYE.



I OVERCAME THIS SITUATION BY ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM - OTHER PEOPLE'S MINDSETS AND OPINIONS ABOUT GIRLS IN MY COMMUNITY. GIRLS ARE SEEN AS A SOURCE OF INCOME THROUGH DOWRY FOR THE FAMILY.



MANY PEOPLE FEEL THAT GIRLS ARE NOT MEANT TO STUDY, BUT INSTEAD BE MARRIED OFF AT AN EARLY AGE.

I KNEW THAT IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM, I WOULD NEED TO FIND A WAY TO RAISE THE IMPORTANCE OF EQUALITY OF EDUCATION.

I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT EDUCATING A CHILD ONE AT A TIME WILL EVENTUALLY BUILD A STRONG NATION. IF WE ARE TO SEE THE WORLD WE WANT, WE NEED TO RISE UP AND TAKE CHARGE OF SOCIETIES AROUND US.



IT IS ONLY BY DOING SO THAT WE CAN DEVELOP THE BEST IN OURSELVES; THE ETHICS, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT WILL ALLOW US TO FLOURISH AND REACH OUR FULL POTENTIAL.

MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCES INSPIRED ME TO START ADVOCATING FOR EDUCATION TO MAKE A POSITIVE CHANGE IN MY COMMUNITY. I AM NOW A DIRECTOR OF A GRASSROOTS NGO CALLED "KEEP ME IN SCHOOL". WE PROMOTE EDUCATION AND EMPOWERS YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING, ADVOCACY PROGRAMS AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING TO CREATE A SKILLED, RESILIENT COMMUNITY.



IT IS MY HOPE THAT WE CAN FIND A WAY TO GARNER ENOUGH SUPPORT FOR OUR CAUSE IN ORDER TO END THE SUFFERING OF MILLIONS OF GIRLS AROUND THE WORLD.