

Kim and Hassan's story about the World's Children's Prize

Kim and Hassan, both 13, were at Hurungwe Primary School in Murehwa, Zimbabwe, when they became WCP Child Rights Ambassadors. They have taught lots of children – and adults – in Murehwa about children's rights, equal rights for girls and the Global Goals. This is their story about the WCP Program.



"I wake up at four o'clock and I fetch water before I light the fire. Then I sweep up and wash the dishes. We have porridge for breakfast and sometimes we put a little peanut butter into it.

"At five I start my walk to school. I am alone in the beginning and I am afraid when meeting strangers. Other girls have been raped on their way to school. But after a while some friends join the walk and then I feel safe.

"I arrive at school after walking for one and a half hours. Before we were punished with a whip on the inside of our hands if we were late, but now the punishment is to pick litter.

"It was not until grade 5 that I learnt that girls and boys have the same rights. I read *The Globe* and this is how I learnt it. Often we have no light at home when it gets dark, but when we have kerosene I can do my homework and read *The Globe* in the evening."

Kim



ABRAM VIKLUND/WCPF



ABRAM VIKLUND/WCPF

"I live together with my two older sisters. When I had my WCP Child Rights Ambassador training I learnt about girls' equal rights. It is a violation of a girl's rights to force her into child marriage, to make her do all the chores at home, to stop her going to school or not to listen to her opinions. Many parents value their sons more, and even when us boys are little we are allowed to tell our big sisters what to do. This is so wrong!

"Because girls' rights have always been violated and boys' rights always protected, I decided to be a Child Rights Ambassador who fights for girls' rights. I always tell other boys that they must not violate girls' rights."

Hassan



At worldschildrensprize.org/wcpstory you can view and download the film (30 minutes) about the WCP program with Kim and Hassan.





"Fifty of us at Hurungwe Primary School were trained and received the World's Children's Prize Child Rights Ambassador diploma. We meet under a tree at school every week. We learn more together about our rights and the global goals and discuss how to reach as many children as possible."
Kim



"We read The Globe together and the stories teach us a lot."
Kim



"Our mission as Child Rights Ambassadors includes educating other children so that they learn more about their rights and the environment. We also usually tell them to teach their parents and neighbours about our rights."
Kim



"We're now going to talk about Global Goal 13, which is about climate change. Can you give me examples of what contributes to this, and its effects?"
Hassan



"Sometimes our internet works and then we can see the WCP website, but we can't work with it."
Hassan



Everyone's rights!

One of the girls that Kim has met as a WCP Child Rights Ambassador is Rutendo. Kim taught her that children's rights and equal rights for girls are for everyone. But Rutendo has had several of her rights seriously violated.

"When I was seven years old and in grade one, my father died. Our life became very difficult. We often went whole days with no food.

"Other children at school bullied me and called me poor. We could not pay my school fees and the teacher sent me home. This was repeated every year. I cried every morning when I saw my friends going to school."

We cried together

"At the age of ten I moved to my aunt's place. I had to sweep, wash, cook and fetch water and firewood. But I wasn't allowed to go to school.

"When I was twelve I came to understand that the husband of my aunt had told my mother that he wanted to marry me as his second wife and that my mother had agreed.

"When the man had gone to pay 300 Zimbabwean dollars to my mother, my aunt told me: 'From now on you have to do what your uncle tells you.'

"It was so painful. I cried every day and thought about committing suicide.

"When I asked mother why she let this happen, she also cried. She said that it was not possible for her to say no, as the uncle paid the school fees for my three younger siblings.

"My best friend Precious told me to run away and report my uncle to the police, but I did not dare."

So painful

"When I was thirteen my uncle forced himself on me, and by the time I was fifteen I was already pregnant with my second child.

"My life became very bad, and when my uncle married a third wife, my grandmother came to fetch me. I now live at her and my grandfather's place.

