



GIRL CHILD NETWORK

Presents



**ANNOUNCING WINNERS OF THE JOURNALISTIC AWARDS FOR GENDER
SENSITIVE AND OBJECTIVE ON GIRL CHILD ABUSE**



2006 GCN Journalistic Awards Winners

This Prestigious event was sponsored by

- Netherlands Embassy
- US Embassy
- ZIMSUN
- CBZ BANK Limited
- Paola Gianturco-GCN friend based in the US
- NOVIB is GCN long term partner who funds all girl child empowerment programs

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INTRODUCTION

Girl Child Network has made great strides in fighting for the empowerment and elevation of the girl child to her rightful place in the society through campaigning against such atrocities as child sexual abuse being perpetrated against the girl child in the home, school and community. In so doing, GCN has made great impact across the society with other stakeholders and various institutions joining in the fight against all dimensions of abuse and in particular child sexual abuse which has the greatest potential of irreparable damage and trauma. GCN has realised the media as a potential ally hence has executed media monitoring since 2000 and tracked cases of child sexual abuse in various forms as reported by the media or as they appeared in media circles. Besides monitoring media reports on child sexual abuse, GCN also produced a widely circulated Desk Study on Gender Based Violence in which cases of violations of girls' rights in the form of sexual abuse were captured as they appeared in the media fraternity. The articles, in front and middle pages of the newspapers and other news clips in the electronic media indicated that through GCN's advocacy efforts some media practitioners have been sensitised in a very encouraging way and have started to take a proactive role in exposing perpetrators of girl child abuse.

It is against this background that GCN saw it fit to come up with an incentive that will contribute to increased objective and analytical reporting of child sexual abuse cases in the school, home and the community at large. This could only be done through honoring the journalists in both the print and electronic media who stood head and shoulders above the rest through a National Journalistic Awards Ceremony that GCN hosted on the 4th of May 2006.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Publicizing the Awards

Publicizing the Journalistic Awards began in November 2005. Press releases were sent out to various media houses, in which journalists were invited to submit their work. Journalists from all over Zimbabwe submitted.

On the 28TH of March 2006 another Press Release was circulated in all the media houses, again inviting journalists to submit articles or news clips displaying content on girl child abuse. The press release was delivered in all the media houses in Harare which include;

The Herald
The Sunday Mail
Kwayedza
Daily mirror
The Standard and Independent
ZTV and Newsnet
New Ziana

For those media houses out of Harare the press release was e-mailed. The following received the press release and they responded;

The Chronicle: Bulawayo
Manica Post: Mutare
Nehanda Guardian: Bindura

Media Monitoring and Tracking

Since the year 2000, Girl Child Network has been monitoring both the print and the electronic media. GCN to date has followed up on more than one thousand cases of abuse which were reported in the press since 2000. GCN has also helped some cases go to the courts after being reported in the press. This way GCN has kept a record of journalists who are keen on bringing out abuse to the fore.

It has always been GCN's culture to keep newspaper articles that have anything to do with girl child and hence GCN can easily identify those journalists who are passionate about the welfare of the girl child and those journalists who are still prejudiced about the girl child and women.

The judging

The judges who were responsible for judging the articles and news clips submitted by the journalists were drawn from various fields. Virginia Phiri is an accountant by profession, a renowned author and activist. Admire Mare is a media consultant and a Mass communication lecturer and Sinikiwe Msipa is the Director of the Federation of African Media Women Zimbabwe. *(See attached Annex 1 Selection Criteria)*

The judging process was done on the 1st of May 2006. The winners were only revealed to the GCN Director because of the need to have certificates made. Categories which the articles were judged according to are as follows:

- ❖ Outstanding reporting about Child sexual abuse.
- ❖ Best reporter ; Crime and courts child sexual abuse
- ❖ Outstanding reporting :all forms of child abuse
- ❖ Best in positive portrayal of girls
- ❖ Outstanding reporter on girls reproductive health and HIV/AIDS
- ❖ Best in reporting on girl child empowerment
- ❖ Best in reporting on girl child education and development
- ❖ Most passionate journalist on girls issues
- ❖ Prize Betty Makoni: International Award for Prevention of Abuse celebrated annually on World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse on 19 November.
- ❖ Girl Child friendly media house

The journalists who were outstanding in the above categories walked away with the wooden shields and \$20 000 000.00 each cash prize sponsored by the American Embassy.

