

*The equality effect*'s 160 Girls initiative is going virtual, starting with our 160 Girls Justice Clubs! *The equality effect*'s new virtual human rights programming will complement e<sup>2</sup>'s pre-COVID programming, recognized by the U.N. as a best practice for advancing girls'/women's rights and empowerment.

COVID and the closure of schools in Kenya left girls at an increased risk of rape, isolated at home with potential perpetrators (defilement perpetrators are predominantly immediate family members). Between March and June, 2020 apx. 4000 girls in Kenya, age 19 and below, were reported pregnant, 200 of those girls are below age 12 (Kenya Health Information Survey, July, 2020).



## **160 GIRLS VIRTUAL JUSTICE CLUBS**

When the pandemic started and schools closed, we began working on the Virtual Justice Clubs app, which will deliver the opportunity for the 160 Girls Justice Club leaders to continue to experience the empowerment provided by the Justice Clubs ("I have a mandate to command!" – JC leader), while advocating for the safety and security of their peers ("They (other students) loved to know more about justice." – JC leader); and enjoying the fun elements of the Clubs ("The Justice Club is a WOW experience" – JC leader).

The VJC app pairs VJC leaders with law student mentors from the University of Nairobi; the law students deliver the VJC curriculum (topics include "160 Girls" Rights; Consent; Private Settlements/Obstruction of Justice; etc.). The fun includes music, games, videos, poetry, conversations with peers across the country, and more! The satisfaction includes leadership opportunities through partnering with police and offering support to children at risk in the community (more details below!).

Please <u>click here</u> for more information about the Virtual Justice Clubs.





## **160 GIRLS PODCAST**

The 160 Girls Podcast accompanies the VJC lesson content, and each episode features a pair of Kenyan and Canadian/American experts who work in the same profession within the field of human rights. Guests include human rights lawyers, social workers, artists, etc. who share stories about their experiences working with the 160 Girls Project, and insights relating to their career expertise. The conversations are authentic, inspiring and moving, as they bring to life the realities of careers dedicated to achieving equality, and contributing to ending child rape.





## **160 GIRLS JUSTICE JOURNAL:**

Through the VJC app, student leaders will share their ideas about the lesson materials and submit creative pieces relating to the lesson to the 160 Girls Justice Journal. The Journal is a bi-weekly newsletter that will be shared in local communities and online. VJC leaders, teachers and police will deliver the Justice Journal to their community members. 98% of JC leaders who participated in the JC pilot reported being happy to work with the police. This will allow police and VJC leaders to connect with children at potential risk, and will demonstrate to potential perpetrators that the police are out enforcing the law. The Justice Journal will also serve to increase awareness about ending impunity for child rape, and how that can be achieved. We're all excited for VJC leaders to take 160 Girls to the streets!

We're looking forward to keeping you informed about the 160 Girls Virtual Justice Club roll out! Thank you as always for your invaluable interest in and support of *the equality effect*'s unique human rights work, making girls' rights real. Happy International Day of the Girl Child!

Warmly, Fiona Sampson, C.M. e<sup>2</sup> CEO

Your support is always welcome, to donate click here.