



FOL Newsletter

Fountain of Life

ISSUE 6

BREAKING THE SILENCE IS OUT!!!



Breaking the Silence tool kit

The proposal to the Charis Foundation was approved and work began to explore how to create the most effective tool kit that churches can use to create a safe place for victims of sexual violence. The priority at the Task Force meeting was determined to be the need to BREAK THE SILENCE on this issue in churches and communities.

There are many different tool kits out there and many are rather large manuals which often sit unused on shelves. The Task Force did not want this to happen. It was decided that a tool or resources that engaged people in an active way would be more

effective. The result is that the resource developed has eight (8) stories told through a series of pictures done by a local Malawian artist. The resource was done in the four (4) main languages of Malawi - English, Chichewa, Tumbuka, and Yao. It has already been used in one awareness campaign with Children of Blessing Trust, as two of the stories are about children with disabilities. There is also one story of a man that was assaulted and the others describe different actual attacks. Everyone can look at the pictures and relate to what they portray and the facilitators draw out some really useful discussions.

In 2015 this resource will be disseminated through Churches and umbrella Church bodies. The pictures of the eight (8) stories are fifty-two (52) in total and they can be printed in large posters to be used in the discussions. They are available in soft copy and can be shared to whoever may want them.

A CLIENT COMES FORWARD TO SHARE HER STORY ON VIDEO

After hearing about the toolkit "Breaking a Silence" a woman came up to Fountain of Life and gave us feedback that it was a good initiative. She shared how she is victim of rape and how she suffered alone without help for years. We asked her if she could share her story on camera and she accepted but insisted that she remain anonymous. She was fourteen (14) years old when she got raped by her friend's brother and she never reported and told anyone. Since she did not get support and comfort, she got affected by the rape which resulted in devastating consequences.

It was even hard for her to share her story now after years and years without sharing it. She gives a clear picture of how rape affects the victim's whole life. After moving on with her life, she still feels the emotional pain of the rape. When the videos are out, Visit our YOUTUBE page to see the videos of her story and the questions she managed to answer. Please feel free to share your stories too.

Did You Know?

- A lot of people in Malawi do not know that there are services available for rape victims.
- UNICEF and UNFPA has built or renovated some buildings for the OSCs but they are not fully functional.
- A rape victim who does not receive any help has a 50% chance of being raped again compared to a person who has never been raped.

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TAKE A LOOK AT THE BLANTYRE ONE STOP CENTER



One Stop Centre: View from Outside



One Stop Centre: Play Room for Kids

The One Stop Centre at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre is the model OSC and the only fully functional OSC in the country. Government has gone on record to say that it will establish OSC in all the districts hospitals in the country and we hope they will be as effective as the one at QECH. Currently, the OSC helps victims everyday. When there is a service available, people will always want to make use of it.



One Stop Centre: Counseling Room



FOL Comfort Pack given to victims



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**MALAWI'S ANSWER TO THOSE
SUFFERING FROM SEXUAL ASSAULT**