Because GCN has been monitoring journalists since the year 2000, deserving media practitioners who are passionate about the girl child and those who support the development of the girl child received Special Silver Awards. These journalists were chosen by GCN, the girls and other stakeholders who were consulted. It is their interest through enquiring about GCN workshops, statistics and other relevant information that saw them walk away with the Special Silver Awards and \$10 000 000.00 cash under the following categories:

- ❖ Child sexual abuse
- ❖ Crime and Courts: Child Sexual Abuse
- ❖ All forms of child abuse
- ❖ Positive portrayal of girls
- ❖ Girls reproductive health and HIV / AIDS
- ❖ Girl child empowerment
- ❖ Girl child education and development
- ❖ Girl child friendly media personality
- ❖ Prize Betty Makoni: International Award for Prevention of Abuse celebrated annually on World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse on 19 November
- ❖ Defender of girls rights

The Ceremony

The awards ceremony was held at the Crowne Plaza Monomotapa, Harare. The event was attended by 120 people who included among others the sponsors from the Royal Netherlands Embassy, CBZ Bank Limited, Zimsun and the American Embassy, representatives from the corporate world, policy makers and distinguished invited guests. The Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare Dr E Muguti officiated at the ceremony.

The proceedings started with a welcome note from the Information Documentation and Dissemination Program Manager who then handed over to the Director of GCN Betty Makoni who introduced the sponsors, staff, journalists and everyone present.

Speeches

The Director of Girl Child Network, Betty Makoni gave a heartfelt speech about child sexual abuse and the important role that media is playing in bringing out this evil to the fore. She urged the media to do more in the fight against child sexual abuse and all the other prevalent forms of abuse. Betty Makoni presented the 1000 worst rape cases of child sexual abuse which GCN compiled and urged the journalists to make use of the document and make sure that they follow up on the cases and facilitate justice delivery. She also told the journalists that they were also marketing themselves in writing about social development issues. The Director commended the good job that the journalists were doing.

(See attached Annex 2 Betty Makoni's speech)

Laeticia Nedope, a GCN Board member gave a short speech on how the media should continue doing more in the fight against child sexual abuse. She commended the journalists for voicing out the issues that affect girls and women, and told the journalists that the event was history in itself in the Girl Child Network and all those girls who are survivors of rape.

The Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare delivered his lengthy speech on the welfare of children. He brought out an interesting point that every child falls under the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare and that his ministry is the official ministry of Girl Child Welfare. Dr Muguti also highlighted that there is need to define what a child is and what a minor is. He also brought out to the fore that his ministry is currently working on establishing victim friendly clinics within the major hospitals in Zimbabwe to help rape survivors. Dr Muguti spoke highly of the Child Sexual Offences Bill presented to him by Girl Child Network and said that it was a noble idea that required his ministry's and the government's support. He pledged to take the Bill to other Policy makers so that the process of enacting the Bill into law is hastened. The Minister also said that there was need to further stiffen the penalties of the offenders so that they become deterrent. This he said in the wake of lighter sentences that are being given by the courts which only trivialize the whole fight against child sexual abuse.

Entertainment

Entertainment was provided by the girls. They performed various songs which brought out the suffering of the girl child. One song performed by two little girls from Epworth about the HIV/AIDS pandemic, brought out how girls are mostly affected by the pandemic. The Girls National Executive Committee recited poems which were encouraging to the girls. Music from the GCN album "Wake up girls" which is full of hard-hitting lyrics on child sexual abuse, its dynamics and impact especially to children and its intricate link with HVI and AIDS was also played from the PA system.

Solidarity messages from Sponsors

The Royal Netherlands Embassy

The Royal Netherlands Embassy was represented by Daphne Tavona. Daphne said that her Embassy was proud to be associated with the Girl Child Network because of the good work that it is doing. She also spoke highly of the Journalistic Awards ceremony because it promoted development.

US Embassy

Tim Smith, Director of the Public Affairs Section at the US Embassy said he has a soft spot for the Girl Child Network and hence he ensures that he responds to the needs of the organisation as presented to him by the GCN Director. He however said that his Embassy supported development in developing countries and it pleased him that he could help GCN host its first Journalistic Awards.

