

## Poster Competition Brings Out Artistic Talents

After challenging students from five local schools, the CPA hosted an awards ceremony for its First Poster Competition on the 6th July 2002. The participating students created an original work of art illustrating a child protection issue facing young people in The Gambia. These included physical abuse, sexual harassment, corporal punishment, teenage pregnancy and baby abandonment.

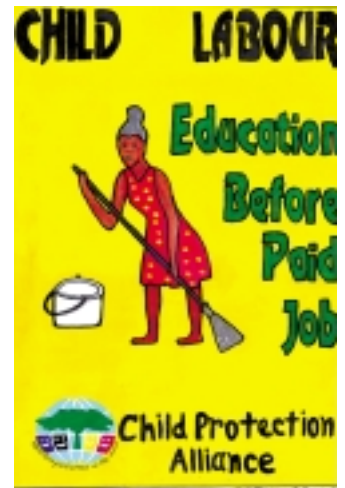
Posters were submitted from students at St. Joseph's Senior Secondary School, Muslim High School, Gambia High School, St.

Theresa's Junior Secondary School and Methodist Junior and Secondary School. The entries were very impressive. From detailed pencil sketches to colorful letterings, students were able to show their artistic abilities and also raise awareness about child abuse.

The contest winners, as well as other students from the Kombo area, were invited to attend the Award Ceremony, where prizes were given out for First, Second and Third Places. Satang Nabaneh, a Grade 8 student at Gambia Methodist Academy

gave a presentation thanking all the young people that participated and highlighting the important role they play in the mission of the CPA.

Since the Poster Competition was so successful, CPA will be taking the programme up-country in the near future. The posters are currently on display in the CPA office. Please stop by and have a look. With the fantastic turnout in the Kombo area, it will be exciting to see what children from other areas of The Gambia will come up with!



## Youth Drama Showcase Raises Awareness of Child Abuse

As you may have heard on CPA's radio spots, the 19th of November was observed internationally as the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse. The CPA is part of a network of hundreds of NGOs commemorating the Day worldwide. To recognise this event, CPA hosted a Youth Drama Showcase on Saturday, the 23rd of November 2002, at the TANGO Building.

Fatoumata Ndure, president of VOICE of the Young, presided over the event as Chairperson. The Showcase was officially opened by Mr. Halifa Sallah, member of the National Assembly. He emphasised the role that young people must play in issues affecting their lives and commended the efforts of everyone involved in protecting the rights of all children in The Gambia.

The Keynote Presentation was followed by dramas presented by the Youth Groups from BAFROW, Gamcotrap, Lend a Hand Society, Playschool and the Red Cross. They focused on issues such as corporal punishment, baby abandonment, sexual abuse & exploitation, child labour, disability, and early marriage. A representative from the



National Union of Disabled Youth (NUDY) presented a poem depicting the impact that disability can have on the life of a child.

The CPA also recognised the departure of Maria Teresa Hevia by presenting her a Certificate of Appreciation. Her support has been invaluable, said Sheikh Lewis, Chairman of CPA's Board of Directors. We are sad

to see her go and will truly miss her presence in The Gambia.

All of the Youth Groups involved were awarded prizes in appreciation of their participation. Their performance is proof of the impact that young people can make in working to protect children's rights and prevent all forms of child abuse both in The Gambia and internationally.

*A very big thank you to the youth from BAFROW, Gamcotrap, Lend a Hand, Playschool and Red Cross for their performances!*



## A Special Mother for All

A special mother for all.  
I and every child must say.  
The one who fought for my education,  
my rights, the root of my life,  
(survival).  
More over giving me that love with  
a clean heart shining like the sun.  
You are like a star shining from above.  
A star so beautiful, so inexpressively.  
Above the Gambian children,  
you are a good woman and a wonderful mother.  
It would be such torture for her to leave me with that grief.  
Who would that be, only Maria Theresa Hevia.  
Thank you, madam, we thank you,  
and we will always thank you.  
Your smiling face would always be in our heart.  
Goodbye.

*Presented by Isatou Dabo, a member of Voice of the Young, to Madam Maria Teresa Hevia, at the Youth Drama Showcase.*