

CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO KENYA
SARA HRADECKY REMARKS

The Equality Effect – 160 Girls Justice Club Launch
Monday, February 27, 2017 at 10:00-12:00
Dagoretti Muslim Primary School
Nairobi, Kenya

Karibuni! Habari zenu? Ni na furaha tele

(Welcome all. How are you?)

Ni furaha yangu tela kuwa hapa leo na washirika wa Dr. Fiona na The Equality Effect.

(It is my pleasure to be here today with partners from The Equality Effect).

A special welcome to all the boys and girls participating in the School Justice Club Activities, and of course the teachers who have been providing invaluable mentorship.

The High Commission of Canada is very pleased to support The Equality Effect once again this year through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) in an effort to promote children's rights and secure justice for child defilement victims.

Fiona, your team's dedication and your work with Nairobi Women's The Gender Violence Recovery Centre, civil society partners has already had a significant impact in Kenya on how child defilement cases are handled not only by communities and law enforcement officials, but also in court.

What originally began as a motion by The Equality Effect to file 160 child defilement cases has grown into a ground-breaking Kenya

High Court ruling and also a nation-wide campaign on children's rights and child defilement issues. This is no small feat. Hongera, this is important, life-changing work.

Bringing together an army of lawyers, many working on pro-bono basis, rape crisis shelters, schools and communities to denounce rape is a powerful message which echoes in all corners of Kenya and also abroad.

By engaging in dialogue, we can work together to create networks of trust to address and to solve difficult issues.

Canada is a leading advocate and donor on child protection, education, health and nutrition. These are important themes which guide our work.

At home in Canada, child focused civil society organisations have played a leading role in putting forward best practices with respect to the empowerment and participation of girls and boys, and deepening international understanding of the impact of the violence and abuse that children face.

As Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, remarked last year "Each child deserves to be raised in a world free of discrimination, violence, and exploitation, and each one deserves to grow up with proper nutrition and health care, a good education, and safe communities."

We know that girls have the same rights as boys and Canada's international development efforts help to make sure that every girl, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, gets the services and

protection they deserve, and the space to participate and engage on issues that affect them.

We must all work together. Men and boys must be our partners to stand up against the persistent inequalities faced by women and girls globally.

The School Justice Clubs promote and protect children's rights and are an important piece in Canada's wider efforts on the empowerment of women, girls, and communities as a whole. For that, I thank you sincerely.

Wavulana na wasichana walio nasi hapa leo ; tunawaunga Mkono! Lazima tufanye kazi pamoja kumaliza vurugu thidi ya wanawake na wasichana.

(Boys and Girls who are here with us today; we support you! We must all work together to eliminate violence against women and girls.)

To Fiona and The Equality Effect team and your partners on the ground, you are at the forefront of the battle to achieve justice for child victims. Your awareness activities in Kenya are breaking taboos, stigma and bringing dignity back to the affected families and their communities.

Thank you for your work and unyielding dedication and for having me here today.