

YOUTH TAKE CHARGE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



YGT TV INTERVIEW

ZVIKOMBORERO RUVARASHE JAKARA(ZELA)

Environmental Child Rights are an extension of the basic human rights that mankind requires such and deserves. In addition, to having the right to food, clean water, education and suitable shelter, having a safe environment is paramount as all other rights are dependent on it. On 15 February 2020, Zvikomborero Jakara and Bright Hwande were part of a discussion on Environmental Child Rights on ZBC TV's Young Gifted and Talented program which is a youth centered show. The discussion mainly focused on educating the viewers across the country on environmental child rights.

Section 73 of the Zimbabwean Constitution, which is the Supreme law in the country, provides for environmental rights and how every person is entitled to them. Section 81 Sub section (2) of the Constitution also provides for Children's Rights and it provides that the best interests of the child are of paramount importance when dealing with anything to do with them and this can be linked to the environment as well. An unsafe environment, affects a lot of rights including the right to education since a child might fail to go to school because they would have to walk long distances to get water first and some schools close early due to unavailability of water. It also affects the right to health since the water sources can be contaminated by the use of chemicals used during mining like mercury (water pollution).

Bright also commented on how the Regional Network is partnering with terre des hommes Germany (TDH) and how they are helping in the implementation of Environmental Child Rights and ensuring that they are protected. This is being done through awareness campaigns, social media engagements and capacity building of youth networks on environmental child rights.

**This month,
we're looking at:**

YGT TELEVISION
INTERVIEW

FIRST
QUARTERLY
YOUTH NETWORK
MEETING

& MANY MORE.....

ZIM-ZAM FIRST QUARTERLY YOUTH NETWORK MEETING

YOUTH CORRESPONDENT

The first quarterly meeting for the Zimbabwe-Zambia Youth Network took place in Harare in February. Attended by all partner youth networks under the TDH-Germany Family, the meeting saw the groups sharing and learning from experiences on the activities they are doing in their local communities. They also deliberated and shared ideas on how they will strengthen collaboration as the youth network. Participants analysed the current collaboration efforts within the ZIM ZAM Youth network and made recommendations they should adopt. Finally, participants familiarized with *Workplace by Facebook* as a teamwork tool to ensure there is constant and seamless communication, sharing of information and collaboration on activities. The meeting ended with a resolution to press forward with collaboration and the urge to do better to promote environmental child rights and other activities.



International Youth Network Updates

YOUTH CORRESPONDENT

In February 2020, young people from the TDH-Germany Partner Youth networks in Zimbabwe participated in the International Youth Networks meetings held on the **Go to Meeting** platform. These meetings are held with young people from the TDH International family from different regions spread across the globe. Youths from one of the youth networks in Zimbabwe, RNCYPT, had an opportunity to host a social media online webinar which was aimed at sharing on how they use social media for their child rights programming. It was shared that RNCYPT uses social media to increase the visibility of its work and also engaging its audience in making sure that they are familiar with the work that they do. To ensure effective communication of the messages that they will be sending out on social media, RNCYPT utilizes teamwork in content creation effectively, creativity and post promotion. These strategies have cemented their social media presence and they managed to share in-depth their best practices with other youth networks.

On the 24th of February 2020, Zim-Zim youth network participated on the webinar meeting for IYN. The main topic was the presentation of the new campaign "Promoting the child's right to a healthy environment", which will be officially launched on World Environment Day on 5 June 2020. The campaign coordinator, Miriam Lange-Boschmann, presented the framework of the campaign and the milestones. Some of the important points raised in line with the campaign were as follows:

- Launch of the Campaign 5th of June: "World Environment Day"
- Global Action Day to collect signatures for our petition
- Symbolic kick off action in Berlin with youth delegation and German volunteers
- Launch of a study on the effects of pollution on children
- News conference in Berlin with youth delegates and author of study speakers

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**"Household air pollution
leads to 4.3 million deaths
annually, and 13 per cent**

(534,000) of these are deaths of children under 5."

American Academy of Pediatrics (2015)

CACLAZ Chiredzi youth network on SRHR

Ngonidzashe Chikandiwa- (CACLAZ)

Chiredzi CACLAZ youth network has adopted a debate and discussion approach as part of their 2020 awareness campaigns. The network kick started their program on the 18th of February this year, with an initial discussion on sexual & reproductive health & rights education at Chiredzi Government High school. These sex education lectures and discussions with other young people, are to stem problems caused by pupils engaging in early sexual relationships, which include teen pregnancy, illegal abortions, STI's and psycho-social trauma (that leads to them harming themselves or committing suicide).

