



# CPA NEWSLETTER

Child Protection Alliance  
The Gambia

*“Protecting Children, Promoting Collaboration, Preventing Child Abuse”*

Volume 1, Issue 1

July 2002

## Top Stories

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### Appointment of National CPA Coordinator

A selection panel appointed Jalamang Camara in mid March as the National Coordinator for the Child Protection Alliance. He is familiar with Child Protection and issues pertaining to the rights of children. He has held and still holds numerous positions of responsibility with children’s and youth organisations.

Jalamang’s most notable achievement to date has been his Chairpersonship of the National Association for Youth & Children’s Organisation, which he lead for two very successful years. His work culminated in the two National Forums for Children.

Alongside his notable achievements with NAYCO, he sits on numerous Task

Groups ranging from the National Taskforce on the United Nations Special Session on Children at the Office of the Vice President to the National Youth Conference and Festival planning group

The CPA have appointed Jalamang because of his proven record in advocating for the rights of children. We believe he is the best person to take the Child Protection Alliance to its fullest in achieving the National Plan of Action that was endorsed at the National CPA Workshop.

Jalamang can be contacted at the CPA Office or reached on his mobile at 912934.



Jalamang Camara at the March CPA Press Briefing

*“My appointment is a wonderful opportunity to be at the forefront of child protection issues.”*

Jalamang Camara

### Children’s Parliament of the World Gambian Representative



During the 2nd National Children’s Forum from 21st-22nd of March 2002, Satang Nabaneh was chosen by a cross sectorial group. to represent the Gambia as a child spokesperson for the Children’s Parliament of the World. The Children’s Parliament National Representative has two roles. The first is that she will be representing the Gambian Children at the annual Children’s Parlia-

ment in Helsinki Finland. The second is that Satang will be in contact with the Parliament through the Children’s Internet State of the World where she will have the opportunity to participate and vote in current issues affecting children’s rights around the world.

Satang will represent the Gambia for the next three years. She is currently a grade 7 student at Gambia

Methodist Jr. Secondary School in Bakau. Through the effort and dedication that she has shown to issues facing young people in the Gambia, she will be able to raise these concerns to the Children’s Parliament of the World. Satang can be contacted through the CPA Office.

An article on the Children’s Parliament will follow in the next Newsletter.

## Introduction to CPA's Newsletter



Michael Montgomery  
CPA's Technical Advisor.

***"In situations of armed conflict, the arrival of peace keeping troops was associated with a rapid rise in child prostitution in 6 out of 12 countries studied."***  
The United Nations on the sexual exploitation of children

### Membership Profile

In each edition of the Newsletter we will profile member organisations. We encourage member organisations to submit their profiles so that all your hard work can be acknowledged and networking between organisations established.

Welcome to the first edition of the CPA Newsletter. We hope that the Newsletter will help us to reach our goal of raising awareness of all forms of abuse that happen in the Gambia, which prevent children from reaching their full potential.

We have tried to make the layout as interesting and representative as possible, reflecting the views of children and young people as well as our member organisations.

To make this happen we have a section profiling member organisations - which is your chance to let others know what you are doing. We have a section called Speak Up! Speak Out! which is an encouragement to young people to speak of their experiences of abuse. Also in this issue we have an insider's view from Fatoumata Ndure of the 2nd National Children's Forum held in May.

To raise awareness of the issues is important but we are also aware of our need to highlight the types of services that exist to help children and young people deal with

abuse. In this issue we target young pregnant women and what they can do if they become pregnant at the wrong time.

There will be a special feature in each edition which will provide detailed information on a selected child protection issue - in this edition it is on Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

Research is important in providing evidence of issues and supporting the planning of services. In this issue, in Research Corner, we continue with the theme of Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

Finally, we hope to keep you updated on the upcoming events in child protection - not only what the CPA will be doing but also other child interested organisations.

This is your newsletter - so please let us know what you think of it and make your contribution to child protection in The Gambia!

