



## Children's Voices

### Child Protection in My Community

June 2016: Volume 1, Issue 1

#### \*\*\* WINNING PIECE- SEIPATI MOKHESI \*\*\*

"I Seipati Mokhesi am highly protected because I stay in a safe place where they teach me values and morals; where the environment is not harmful to children. Our environment is protected for the benefit of present and future generations. The environment we live in helps us to look at the big picture. The big picture is an expression that means to get a broad overall view or perspective of something. In this cycle you will get a broad view of what making a difference really means"

#### Finalist: Theophilis Ndlovu

"People have to worry about the protection of children in their communities. The cry endlessly as the reason for these kind of acts grow endlessly as the reasons for these kinds of acts grow infinitely. They consider communities to be a dead end if they don't act."

#### Finalist: Nandipha Nongalaza

"Child protection is dedicated to protecting children and young people who have been harmed or who are at risk of harm. Child protection plays an important role to the people in the community"

#### Finalist: Sphamandla Dkomo

"The purpose of protecting children is to keep them away from dangerous participations, actions or activities like drinking alcohol, smoking or being involved in thieving games"

#### Finalist: Thandazile Mthetwa

How can we protect children? It is very abnormal for children to be sent to shops late at night. Girls get raped at night, boys are being beaten and children get kidnapped. It is the police's job to keep us as children protected.

#### Finalist: Anasatcia Ndaledi

"In communities people should care for children even if it is not theirs. They should have after care for orphans and street kids. Every child should be important and special to everyone."

#### Christina:

"I say that child protection is needed. Some people abandon their children. In our community people disrespect each other and they don't take care of their children"

#### Refilwe Ngwenya:

"I think our community need to protect other people's children. If they see a stranger taking a child they must ask the child does he/she know this person"

#### Pretty Ngocho

"Child safety is dedicated to protecting children and young people who have possibly been harmed or who are at risk of harm. The community needs to provide safety and security in order for our children to be protected in the community."

#### Yolan;

"Children don't feel protected because of the things that happen in extension 8. There are boys that rob people and children in our areas get bumped by cars"

#### Sashleigh Taaibos:

"I sometimes feel protected because I have a phone and I know the Child line number so I can phone them and tell the problem that I have."

#### Tshepang Maleka:

"They enjoys saying "the children of this world don't have a say" but I say "No!"- the children of this world do have a say. I think the community does not care about us as children"

#### Veronique Jacobs:

"My community can help me and other children to be safe by organising security guards to watch over us during the day. It will be a wonderful plan..."



## Mpho Swanson:

“Child protection is a right of keep children safe. Children should feel safe and happy knowing they are under protection. We should also practise out responsibilities as children.”

### **Dobuhle Ndhlovu:**

“A community wants us to have brighter futures by creating Jo’burg Child Welfare around us so that they could keep us busy and not have minds of smoking and drinking.”

### **Victor Ndlovu:**

“Communities and neighbourhoods play an important role in ensuring the safety and well-being of children.”

### **Emithle Moyo:**

“All children have the right to protection. They have, in the family, school and community. Children should be fully protected so they can survive, grow and develop to their fullest potential.”

### **Florence Maluteka:**

“Children are facing many problems in their communities and they have to be protected from these problems. Problems faced by children in their communities are: car accidents, water accidents, child molestation and household accidents”

### **Khanyile Ndlovu:**

“Children must be protected from any form of abuse, maltreatment and degradation which is taking someone’s pride away or treating them with no respect”

### **Thandokile Mkhize:**

“If children are not protected, more children will be raped and get pregnant and they will have to drop out of school and it will ruin their future.”

### **Hircla Dlamini:**

“Children must be protected by everyone in the community. You must fight for your children. If you fight back...people who abuse our children will think twice before they harm a child.”

### **Batumelo Kgatlane:**

“I feel protected because I am at a safe place. I’ve been through many problems but I still feel as a normal person...I feel very protected because I have everything I need...I am no different from people no matter what happened to me.”

### **Sibongile:**

“At school we feel protected because we get education, free books, free food. We feel protected because the teachers make sure we pass and do right things all the time. At school too we have social workers.”

### **Mpho Ramaboea:**

“When I am walking the streets, I can feel that I am not protected. I feel like they are going to kill me, the Nyope boys. I feel protected when I am in the community. I can tell them things and I trust them and nothing makes me scared.”

### **Sphiwe Mananiswa:**

“At school I feel protected...at towns and cities I don’t feel protected because many people die on the streets and gangsters and their friends could attack us on the back.”

### **Martha Makume:**

“I don’t feel protected in public transport because people make me feel unsafe and I don’t trust strangers even more...I just prefer to use the transport that is provided for me [by Othandweni]”

### **Lunathi Magayana:**

I feel protected at school because there are securities, teachers that guide us. When we go to school I go with a transport that gets us there safe at our schools...I don’t feel protected on the streets.”

### **Nonhlanhla Xalisa:**

“I don’t feel protected in the cities because in the cities there’s lots of people and you can get lost and they can steal you from the shops. It’s not safe because it is easy for them to steal you because no one can see you”

### **Dimpho Dlamini:**

“When I’m alone at the streets I feel uncomfortable because I don’t trust anyone. I don’t know these people especially Nyope boys because they steal from you..”