"It is so painful when I see my friends going to school, while I have to take care of my two sons and do piecework in other peoples' homes. I get three Zimbabwean dollars a day. This is only enough to buy a packet of salt.

"My dream is to start school again and one day become a lawyer because I want to other children who have been subjected to violations as I have. But I would also love to become a dressmaker."

"I often meet girls who have been forced into child marriage or experienced other violations of their rights. I teach them about their rights and try to empower them. Their lives are often very sad and not easy to change."

Kim





One group makes the voting signs.



Another group makes the ballot box.



A third group prepares to set up walls made of maize stalks to make a voting booth.

"The Global Vote is us children's own vote for the rights of the child. At the same time, we learn about how democracy works. We know our rights and responsibilities when we then come to vote in other elections. Once we have learned about the Child Rights Heroes in The Globe, we organize our own Global Vote. We prepare the ballots, make the ballot booth and ballot box."

Hassan



The voting queue at Hurungwe Primary School is long.



Everyone is checked off the election register and given a ballot paper before it's time for the secret ballot in the voting booth.



Once their votes for the Child Rights Hero and children's rights have been put in the ballot box, one of their nails is coloured with a marker pen to prevent cheating.



"As Child Rights Ambassadors we should also tell the traditional leaders about our thoughts and facts about children's rights and the environment. I am always a bit nervous about doing that, as we have great respect for them. We know that with their help we can achieve much more as change-makers for girls' equal rights and the environment."

Hassan



"Kimberly and I are here to share with you our knowledge about children's rights, climate change, girls' rights and the Global Goals. Zimbabwe signed up to the Global Goals with the other countries of the world so that our country will get better. Do you know that girls and boys have equal rights? Girls should get to complete their education just as boys do. We as Child Rights Ambassadors say: Let us stop child marriage, because if you marry off a child, that is a crime!"

Hassan





"Good morning to you all. Today we welcome you to the Round the Globe Run for a Better World, where we join children from around the world. Today we will be talking about the Global Goals."
Hassan



"It was nice to know that we were joining many children in many countries, all showing our support at the same time for the Global Goals. We must all get involved in changing our countries and we must change a lot, both in Zimbabwe and around the world."
Kim

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FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE



PROTECT GIRLS RIGHTS



KEEP OUR SCHOOL FREE OF LITTER



Kim and Hassan weigh the litter they have collected.



"We gather here to speak of the need for a No Litter Generation. Let us begin to be changemakers by throwing litter in the bin. The No Litter Generation also teaches us about climate change and that we all have to be part of action to change this. For us in Zimbabwe, this is very important, as otherwise both drought and floods will increase here."
Hassan

“Child Rights Ambassadors from Hurungwe Primary School in Murehwa took part in the Round the Globe Run for a Better World.” That’s how the news item began that was shown eight times on ZBC News, where Kim said: “We say to adults that girls and boys should be treated the same, and we have equal rights.” In the news item it was also said that: “The Child Rights Ambassadors say climate change is the biggest threat to children’s rights in the world.”



“We got help from the police, who stopped the cars during our march.”

The WCP ceremony in Sweden

“As you have all understood, Kim and I in many ways have the World’s Children’s Prize Program and The Globe to thank for our empowerment. We are changemakers who are not for sale – now or ever! Dear Minister Eriksson, if you want to see change, count on us! There are many more of us children in Zimbabwe who want to be part of the WCP Program!”

Hassan



CHRISTINE OLSSON/WCPF



ABRAM VIKLUND/WCPF

Before I fall asleep, I often think about my future. I would like to be a judge so that I can decide in cases where children have been abused and had their rights violated.”

Hassan

“**On behalf** of thousands of WCP Child Rights Ambassadors and the millions of children taking part in the WCP Program, Hassan and I, now that the World’s Children’s Prize Ceremony is coming to a close, would like to thank Princess Sofia for assisting us children today!”

Kim



CHRISTINE OLSSON/WCPF

