**From Hopelessness to Hope-Diane’s Case**



Tony contacted Childline Kenya to report a case of defilement perpetrated against his wife’s niece, Diane, who was visiting with them at the time. Diane is 14 years old and lives with her mother. She is an only child. On this visit she looked disturbed and after much probing and reassurance she confided in her aunt that she had been taken advantage of sexually by three men, among them a class 8 pupil with whom she had been emotionally attached. The other two perpetrators were adults who lured her into their homes on different occasions, forced themselves on her and defiled her. She was worried that she may have contracted a venereal disease in the process. Tony, his wife and Diane called the Helpline in a panic, sounding very disturbed.

On receipt of the report, Childline Kenya with financial support from you, our valued donors was able to provide the much needed initial counseling to calm down Diane, her aunt and her uncle down and guide them to seek medical attention for Diane urgently. Later additional details of the case were taken and Childline, working with the government children officers, assisted Diane’s aunt to gain temporary custody of Diane until her safety was assured at home.

Diane’s mother on the other hand tried to connive with the perpetrators to interfere with the case. She was soon arrested by the police and charged with obstruction of justice. It is unfortunate that Diane’s mother who was expected to protect her was actually taking sides with the perpetrators against Diane.

Childline Kenya continues to offer her counseling to enable her heal from the trauma experienced after the ordeal and to help her understand the processes that are going on for justice to be served. In addition, Childline continues to pursue the legal process to ensure justice is served and the perpetrators are punished to serve as a lesson to them and to others like them who take advantage of children.

The Class 8 Pupil who had also had sexual interaction with Diane was enrolled in the diversion programme together with his parents to assist him in positive behavior change through counseling and training on skillful parenting for his parents.

Childline Kenya is forever grateful for the continued support of donors. You make it possible for Childline to make a positive difference in the lives of many children. We therefore say a big, Thank you.