## Membership Profile

### The Noble Pursuit Organisation

The Noble Pursuit Organisation was founded by a young and forward looking Gambian, committed to community development. This grew out of concern for rural youth after the events of 1998. The organisation was formed with the vision of eradicating poverty and rural/urban migration and dependency as well as motivating young people into being creative and concerned about their future and that of the nation.

The organisation has a 10 member Board of Directors, out of which four are female. The Board is headed by a Chairperson.

Their aims and objectives are:

- to develop and improve the productive base of rural communities through self-help programs;
- to improve the socio-economic condition of rural youth and women through income generating activities;

- to facilitate women's access to this producing sector resources and services in order to gain both social and economic benefits derived from it;
- to collaborate with communities to initiate environment friendly programmes for sustainable development; and
- to collaborate with Government Institutions, NGO's, CBO's and other agencies in execution of the organizational programmes and activities in other related issues which are non political.

Contact details:

Director - Mr.Sullayman Bah  
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Web Site: [www.geocities.com/nop.gm](http://www.geocities.com/nop.gm)

## National Children's Forum

With happy hearts and congested heads, energetic spirits and a lot of hope, children from all over the Gambia left their homes to converge in an environment of partnership and companionship at the Friendship Hotel in Bakau. This marked the beginning of the 2nd National Forum on Children in the Gambia. This Forum, whose theme was "Creating a Child Friendly Gambia", brought together children from all over the country as well as youths and adults, including policy makers, civil society etc. This two-day forum, though seemingly short, provided the children of the Gambia the opportunity to not only discuss our problems and find solutions amongst ourselves, but with adults as well.

A lot of Child Protection issues and rights of the child in the Gambia were raised. The beneficial branches of the forum stretched even further to cover socialization. This also led to culture appreciation, since the children and young people present there were from different tribes with different cultures, local languages and municipalities. A good example is myself. I learned new vocabulary during the duration of the forum. I also made friends with young people and children from parts of the country, I have never been to.

Away from that, I also had to climb 88 steps a couple of times a day either when going up or coming down from my Hotel room. Hey, I am not complaining, it was good exercise for my thigh muscles but give it another two days, I would have called it child labour. However, guess what? It was time to go home before it reached that point.

Moreover, to cap the whole thing, a child was selected from amongst the participants to represent

the Gambia in the International Children's Parliament, which just goes to show the support the Government has for us.

This was also manifested the first day when the President graced the opening ceremony, with other members of the diplomatic corps and addressed us on behalf of the President, whilst the Minister for Justice graced the closing ceremony also addressing us, this time on behalf of the Vice President.

In addition to that, for the first time in the history of the children of the Gambia the policy makers were with us through out our discussions. This was very encouraging since we believe that more consideration will be given to the issues raised if policy makers can attach a face to the issues.

Their presence, however did not mean their dominance since children continued to run the show, contributing admirably. Lastly, NYC's contribution to make this forum a success can't be forgotten, nor can that of NAYCO, who provided a huge amount of ground work. More than any other, UNICEF not only provided us with moral support by being with us during the forum, but also provided us with financial support.

Finally, remember that children are born into this world like blank sheets of paper. Their value or nature is determined by what is written on them. In this case, the writing is what is taught to them as children. Therefore, it is necessary to provide the enabling environment for us to reach our fullest potentials, as we are the future of the HUMAN RACE and a future worth investing in.

Fatoumata Ndure

### Speak Up! Speak Out!



### Stop Child Abuse in The Gambia

*"90 per cent of domestic workers, the largest group of child workers in the world, are girls between 12 and 17 years old".*

**The State of the World's Children 2002- UNICEF**

## My Living Nightmare

I'M LIVING  
BUT I DON'T FEEL ALIVE  
FEAR INSIDE ME  
I'M SCARED TO MAKE A MOVE  
I'M DOOMED  
DEPRESSION IS MY MATE  
ON THAT FAITHFUL DAY WITH  
CHASTE  
I WAS ROBBED OF MY INNOCENCE  
SCREAMING, FIGHTING, YELLING,  
KICKING DID NOT HELP

I WAS LEFT TO DIE  
MY DESTINY UNCERTAIN, MY DIGNITY DESTROYED AND NOW LOOK AT ME, A LIVING GHOST I'M SCARED OF THE OPPOSITE SEX, OF MARRIAGE. WHY DID I HAVE TO BE A VICTIM OF RAPE AND TORTURE?  
WHAT DID I DO WRONG?  
A GIRL WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD  
WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO PUT THE PIECES OF MY LIFE TOGETHER AGAIN?



