“Girls’ Parliaments” to end child marriage in Sub Teso-Region

ABOUT SCOEN

Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda (SCOEN) is non-profit nongovernmental Children and Women’s rights- organization, that is mainly involved in empowering Ugandan women and Children specifically girls, aiming for gender equality and the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women and girls. Through empowering and mobilizing their participation in the struggle against the Ugandan occupation, the contribution to the development processes, the promotion of their political, economic and civic rights and the expansion of women’s access to justice through improving psychological well-being among women and children, and combating gender-based violence. It is registered as a Non-Governmental Organization under Section 16 (1) of the Non-governmental Organization under Ministry of Internal Affairs with Registration No. 11419, established in April 2010 with its head Office in Soroti district in the Eastern Region of Uganda.

With a mission to attain gender equality in a Ugandan local community through promoting the social, political, educational and economic participation of women and children in community development programs. SCOEN strives to create a future in which all Ugandan women will be viewed and treated equally as men in all aspects of life; political, economic, social, educational and culturally. We will also seek to continue our role as advocates of children and women’s rights, promoter of their capacities and driving force of social change, promoting their participation in the decisions that affect their lives, and amplifying their voices for peace and security at the regional, national and global levels.

THE CHALLENGE

Child marriage is a major impediment to girls’ and women’s human rights - and to overall development - in Uganda. 20 years of armed conflict, battling over control of the country’s natural resources, has had devastating consequences for the entire Ugandan population, but girls have been the worst affected by the war. In Uganda today, over a staggering 37% of Ugandan women were married as children, and 10% married before their 15th birthday.

The tradition of dowries contributes to the prevalence of child marriage in Uganda: girls often serve as payment for debt between one family and another. Such customs deprive girls and women of their rights and undermine efforts to improve the status of girls and women in Uganda.

THE SOLUTIONS WE’RE PROPOSING

SCOEN proposes an innovative approach to end child marriage through the use of digital technologies. The program aims to provide young and teenaged girls with the tools they need to participate in community decision-making and to take charge of their own futures.

Through the creation of “Digital Learning Clubs and Spaces” and “Life Schools” for girls and young women, the program educates girls about sexual and reproductive rights and health.
The program helps girls to set up “Girls’ Parliaments”, through which they can engage in political and community advocacy to end child marriage in their communities.

In parallel, the program also offers “Parents’ Schools” to educate parents about the dangers of child marriage. “Parents’ Schools” provide a safe, supportive space for parents to inform themselves and talk with other parents and families. The schools provide parents with the information they need to better protect and support their daughters in matters relating to sexual and reproductive health.

The program also aims to provide community members with access to and training in the use of digital technologies to obtain and disseminate information about children’s rights, to raise awareness about the harms of child marriage, to advocate to end child marriage, and to make them aware of the means of prevention. The objective is to harness digital technologies to facilitate and catalyze awareness-raising about child marriage and to strengthen lobbying to put an end to this harmful practice.

THE IMPACT OF GIVING

Your giving will provide 120 young women with training to lead “Girls’ Parliaments”, enabling them to become change agents in their communities and to contribute to raising community awareness about children’s rights, child marriage, and women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights. By donating to this program, you’ll also offer parents the opportunity to attend “Parents’ Schools”, equipping parents with the knowledge they need to be effective advocates of girls’ and women’s rights and to be able to take action, alongside other parents and community members, to end child marriage.

Your giving will also provide 240 community leaders with training in the use of digital technologies and digital networks to raise awareness about child marriage and to facilitate community-wide mobilization to prevent and end child marriage.

By giving to this program, you will help 1,200 girls and local community members to drive real, lasting change in their communities.

Together, we can end child marriage!

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<th>Core objectives of SCOEN can be enumerated as follows:</th>
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<td>• Promote active participation of women in decision making process in Uganda.</td>
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<td>• Recognition of the rights of the child within the family with a gender perspective;</td>
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<td>• Establishing child restoration centres to promote education and child sponsorship</td>
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<td>• Advocate and create awareness among Ugandan women about their rights, freedoms, roles, responsibilities, and civic duties.</td>
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<td>• Advocating for women’s rights, earl marriage, eliminating discrimination against women including GBV.</td>
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<td>• Activate and enhance the role of media in promoting gender equality and eliminate violence against women.</td>
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<td>• Overcoming physical, emotional and economic violence;</td>
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<td>• Promote health care institutions, enhancing preventive resources against HIV/AIDS</td>
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- Promote community based health care, nutrition, water and environmental sanitation among people in communities

## Our Core Values

**Service excellence:** We are committed to excellence of the highest standards of quality and professionalism in our service delivery, and we strive to continually improve all aspects of our operations.

**Trust:** We value the children and women to us and to commit to delivering services in a safe and trustworthy environment through respectful, nurturing relationships that promote healing.

**Respect:** We respect each family’s knowledge, values, ideas and beliefs and give them partnership role in their services and support based on trust and respect.

Hope: We believe in the potential of every woman, child, family and community and champion a bright vision for their future through our service and compassion.

**Integrity:** We are professional and hones in our interactions and hold ourselves and our programs accountable to highest ethical and performance standards. Our own accountability for improved results.

**Innovation:** We actively strive to bring new ideas and creative approaches in our service delivery to identify and address the challenges of today’s families.