



2018 Children's Peace Prize nominees

The following are the 12 Kenyan nominees for this year's International Children's Peace Prize. The prize is awarded annually to a child who fights courageously for children's rights. Out of thousands of nominations from all

over the world, only 109 nominees have reached the finals. They will know their fate tomorrow, Tuesday November 20th on World Children's Day when the winner is announced in Cape town, South Africa.

The children were nominated by World Vision, Kivandeni Orphan Children, and Africa Alliance for Health Research and Economic Development (AAHRED) in Kenya.

By SARAH OOKO, WORLD VISION KENYA



Shadrack Poghisho, 17, Kapenguria Boys Secondary School

When children undergo FGM, they lose interest in school, opting instead to get married and have children. Shadrack has been fighting this challenge by sensitising communities on the adverse effects of FGM. As chairman of students in his school, he raises awareness among school dropouts about the importance of education.



Ferdinand Mangiteni, 16, Maranda High School

At the young age of four, Ferdinand lost his mother as a result of inter-clan conflicts in Kuria County. The pain fuelled his passion for peace promotion in communities. Through his advocacy work, he has empowered children to love one another. As a result, children from different clans can now play together and even go to the same school. Ferdinand was also involved in drafting the new Children's Bill.



Winnie Chepkoech, 15, Kolowa Primary School

Winnie is a peace builder who wants children to be united and enjoy life without conflicts and misunderstanding. Through her impressive arbitration skills, she has helped to resolve numerous conflicts among children in her school and community. Winnie also advocates for an end to intercommunity resource conflict so children can learn in a safe environment.



Brian Mutuma, 14, Muthue Primary School

Brian is committed to fighting against drug abuse that affects children in many schools. Apart from educating his peers on the adverse effects of the habit, he also urges parents to guide children and protect them from such vices.



Christine Mulatya, 15, Ikutha Girls High School

In a bid to protect children's right to education, Christine took a bold step and approached her county government during the 2017 drought. She presented grievances of pupils in her school who could no longer come to class due to hunger. As a result, the school was able to get enough food and a feeding programme was put in place.



Eugene Kagari, 12

Eugene has been fighting for vulnerable children in the slums since he was nine. He saved ten children during a fire, and sought police reinforcement to save a little girl who was raped. He also raises awareness in his community about substance abuse, telling children not to take bhang or alcohol.

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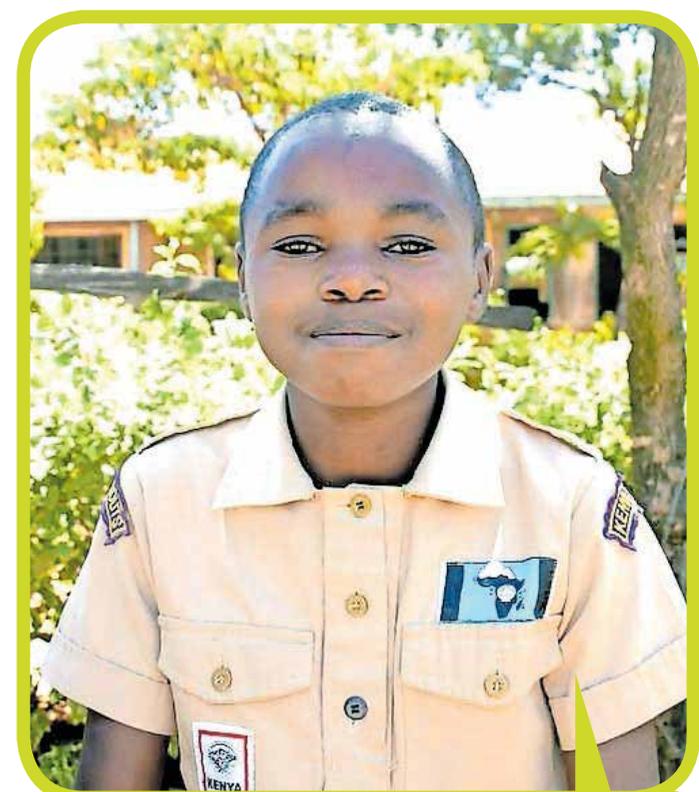
Mercelina Chebet, 15, Ortum Girls Primary School

Irrespective of peer influence and cultural pressures from her community, Mercelina took a firm stand and decided that she would not undergo Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); thanks to the support she got from her parents. She later became an anti-FGM champion who has helped reduce the practise in her community. Mercelina has also used her voice as the Deputy Speaker of the West Pokot Children Assembly to fight against sexual violence against children and early marriages.



Ralia Godana, 17, Kinna Secondary School

Coming from a marginalised community in Isiolo County where girls are often married off at a tender age after undergoing FGM, Ralia longs for a day when all girls in her community will have the freedom to pursue their education up to the highest level possible. She has therefore chosen to be a strong voice against FGM in the community.



Moses Kibet, 13, Makutano Primary School

Moses believes that education is the key to success for all children. He has therefore made it his goal to encourage parents in his West Pokot community to allow children to enrol and complete school. Through his persuasive skills, he also reaches out to dropouts and convinces them to return to class so they can have a bright future.



Rose Ngali, 13, Muthue Primary School

She believes that all children, including those with disabilities, should be allowed to enjoy their right to education without discrimination. She thus takes an active role in monitoring school attendance and tracking absent children so as to help or link them to people and institutions that can assist them to address challenges preventing them from studying.



Francis Muthami, 15, Muthue Secondary School

Francis lives in a community where child abuse is common. His violent environment motivated him to start fighting for children's rights and to teach children how to exercise them. As school president, Francis convenes public forums aimed at sensitising parents as well as his peers on children's rights. He believes that when children know their rights they stop being helpless. Instead, they become empowered to fight injustices.



Nduku Muli, 16

An orphan herself, Nduku reaches out to children without parents and others who feel lonely and neglected by the society. She has a gift of forming trusting friendships that enable her to help the children address psychological challenges that they face.