## BAFROW

Contributed by a member of the Bafrow Youth Advocacy Group (YAG)

## What is Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children?



End Child Prostitution  
in Asian Tourism

The Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (1996) provided this Definition of the practice in general:

“The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a fundamental violation of children’s rights. It comprises sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object. The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery.”

Commercial sexual exploitation of children consists of practices that are demeaning, degrading and many times life-threatening to children. There are three primary and interrelated forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children: prostitution, pornography, and trafficking for sexual purposes. Other forms of sexual exploitation of children include child sex tourism and early marriage. This article targets the three primary forms of commercial sexual exploitation and the other two will be covered in future articles.

### Child Prostitution:

“...is the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration”- Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child

There are two different types

of demand for child prostitution. The first is that of local demand with host country nationals involved, and the second is that of foreign demand, or non local demand for prostitution.

Foreign demand has been spurred on by economic development policies which promote foreign investment, attracting both expatriates and tourists.

### Child Pornography:

“... Any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes.” - Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

This can include photographs, negatives, slides, magazines, books, drawings, movies, video tapes and computer disks or files. Generally speaking, there are two categories of pornography: soft core, which is not sexually explicit, but involves naked and seductive images of children, and hard core, which relates to images of children engaged in sexual activity. The use of children in the production of pornography is sexual exploitation.

Child pornography, however is not just about pictures of naked children. There is a clear linkage between the pornography of children- virtual or real- and sexual abuse in the real world.

### Trafficking in Children:

“...consists of all acts involved in the recruitment or transportation of persons

within or across borders, involving deception, coercion or force, debt bondage or fraud, for the purpose of placing person in situations of abuse or exploitation, such as forced prostitution, slavery-like practices, battering or extreme cruelty, sweatshop labour or exploitative domestic services.” The special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Trafficking in women and children has emerged as an issue of global concern in recent years. Facilitated by porous borders and advanced communication technologies, it has become increasingly transnational in scope and highly lucrative. Unlike drugs or arms, women and children can be “sold” several times. They are commodities in a transnational business that generates billions of dollars and operates with impunity.

Trafficking victims may be sold, tricked, forced or otherwise coerced into situations from which they cannot escape. Many are forced to work in the sex industry as prostitutes, in the pornography industry, or enter into marriage contracts.

The repatriation process can also traumatize a child who has been trafficked. Children who have been trafficked across borders and ‘rescued’ are often treated as criminals. They are considered to be in breach of the law in those countries which criminalize prostitution, and they are considered to be in breach of immigration laws for having

***“Historically, adults who have injured, abused, killed, trafficked in or otherwise exploited children for profit or satisfaction have rarely been called to account. Developments in recent years give some hope that this disregard is ending.”***

***- We the Children Meeting the Promises of the World Summit for Children***

## Child Sex Exploitation in the Senegambia Region

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, is currently researching the issue of Child Sex Exploitation in the Senegambia Region.

The study seeks to examine:

- The extent and nature of sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the Senegambia Region;
- To prepare the ground for future actions in combating this phenomenon.

Anyone who has an information, which they would like to contribute, can contact us at the CPA Office.



Department of Social Welfare



**unicef**

## What is Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children?

entered a country illegally. There is a need to apply immigration laws and policies more humanely in the case of trafficked children, as well as a need for international and regional agreements or cooperation.

Rehabilitation can be defined as restoration to a former state. It has been said that very few programmes of rehabilitation have shown even a glimmer of success.