The debate that ensued during the discussion showed the impact of using this approach to raise awareness. "These debates and discussions are meant to instill knowledge in fellow youth and children in issues that affect them, creating an openness and sharing experiences", said CACLAZ team leader Victoria Matava. A debate on Environmental Child rights between local schools was postponed to a later date running under the motion, "Businesses are the major violators of environmental child rights". The debate will foster an environmental understanding responsibility in local schools. Making students central actors in environmental awareness.



Youth seminar on SGBV and Schools Debate

YOUTH CORRESPONDENT

The Children and Youth Department through the MASO Youth Network hosted a youth seminar on Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV) on the 20th of February 2020. The seminar was facilitated by the officials from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises and the Msasa Project. The CEO for the Midlands Aids Service Organisation (MASO) Mrs Nhemachena, gave a key note welcome speech to the participants including members of the MASO Youth Network, children from Mkoba 3 High School, Thornhill High School, Herentals College, Budiro B College and BOOMS College. A total of 51 participants took part.

Some of the issues discussed included the Age of Consent for children to access medication on their own which has been highlighted as a major barrier since they have to wait until they reach 16 for this privilege; thus leading to mistreatment by health workers making it hard for children to enjoy their SRH rights. The presenter also highlighted the existence of Youth Friendly corners that are meant to bridge these gaps.

The schools debate was centered on whether women's push for gender equality was still relevant in the current era. Even though there were ideas for and against the notion about the relevance of gender equality, the idea was not to nullify the relevance of gender equality but to create a learning environment through research backed facts. The aforementioned schools participated with at least half of the schools engaging in a debate competition for the first time. Thus it was a thrilling experience for them with the children and young people getting the space to participate and air out their views in a learning and supportive environment. In the end, Mr Matshikano (Children and Youth Coordinator) gave closing remarks and encouraged all the participants to feel challenged in a positive way.



#ECR101

Pollution can be described as contamination of air, water, and soil by the introduction of a contaminant into a natural environment, usually by humans that are harmful to living organisms. The most common forms of pollution are air pollution, water pollution, agricultural pollution, and land pollution.

"A child's broken dream globe" for the child affected by the environment.

NGONIDZASHE E. CHIKANDIWA

Once a safe haven to nurture young dreams,
now earth is a nightmare of existence,
for the dear child.

Never at once breathing without inhaling dark polluted air,
thoughts of exploring beyond
limits nature's offerings as the child grew,
crashed by a slowly dying natural ecosystem at the rough
grip of deforestation,

degradation and maximum carbon footprint.

How the child trudged home for miles,
with a bucket of yellowish river water,
wishing not another diarrhea attack after drink.
If only play was possible, he also wished.

Drained after picking cotton at the plantation the child
wonders,
What meagre
meal (if any) would have been scrounged by mother to save
them from execution
by hunger.
Though the child skeletal figure is beyond recovery.

If only the child was in school,
and had the liberty to imagine, not in an early marriage
before puberty pinned
by a clergyman's prophecy.
The child hopes
for a better habitat than the shack prone to be blown.

Upcoming Events- March 2020

1. Debate on environmental child rights between local schools-Chiredzi
2. Participation in the Presidential clean up campaign in Triangle, Chiredzi & Gweru
3. Quarterly News Broadcast
4. Radio and TV sessions
5. Awareness Campaigns on ECR at Tshovani Primary & Hippo Valley High School.
6. SRHR Peer to peer sessions @ Chiredzi government High
7. International Youth Network Meeting(24 March)

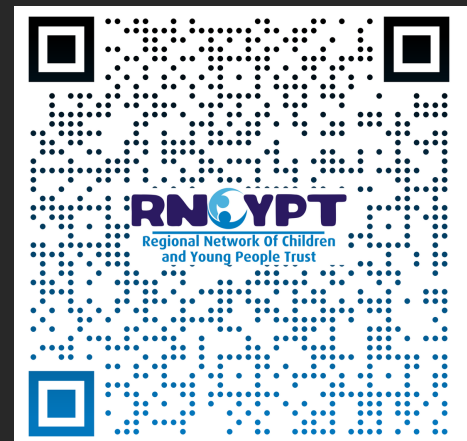
Want to contribute?

If you want to contribute content to this newsletter please send through your articles, drawings, poems and many more. We will be more than glad to share with other young people. All content must be themed to advancing Environmental Child Rights and only a few other burning youth issues will be considered.

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Learn more about ECR by scanning QR Code below.



Picture Gallery



YGT INTERVIEW ON ZBC TV



PRESENTATIONS AT ZIM ZAM MEETING



FOOTBALL TRAINING SESSIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT TONGOGARA REFUGEE CAMP

