

VOICE Involved in Many Activities

By Penda Sidibeh

Members of VOICE:

Isatou Darboe,
Isatou Dimbaland,
Enato Esangbdu,
Adama Faye,
Momodou Lamin Fofana,
Fatoumatta Gassama,
Sheriff Gaye,
Cherno L. Jallow,
Kaddijatou Jambang,
Essa Jammeh,
Abdou Jatta,
Satang Nabanne,
Fatoumatta Ndure,
Fatou Othman,
Nyima Saidy
and Bintou Sonko.

Anyone
interested in
learning more about
VOICE's activities
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VOICE of the Young, the youth group under the CPA, has been very busy since it began in October. They are involved in activities, both on their own and with the CPA Secretariat, that have gone a long way in shaping a positive image of the role that children in The Gambia can play in issues affecting their lives and well being.

On the 14th December 2002, UNICEF launched the State of the World's Children Report at the Palm Grove Hotel. The theme of the launch focused on child participation, and in line with the theme, VOICE was involved in several capacities. The President of VOICE, Fatoumatta Ndure chaired the event, and Bintou Sonko gave the Vote of Thanks. Additionally, Sheriff Gaye gave a wonderful presentation highlighting the myths and realities of child participation. Overall, the reaction to VOICE's involvement was very positive.

VOICE was involved at every stage in the Second Membership Workshop, held in January at the Kairaba Hotel. Please read the Cover Story on the Workshop, which highlights the role that VOICE played in the presentations and activities.



Members of VOICE, along with the National Co-ordinator and Youth Co-ordinators, celebrating after a successful Annual Review Meeting.

At the recent Media Workshop, VOICE was represented among the participants. Vice-president Satang Nabaneh chaired the event, and Nyima Saidy constantly reminded the reporters present of the child's perspectives in the issues that were discussed. Several journalists who participated in the Workshop expressed their appreciation and high regard for VOICE's involvement.

VOICE has also been involved in media broadcasts. Every weekend they go to a television or radio station (sometimes both!) to talk about issues per-

taining to child abuse in Africa, particularly The Gambia. They also talk about their activities and how they can end child abuse in their own capacities as children working for change. Specific programmes include the Youth Forum on GRTS National Television and an interview programme at Radio One. One voice member, Abdou Jatta, was on GRTS Radio and spoke specifically on CSEC (commercial sexual exploitation of children) and child participation. With all this attention and coverage, VOICE is making a strong name for children in The Gambia and the work of the CPA.

Upcoming Events

Speak Up! Speak Out! Campaign — Youth Bantaba

Follow-up on CPA and Terre des Hommes Child Sex Tourism Report

Information Campaign — Brochures and Posters

WORKSHOPS:

Capacity-Building Workshop for Board of Directors

Training Retreat for VOICE Members

Child Rights Programming Workshop with Save the Children Sweden

NEXT ISSUE: June 2003

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 1, 2003

THEME:

Youth Participation/The Child's Perspective (with a focus on contributions from children involved with our member organisations)