A programme is only a success when a child has been saved' from prostitution, is living with a happily reunited family and has returned to live a 'normal life', there will be many disappointments. Sadly, many children victimized by commercial sexual exploitation continue to work in the sex industry or return to it at a later state.

While the goal always is to remove the child from the

position of being commercially sexually exploited, and prevent them from returning to this in the future, it is sometimes more realistic to measure success in terms of the following:

- that the child is not longer taken advantage of financially by pimps or customers
  - that the child has more control in power relationships;
  - that the child has a higher opinion of him/herself;
  - that the child is less subject to physical ailments or has access to medical care;
  - that the child is aware of and insisting on birth control, and ways of protecting him/herself from sexually transmitted diseases and
  - that the child has a reduced dependency on substances and is taking steps to cut them out completely.
- Currently, there are many committed individuals work-

ing tirelessly around the world in an effort to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children. They may work individually or as a member of an organisation, in a government office or a village temple; they may scan the Internet for pornographic sites or the streets for children in need to shelter.

Regardless of who they are or what they do, all share a common goal and the belief that the situation of children who suffer from sexual exploitation is not hopeless.

Whoever we are and whatever we do, there are ways that we can contribute to the elimination of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

*Material taken from Questions and Answers about Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children- ECPAT International 2001*

***"In 1996 Indian Police raided a brothel in Mumbai and rescued over 400 women and girls, some who had been trafficked into India from Nepal."***  
**Informational booklet by ECPAT**

## Introduction of the Board of Directors



Chairperson of the Board of Directors - Sheikh Lewis

The CPA, for those who do not know its history, was launched on the 16th June 2001- that was by no coincidence the Day of the African Child. What makes the CPA different from other organisations is that it promotes active collaboration and that it was founded by a small group of dedicated individuals who are committed to improving the situation of vulnerable children in The Gambia and highlighting the issues of child abuse which up till now has remained a hidden menace in our society. For too long we have remained silent while children have been beaten, raped, sexually assaulted and abused, and left on their own to deal with the consequences. The CPA brings together over 40 organisations who want to break that silence and start the process of building support services to children so that they can heal and grow into the responsible productive citizens this country needs.

I commend to you the first Board of the Child Protection Alliance - the majority of whom have been working tirelessly over the last year and a half to make the CPA a reality. Each of them, in their own way are, champions for children. In each edition of this newsletter we will profile one of the Board members so that their achievements in creating an enabling environment for children can act as an inspiration to us all. I invite you to meet with us and to give us your suggestions so that we can work together to make the National Plan of Action on Child Protection a reality.

Sheikh Lewis  
Chairperson

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### *Child Protection Alliance Board of Directors for 2002 - 2003*

**“Between 1990 and 2000, 2 million children were slaughtered, 6 million injured or permanently disabled and 12 million left homeless because of conflict.”**  
**The State of the World's Children 2002- UNICEF**

Mr. Sheikh Lewis  
Director  
International Society for Human Rights

Mr. Demba Jawo  
Chairperson  
Gambia Press Union

Mrs. Fanta Sisay  
Director  
Department of Social Welfare

Mrs. Rougie Thomasi  
Deputy Director Public Prosecution  
Attourney General's Chambers  
Department of State for Justice

Mrs. Yamai Secka Jack  
APCD Education  
Peace Corps The Gambia

Salifu Jarsey  
Child Protection Officer  
UNICEF Representative

Mrs. Yassin Sompey Ceesay  
Vice Chair CPA  
Bafrow

Mrs. Isatou Nyang  
DOSE- Girls Education Unit

Mr. John Njie  
Director  
SOS Children Village

Mr. Osainour Sarr  
Executive Director  
NAYCO

Na Cessay Sallah Wadda  
Senior State Councillor  
Attourney General's Chambers

Mrs. Marry Small  
Director  
GAMCOTRAP

Mr. Essa Sowe  
Gambia Teacher's Union



# Funders Acknowledgements

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The Child Protection Alliance would like to extend our appreciation to the following organisations:

End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT).