CBZ Bank Limited

CBZ Bank Limited was represented by Mr. Maponga who is a Head in the Bank's Human Resources Department. Mr. Maponga said that his bank worked with organisations that promoted development in the country and as GCN was one of those organisations; his bank was honored to be associated with the Journalistic Awards. He added that he hoped CBZ Bank Limited and GCN will maintain the good relationship established.

Presentation of Prizes

Then it was time to award the deserving journalists their prizes. The first 10 wooden shields were sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, whilst the Special Silver Awards were sponsored by CBZ Bank Limited. The entire cash prizes were sponsored by the US Embassy.

GCN Director, Ms H B Makoni called out the names whilst the Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare, Dr Edwin Muguti and sponsors of the event, Royal Netherlands Embassy, US Embassy and CBZ Bank Limited gave the winners their shields, certificates and cash prizes and congratulated them.

The shields that the winners received are rotating shields and the 4th of May becomes the official date of the Girl Child Network Journalistic Awards on Gender Sensitive and Objective Reporting on Girl Child Abuse.

ANNOUNCING THE AWARD WINNERS

Wooden Shield Award Winners- Sponsored by the Royal Netherlands and \$20 million cash Prizes Sponsored by the US Embassy

CATEGORY	NAME	MEDIA HOUSE	REASON FOR WINNING
Outstanding child sexual abuse	Phyllis Kachere	Sunday Mail	Unearths researches and investigates well worst cases of child abuse e.g. the Macheke case where 34 girls were raped at Macheke Primary School, she raises the level of awareness among the general public on the urgent need to protect the children.
Best crime and courts: child sexual abuse	Peter Matambanadzo	Herald	He covers stories of child abuse in the courts. He is known with stories like: "Businessman skips bail" "Couple accused of abusing 8 year old", whereby they severely assaulted the 8 year old before shoving a stick into her private parts as a form of punishment.
Outstanding journalist: All forms of child abuse	Sandra Mazunga	Kidznet	She is one journalist who covers all forms of child abuse with great passion and commitment. Whenever she is needed to cover issues on child abuse she is there and she always makes sure that abuse has to be eradicated by exposing it through electronic media.

Best in positive portrayal of girls	Robert Mukondiwa	Sunday Mail	Uses gender sensitive language in reporting child sexual abuse and he named and shamed Daniel Mukorombindo (58) who married a 15 year old girl.
Best on girl child empowerment	Foster Dongozi	Standard	Advocates for punitive measures against child sexual abusers and he tracked alleged rape of Obadiah Msindo before his arrest. The story made front page headlines.
Best reporter : girls reproductive health and HIV/AIDS	Nevson Mpofu	Freelancer	Outstanding reporter on girls' reproductive health issues and HIV/AIDS where he wrote articles on children's rights. He writes in local language.
Best on girls education and development	Tsitsi Matope	Herald	Reports on and supports the development of the girl child through education.
Most passionate journalist on girls issues	Ropafadzo Mapimhidze	Herald	Was the first journalist to contact Girl Child Network on issues about child sexual abuse in June 2002. Writes stories of child sexual abuse in an informative, consistent and passionate way.
Prize Betty Makoni: prevention of child abuse	Sifiso Mpofu	Newsnet	Sifiso follows up on GCN's activities and is keen on reporting on issues to do with child abuse. She is an open minded journalist.
Girl child friendly media house in Zim		Nehanda Guardian	The media house responds to girls' issues with sensitivity and every issue of the paper carries at least three stories on child sexual abuse in and around Mashonaland Central. They name and shame rapists weekly.

Special Silver Award winners- Sponsored by CBZ

CATEGORY	NAME	MEDIA HOUSE	REASON FOR WINNING
Child sexual abuse	Norman Dururu	Nehanda Guardian	Norman reports on child sexual abuse in a sensitive manner and he is consistent with reporting on girl child sexual abuse.

