



Terre des hommes

Helping children worldwide.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN CAN OVERCOME VIOLENCE THROUGH EDUCATION

A four-step journey
from victim (of
gender-based violence)
to superhero





„There are many problems, but I think there is a solution to all these problems; it's just one, and it's education“, said Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani girl who was shot in 2012 simply because she wanted access to education. She was flown to the UK and received life-saving surgery. She has ever since been militating worldwide for young girls' education and rights. When she was 10, the Taliban took control of the area and girls were banned from going to school (this is a form of gender-based violence). Malala was brave enough to stand up to the Taliban in a TV broadcast: „How dare the Taliban take away my basic right to education?“, said the girl in a speech.

Whether a girl or a boy, irrespective of your country of origin or religion, this leaflet is for you. Perhaps you are a victim, or maybe you know or will know someone who is. Unfortunately, gender-based violence is widespread and, whether physical or emotional, is directed against a girl or a boy just for being seen as weaker.

We want you to know that, like all children, you are entitled to a smooth and peaceful start in life. It starts with the right **to know**, which gives you **power and will**. Eventually, you will be able **to do** anything you dream for yourself. It will sometimes feel like a passage through the desert – it may seem that you are forsaken, nobody comes to rescue, and all is set against you. But somewhere nearby there will always be an oasis of people making sure that you are safe.

Step 1 **BE KNOWING**

- know your rights: education, physical and mental integrity, health, decent life, work
- be informed of the agencies that exist and work for you: ILO, UNICEF, NGOs such as Terres des hommes that are also present in Romania
- know the significant international documents that protect you from gender-based violence (e.g. the Istanbul Convention)
- find out who you can go to in gender-based violence situations: friends, relatives, teachers, local authorities (police, welfare)
- discover success stories

Step 2 **BE ABLE**

- have access to information and technology
- have access to healthcare and welfare
- have the physical and mental capability to deal with gender-based violence
- be able to identify potential gender-based violence situations
- be capable to tell others (family, friends, relevant agencies) about your gender-based violence problems

Step 3 **BE WILLING**

- trust yourself
- be motivated to overcome your status as a victim of gender-based violence
- be willing to take control over your life
- be willing to change something in your life and the lives of others around you
- aspire to better lives for you and others around you

Step 4 **BE DOING**

- oppose gender violence and inequity
- act instead of victimising or isolating yourself
- anticipate and prevent gender-based situations for you and others around you
- help others in similar predicaments
- participate in gender-based violence and discrimination prevention and fighting activities

EDUCATION

enables you to take all these steps.
It will be an umbrella, helping you to be
a success story, rather than a victim
of gender-based violence.

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