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1. Update on “160 Girls” Kenya -

Approximately 18 months after the release of the landmark “160 Girls” case in Kenya, we are celebrating the great strides being made towards protecting girls, and holding perpetrators of rape accountable for their violence.

Many of the “160 Girls” have now secured access to justice. Most recently the perpetrator in the case of Y.N. (an 8-year-old girl raped on her way to collect water) was convicted and received a life sentence. This long-awaited access to justice has helped to restore Y.N. and her family’s faith in the legal system.

While getting justice at the individual level is most definitely a success, *the equality effect* continues to work on securing justice and legal protection from violence for all 10,000,000 girls in Kenya through the systemic work we’re doing with police, rape shelters and communities.



The man in the prisoner box in this photo (far left), is the accused in the rape of one of the “160 Girls” – E.K. was 12 years old when she was raped, and became pregnant as a result of the rape. This accused, a police officer, has been investigated, arrested and is now facing jail as a result of the victory achieved through the “160 Girls” landmark High Court decision.

“160 Girls” Police Training:

The “160 Girls” Police Training is now underway in full force! In October, 11 senior Kenyan police officers, the CEO of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), *equality effect* staff, and Inspector Tom McCluskie, Vancouver Police Department (an international expert in training on sexual assault investigations) met in Toronto. Inspector McCluskie led a week’s training on best practices in child sexual assault investigations, and worked with the Kenyan officers to ensure the transferability of the training to the realities of police work in the Kenyan context.

The participants in the Toronto training sessions will train other mid-level and front-line officers across four pilot districts in Kenya, working with *the equality effect* and the KNCHR. The roll out of the “160 Girls” training started in Lukenya, Kenya, in November and was a big success. There were 50 officers from the pilot districts and Police Colleges trained at this session; 2400 officers in the pilot districts will be trained over the next six months. The results of this training are being measured with the help of experts from the [Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto](#).

Five memorable moments from the inaugural “160 Girls” Police Training include:

1. The “160 Girls” Faculty spontaneously and repeatedly quoting the "160 Girls" court order as part of the training. It became almost a mantra, “the Police must conduct ‘prompt, proper, effective and professional’ defilement investigations”;
2. Conducting creative, hands-on, exercises on the savannah, under the scorching sun as giraffes strolled by, such as the crime scene investigation training using bloody (red paint) rocks and other props, and the totally engaged participants asking to extend the training days to allow more of the same kind of learning;
3. Feeling the positive energy of the group fill the meeting room, as the participants engaged the instructors repeatedly on best practices and how to achieve compliance with the "160 Girls" decision, as tiny song birds swooped in and out through the open windows and doors on the warm (okay - hot!) breezes;
4. The Inspector General of the Kenya Police tweeting about the value of the "160 Girls" training – [David Kimaiyo @IGkimaiyo · Nov 25](#)
"I thank the Equality Effect for the 160 Girls, for taking step to highlight the plight of sexually abused girls have been handled in the past"; this kind of support should help with buy in further down the chain of command;



5. The beaming smiles when the “160 Girls” phone app, being designed by [BBDO](#), was introduced to the group - one participant described it as “a dream”; and the smiles on the participants’ faces as they accepted their “160 Girls” training certificates from Mr. Ndegwa Muhoro, the Director of the Criminal Investigation Department, KPS, and Fiona Sampson, Executive Director of *the equality effect*. For photos of this training [please click here](#).



The first installment of the “160 Girls” Kenya Police Defilement Investigation training, November, 2014, Lukenya, Kenya.

2. Defilement and the corroboration requirement in Malawi -

E²'s work with our partners in Malawi is also continuing to make good progress. “160 Girls” Malawi is tackling the continued application of the corroboration requirement in sexual assault cases. This requirement means that a third party witness, or medical evidence, is necessary to secure a conviction in a rape case. This law creates a serious barrier to women’s access to justice and legal protection from this violence. The evidence collection in support of this claim is on-going. [Click here](#) for more information about “160 Girls” Malawi.

In E.F.’s case for example, despite that police investigations into her brutal gang rape concluded that E.F.’s evidence was strong enough to prosecute the case, the court nonetheless discharged the case on the basis that corroborative medical evidence was

needed. The Corroboration Rule has therefore resulted in E.F. being denied access to justice, while her perpetrators enjoy impunity and are free to rape again.

3. The equality effect "in the news", awards and endorsements -

The following is some of the recent media coverage relating to *the equality effect's* work:

- [“160 Girls’ Police Training in Canada - Globe & Mail](#)
- Listen to some of the “160 Girls” Police Training Team on CBC Radio’s “The Current”, from [our media page](#).
- [“Victory as Kenyan Police Jail Child Rapists After Court Order” Thomson Reuters](#)

The equality effect was thrilled recently to have the strong endorsement of our work by Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. At the International Conference on Gender Based Violence in Dublin, Ireland on December 2, Mary Robinson, in applauding *the equality effect's* unique “160 Girls” project, stated “Access to justice is the most empowering thing that can happen to a victim. It’s the one thing that can really change their lives.” Below – Fiona Sampson, E.D. *the equality effect*, chats with Mary Robinson at the ICDGV. You can [see more photos here](#).



In the past six months *the equality effect* has received the Clifford Chance, Access to Justice Award, and e²'s E.D. Fiona Sampson was named one of Canada’s Top 25 Lawyers, Top 5 on the World Stage, by Canadian Lawyers Magazine – great honours and welcome endorsements of e²'s work!

4. *Asante sana, zikomo kwambiri, meda ase ("thank you")*

Many thanks to *the equality effect*'s huge team of volunteers that supports our human rights work. Every year the legal volunteers alone donate over \$1.5 million of invaluable pro bono hours to *the equality effect*. Special thanks at this time to the volunteer members of *the equality effect* team that have helped make the launch of "160 Girls" Kenya Implementation work a success: Dan Ariely, Mariel Beasley, Beatrice Bodogh, Rebecca Flaman, Delaine Hampton, Jacquie Labatt, Carlos Moreno, Gabriel Moreau, Inspector Tom McCluskie, Sergeant Leah Terpsma, Timothy Welsh, and all the teams from BBDQ and the Centre for Advanced Hindsight.

Many thanks also to *the equality effect*'s generous funders, partners and donors, without whom the critical human rights work of *the equality effect* would not be possible. Fundraising to support the above work continues; your contributions are always appreciated and you can donate on-line at our web site.

Thanks to our sponsors, funders, and partners!



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