Crime and courts: child sexual abuse	Freeman Razemba	Herald	Reports on child sexual abuse cases in the courts in a detailed and consistent way. He tracks cases of fathers who rape their own daughters.
All forms of child abuse	Patrick Musira	Southern Times	Reports on all forms of child abuse in the regional paper Southern Times.
Positive portrayal of girls	Nathaniel Ncube	National FM	Contacts GCN and records programmes on radio that have anything to do with child sexual abuse. His program "Destiny" is the most gender sensitive.
Girl child empowerment	Chakanetsa Chidyamatiyo	Daily Mirror	He is one of the journalists who advocates for stiffer penalties for rapists.
Reproductive health and HIV/AIDS	Rugare Dobbie	Newsnet	Reports on girls' reproductive health and HIV/AIDS through the electronic media.
Defender of girls rights	Foster Dongozi	Standard	He breaks silence on rape perpetrated by high profiles
Passionate on girls issues	Richard Mbedzi	Newsnet	Has a space for girls whenever there is an issue that degrades the girl child like the Miss Rural Pageant.
Prize Betty Makoni: prevention of child abuse	Walter Mupfanochiya	Newsnet	Produces news reports on "Good morning Zimbabwe" and radio bulletins with stories that have issues dealing with the girl child. He is an announcer of forthcoming programs on girls. Everything he says on GCN is done cautiously.
Girl child friendly media personality	Vitalis Jeremiah	Kidznet	GCN's cameraperson who is passionate about girl child issues. He is wherever children are.
Girls education & development	Sifelani Tsiko	Herald	Supports girls' education and development through his stories. Has depth analysis of girls issues.

Lessons Learnt

- ❖ Radio producers could not submit any material although they do a lot of educational programmes on issues which affect girls. This is because they have challenges in keeping recorded programmes as the same tapes have to be re-used for other programmes.
- ❖ Follow up workshops to capacitate journalists so that they improve reportage on girl child abuse in terms of content, language and style of writing.

Message to the Journalists

Girl Child Network would like to take this opportunity to thank all the journalists who participated and attended the Inaugural Launch of the GCN Journalistic Awards. We would also like to say thank you to all the Journalists who have realised the importance of the girl child and how she needs to be protected through your media houses. The media is a very powerful tool in promoting development and GCN urges you to keep up the good work.

The tables below highlight that due to the work around the journalistic awards, most media houses and individual journalists, prioritized the issue of child abuse before and after the event.

Impact before the Journalistic Awards

Date	Medium	Estimated Audience	Article/Programme Content	Journalist
27/04/06	Radio	5000000	Musoro Wenyaya (Ndebele): radio Zimbabwe phone in programme which was about the Girl Child Network and what it has done to date. Most listeners who phoned in wanted more information about GCN and the cases it has handled to date.	Gray Gambizamoyo
01/05/06	Radio	3000000	Destiny: SFM: Programme was about child sexual abuse and the need for penalties for perpetrators to be stiffened so that they become deterrent.	Nathaniel Ncube
01/05/06	Radio	5000000	Radio Zimbabwe lunchtime news. The news featured a story about the Journalistic Awards and that the awards were the first to recognize journalists involved in promoting the development of the girl child.	Robert Tapfumaneyi
01/05/06	Television	2000000	Lunchtime news. GCN Director Betty Makoni appeared as a live studio guest. She talked about how GCN was advocating for stiffer penalties for rapists as well as the Journalistic awards initiative.	Glenda Mashingaidze
03/05/06	Radio	5000000	Musoro Wenyaya: Radio Zimbabwe phone in programme. GCN Director gave a brief background of the	Cain Chikosha

			organisation as well as the achievements to date. Five people phoned in asking more about GCN.	
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Impact after the Journalistic Awards

Date	Medium	Estimated audience	Article/Programme Content	Journalist
05/05/06	Radio	5000000	National FM lunchtime news: announcement of the journalistic awards winners	Richard Mbedzi
05/05/06	Radio	5000000	Good morning Zimbabwe news bulletin: announcement of the award winners	Walter Mupfanochiya
07/05/06	Newspaper	8000000	Sunday Mail had a picture of the Sunday Mail reporters who won and a caption saying the ceremony was funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy and coordinated by GCN.	
07/05/06	Newspaper	8000000	Kwayedza had a picture of Nevson Mpofu who writes for the paper and a caption that said he had been awarded at the awards ceremony.	
10/05/06	Newspaper	8000000	Herald published a feature article on the girl child and how she needs to be protected.	
11/05/06	Television	6000000	Kidznet Child Alert: programme aired part of the Awards Ceremony. GCN Information Officer's interview where she talked about GCN's background and the Journalistic Awards initiative.	Sandra Mazunga
11/05/06	Television	7000000	Evening news bulletin: clips of the event were shown. Reporter said it was a GCN initiative and that it was the	Sifiso Mpofu

			first of its kind. Dr Edwin Muguti's speech also came out.	
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