Save the Children Fund (Sweden)

APSO

American Embassy

ECPAT has provided the CPA with the funding to hire and support the National Coordinator for the first year of

operation. They were also involved in the sponsorship of the first National Workshop in November 2001.

Save the Children Fund were the core funders for the first National Workshop.

APSO have donated funding in support of office facilities for this next year.

Peace Corps has funded our Poster Competition and provided us with wonderful volunteers.

The American Embassy, through the Democracy and Human Rights Fund, has supplied the CPA with office equipment, supplies, funding for staff and the general setting up costs to run the office.

This Newsletter was funded by ECPAT and UNICEF.

We are grateful for all of your support without which we could not function to our highest potential.



Save the Children



## Support Services

### Teenage Pregnancy

Pregnant and alone? Worried? Afraid? Don't be.....

Help is Available

All of the following organisations will start by listening to you, then help you to work out what is in your best interest.

Department of Social Welfare

Tel: 227338 or 224549

Ghadaffi Ave, Banjul

To see a social worker, visit the office Monday to Thursday 8am to 4pm, Fridays 8am to 12:30pm.

Royal Victoria Hospital

Tel: 228223

For health care during the pregnancy

The Maternity Clinic hours are: Monday to Thursday 8am - 2pm. Tel: 225270/223471

BAFROW

Tel: 225270/223471- Voice of Youth

214 Tafsir Demba Mbye Road Tabacco Road, Banjul

Police Department (Child Welfare Unit)

Tel: 201381

Buckle Street, Banjul

Department of State for Education, Guidance and Counselling Unit.

Monday 8am to Thursday 4pm. Drop in.

The Department of Social Welfare offers the following:

- Someone to listen to your point of view and help you to work out what to do next.
- Someone to help you break the news to your parents or guardians- only IF YOU WANT
- Help to settle paternity (fatherhood) disputes.
- Help to settle levels of maintenance payments.
- Arrange temporary care of the baby (Foster Care)
- Arrange adoptions.
- Arrange admission to SOS village.

You may be sad, afraid and lonely but you should not have to shoulder the burden alone.

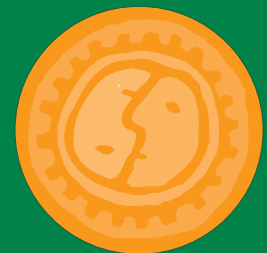
Please seek help!

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes:

*"the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family."*

*That "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."*

*That childhood is "entitled to special care and assistance"*



APSO

Sharing Skills with the Developing World

# Advertise Here



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Technical Advisor  
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CPA will be honoring the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse that will be celebrated on the 19th of November 2002.



*"Of the 35 million refugees and displaced people in the world, 80 per cent are women and children."*

**- The State of the World's Children 2002- UNICEF**

We would like to extend an invitation to member organizations, community groups, businesses, supporters to advertise their organisation in our quarterly publication.

Your support is greatly needed.  
For more information please contact CPA.

## Up - Coming Events

### Events

Official Opening of the CPA Office  
Speak Up! Speak Out! Campaign

### Workshops

Introduction to Child Abuse Issues and Skills Training in Working with Abuse  
Reporting of Child Abuse in the Media  
Children, Disability, Vulnerability and Protection  
Child Abuse, the CRC and African Charter - a childrens perspective  
Young People and the Dangers of the Internet  
Working with Refugee Children and Abuse

Dates and times to be confirmed. These are suggested events and are dependent on funding.

### Next Issue of the Newsletter:

Submission deadline:  
16th September 2002

### Topics:

Report by the Youth Attending the Special Session World Summit for Children.  
Update article by Satang Nabaneh on National Children's Parliament.  
UN Special Session - The Contribution of Gambian Children.  
What is child abuse - definitions.  
Report on the CPA Poster Competition.  
The Peace Corps Contribution to CPA.  
The CPA Team - who are they?  
Membership Profile - BAFROW

Editorial Team: Micheal Montgomery, Jalamang Camara and Misty Will