

## Worldwide Day of Action against Violence 2007



The children collecting their ideas.

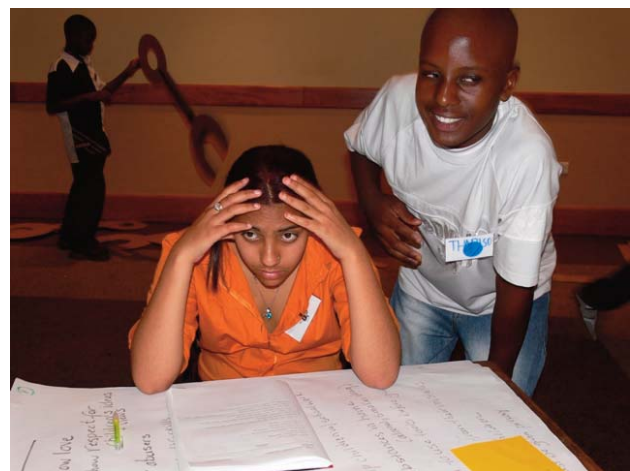
The 17th of October 2007 marked the beginning of the Children's Consultation on the follow-up to the UN study on Violence against Children in Lusaka, Zambia. Two delegates from five countries in the Southern African region, that is, Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa, have been chosen to come up with presentations for the World Wide Day of Action against Violence that falls on the 19th of October 2007.

The commemoration of the Worldwide Day of Action against Violence will attract the presence of Southern African regional leaders and African Union representatives. Therefore, the children will have the task of coming up with presentations and recommendations that will aim at greatly impacting the leaders and policy makers to take immediate action to prevent and end violence against children

Although the conference is covering very serious matters, the young people will be provided with creative space to allow them to have fun while working towards their goal. Activities for the next two days will also include music, drama, art and a social outing.

### Meet the Child Activists

"I would like to tell governments that they should be more involved and supportive" said Rusqah Joubert a child representative at the consultation of the Global Day of Action against Violence against Children today, 17th October 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia. Rusqah is a 13 year old female in the seventh grade in South Africa.



Rusqah concentrating on her ideas.

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At school, Woodville Primary in Cape Town, Rusqah is involved in a Children's Movement which is aimed at organizing children to organize themselves. Another of their movements is the Girl Child's Movement (GCM) which has the goal of empowering girls because girls are always being overpowered. Furthermore, the movement has a campaign against bullying and also a food security program that feeds the less privileged. The movement also has the ambition of providing children with activities that will get children off the street and away from drugs.

"I have become a better person. I have become a softer person." Rusqah commented in response to the question on how working on projects aimed at educating children about issues affecting them has changed her. She says conferences such as this held

by Save the Children are interesting because young people get to interact with other children outside their movement and get to know what is happening in other countries. In one sentence Rusqah would like to say to government and policy makers that, "I would like them not be reluctant and they should provide funds for projects aimed at child development."

By Malenga Mulendema, Children's Press Bureau  
(CPB),  
Lusaka, Zambia

### The Children's Press Bureau

The children's press bureau is a project under Youth Media; an NGO based in Lusaka and deals mainly with sexual health of the Zambian youths. It has two bureaus in Lusaka and Mazabuka. The bureaus are run by children between the ages of 12 and 18.

The children's press bureau use media as a tool to advocate for children's rights on behalf of the children. The bureaus have guidelines which assist them come up with their stories or radio programmes which include: Shelter, health, education, nourishment and protection.

### Meet the child journalists...



**Malenga Mulendema**, 17 years old. Malenga has been working for the Children's Press Bureau for almost three years and has published countless stories on children's issues. "Violence against the girl child is closest to my heart. Being a girl in Africa,

there are many barriers stopping us even though we are very capable" says Malenga. Malenga is part of the press bureau because she wants to do her part to help her country.



**Allister Mutelo**, 17 years old.

Allister has been working for the Children's Press Bureau for almost three years. "I like writing about education. I think the majority of our community is not educated but

in this new generation, you need to have some education." Says Allister who wants to study either economics or metallurgy.