



Safe Spaces and our strategic ambition: Educate, Engage, Empower!

Who are We?

[Safe Spaces](#) exists to help girls in the slums save their own lives.

Our mission is to provide a safe space in the Eastland slums of Nairobi for young girls and young women to envision and pursue the future they want for themselves and their communities through life-skills and reproductive health training and awareness, arts and sports, vocational training and academic education scholarship programs.

Our Goal is to build a stronger generation of young women with independent minds who go after what they want to achieve in life, act as role models and take leadership positions in their community to drive sustainable development and change.

Our motto “I am the change” underlines the importance of empowerment. Each girl learns that she has the power to voice her ambitions, change her community and achieve her dreams. She has the power to become a role model and a leader in the community.

Background: Peninah Nthenya Musyimi is the founder and director of Safe Spaces. Peninah is the first woman in the Nairobi slums to work her way through school and university. She became a lawyer to defend domestic violence victims. She soon realized that a systematic integrated approach is needed to address root causes of poverty and violence. She wanted to empower young women to be leaders in their own lives and in their communities. She returned to the slums to establish “Safe Spaces” and support girls in obtaining an education in a safe environment.

Our Ambition: Educate, Engage, Empower!

Education, engagement and empowerment are the cornerstones of Safe Spaces. We will increase our impact by reaching more girls and young women and ensure the sustainability of the program.

By 2019, Educate, Engage, and Empower! will:

1. Scale up Education and Vocational programs: Increase the number of academic scholarships (17→70), auto mechanics apprenticeships (5→30) and computer literacy programs (10→30).
2. Scale up Engagement: Strengthen community outreach program to engage with more teachers, parents and community leaders (150→500), Extend Basketball program (25→85), increase after-school and holiday programs (1200→2500),
3. Scale up Empowerment: Extend hygiene and reproductive health programs (100→400), develop more trained Peer Educators (5→25)
4. Improve sustainability and governance: Create a more robust organization to guarantee the program in the future. In Nairobi, we will create more positions for salaried program personnel and succession planning, strong accounting and impact reporting support. In the Netherlands, we will strengthen the fundraising team (volunteers), diversify funding (private and institutional), build long-term sponsor alliances for funds and in-kind donations, assist Nairobi in developing income-producing models, stronger reporting and governance.

Project Results: At the end of this project Safe Spaces will have:

- Doubled its program participants to 2500 per annum
- A succession plan with trained leaders in Nairobi and Amsterdam
- Solid long-term funding/ income sources
- Growth in scholarships: Primary 600%, Secondary 300%, university 500%, vocational 600%
- Basketball championship and scholarship eligibility for players
- Expanded Community Outreach with 500% more men and 250% more women



Safe Spaces has been growing incrementally since 2008. Educate, Engage, Empower! will deliver significant growth and stability. It will save lives and build leaders.

Who do we serve?

Safe Spaces creates a butterfly effect by empowering individual girls in Nairobi's Eastland slums to fulfill their potential. They learn to lead, support their families, solve community problems and address broader poverty, inequality and population issues.

Why is a project in this region so important? To meet the UN's commitment to ending extreme poverty by 2030, focus must be given to the Sub-Sahara region. It will account for 90% of extreme poverty in the next 14 years and will have the greatest population growth. Child marriages and a high birthrate drive population growth and poverty. How can this great challenge be tackled? Two proven ways to combat child marriage and teen pregnancy: 1) keep girls in school and 2) educate them in reproductive health. Safe Spaces does both of these and more.

Among the 75% of Nairobi's population that live in slums, young women continue to be the most severely affected by poverty, violence and systematic exclusion. Beyond facing discrimination in health, education and labor, they are burdened with most family and household management. Social and economic vulnerabilities put girls at serious risk of forced early marriage, prostitution, early pregnancy, HIV, physical and sexual exploitation. Their plight is invisible to the community. Overtime, they begin to believe they are invisible, even worthless.

Under the direction of a respected local leader, Peninah Musyimi, **Safe Spaces** turns that around for young girls. Safe Spaces is an open, supportive environment where they can learn, develop personal power and overcome obstacles. Through both school and Safe Spaces training, they learn the skills they need to be successful in jobs and in life. Safe Spaces programs teach them to become visible, to share learnings, and to actively change the community.

Safe Spaces Nairobi is a grassroots organization, already very embedded in the community, with the view that learning never stops and everyone can teach. Its Peer Educators and Community Outreach programs create long term local community ownership.

The Peer Educators create a ripple effect. Girls learn to teach others. Knowledge spreads. Leadership grows.

Community Outreach takes this a step further. Empowered girls benefit the greater society, but "strong, vocal young women" are new to this community and not always appreciated. To ensure support in the community, the outreach program ensures that parents, teachers, and community leaders recognize the positive change in these young women and learn to value their development.

This holistic engagement gains the backing that girls need to stay in school and follow their dreams. People see that the program serves the community as well as the girls and want to be part of it.

Educate, Engage, Empower! Is a key project to enable us to scale up, doubling the number of our women we serve (1200→2500). We can begin to respond to latent demand (Waitlist 5000 girls).

Sustainable Development Goals and Safe Spaces

Safe Spaces addresses multiple SDGs: 1) Poverty, 3) Good Health 4) Education, 5) Gender equality 8) Economic growth, 9) Infrastructure, 10) Reduced inequalities 11) Sustainable communities. For the purposes of this overview, we have analyzed SDG 4 in detail.



Safe Spaces addresses SDG4: Education as follows:

Sustainable Development Target	Safe Spaces
Complete primary/secondary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides scholarships. In 2016: 15 secondary, 3 university. Aim 2019: 70 scholarships • Helps girls dream; builds confidence to achieve Provides guidance, mentoring, study space • Community outreach removes barriers within home/community; improves girls' school attendance • Reproductive health training reduces absenteeism due to menstruation & teenage pregnancy from 7 in 10 girls in 2008 to none this year).
Access to early childhood development, pre-primary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engages young girls in games, song, dance • Assists mothers in gaining access to medical system • Shares health and hygiene knowledge and supplies with girls and families
Equal access to technical, vocational, tertiary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides scholarships to girls: primary, secondary, university • Vocational training in auto mechanics, photojournalism, computer literacy
Increase youth with relevant skills for decent jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaches computer literacy, auto mechanics, photojournalism • Arranges internship programs with businesses • Basketball program resulted in 2 girls gaining employment and 10 receiving high school scholarships
Eliminate gender disparities, provide equal access for the vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on girls in most vulnerable and poor populations • Engages with fathers, schools, and community leaders for girl empowerment and safety
Achieve literacy and numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educators assist younger girls with homework
Acquire skills needed to promote sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling emphasized in auto mechanic program. • Program for cleaning up trash in the neighborhood
Expand scholarships in higher education, including vocational training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University scholarships; increase to 10 by 2019 • Mechanics scholarships; expand to 30 by 2019
Increase supply of qualified teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trains Peer Educators as teachers and mentors • Motivates girls to become teachers

Our Dream: Safe Spaces Community Centre



Office Space/Meeting Rooms

Classrooms/Instruction rooms

Computer Lab/E-Learning Lab

Storage Area/Electricity/Wifi/Water

Auto/Motorcycle Garage

Regulation Basketball Court

Sanitary Facilities (Toilets & Showers)

First Aid/Nurses Station

Kitchen

Café/Diner

Outdoor Play Area/Theatre

Vegetable Garden

Safe Spaces Bus (To take the Girls to School & BasketBall Games)



Safe Spaces: Our Organization

Website: <http://www.safespaces-nairobi.org/>

Safe Spaces Foundation, established in the Netherlands, October 2016

Mission: To support Safe Spaces Nairobi with fundraising, knowledge and business development

Chair: [Liz Early](#)

Treasurer: [Martin Verweij](#)

Secretary: [Kathryn Chlosta](#)

Business Development: [Leslie Janoe](#)

Communication & PR, Private Donor Network: [Sherrie Zwai](#)

Financial Controller: [Sanne Schimmel](#)

Projects: [Sabine Legtenberg](#)

Safe Spaces Nairobi: established in 2008, is a non-profit community organization registered in Kenya.

Mission: To support, girls and young women to learn, develop and grow into strong, self-sufficient women who can escape poverty, violence and societal exclusion.

Founder & Director: [Peninah Musyimi](#)