



MODELS OF PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING THE GIRL CHILD

**A PAPER PRESENTED BY DR. ELEANOR ANN
NWADINOBİ AT A 2-DAY SYMPOSIUM CALLED
CHILDREN AND HIV/AIDS: ACTION NOW,
ACTION HOW FIRELIGHT FOUNDATION –
MEXICO**

INTRODUCTION

- This paper seeks to give an overview of models for protecting the girl child. It starts by giving the profile of a young African girl. It focuses on strategies and effective approaches . It then concludes with the challenges faced and gives recommendations for overcoming these challenges.

Slide 2

DEN1

Dr. E. Nwadinobi, 8/04/04



THE TABITHA INFIRMARY FOUNDATION

The Tabitha Infirmary Foundation is an NGO based in Enugu the South East of Nigeria.

TTI Foundation aims to:

- Protect and support the girl child
- Carry out interventions which protect the girl child from cultural violence in our environment.
- Create awareness on health related issues including Family Life HIV education (FLHE)
- Network with other girl- child protection Non Governmental Organisations

PROFILE OF THE AFRICAN GIRL

- Low status ,self esteem
- Victim of son preference
- Back breaking work
- Carer for sick and elderly
- Less access to health care
- Less access to resources
- Less access to protective measures
- Less access to inheritance
- Biological vulnerability



WHAT DO YOU SEE



Dr. E Nwadinobi
MEXICO AUGUST 2008

STRATEGIES AND EFFECTIVE APPROACHES



- Peer Education
- Mentoring
- Talent Competitions
- Advocacy
- Youth friendly centres
- Media
- Cultural education

STRATEGIES AND EFFECTIVE APPROACHES CONTD



Dr. E Nwadinobi
MEXICO AUGUST 2008

KEY PRINCIPLES



- Male involvement
- Parent and teacher involvement
- Community involvement
- Multi-sectoral
- Equal opportunities
- Peer educators



ROLE OF POLICY AND RESEARCH

- Capacity of policy makers to utilise research data.
- Appropriate policy formulation
- Implementation and enforcement



CHALLENGES

- Lack of domestication of MDGs
- Huge funding gap
- Intersect between VAW and HIV/AIDS
- Stigma



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Arm with information on rights
- Adequate representation around the table
- Need for innovative partnerships
- Political will, good governance and accountability
- Need to domesticate our best practices
- High profile endorsement
- Young persons empowerment and equipping
- CSO networks and coalitions



Dr. E Nwadinobi
MEXICO AUGUST 2008



CONCLUSION

- These models have been shared to give an insight into how civil society can make a difference. However the true success lies in modifying for replication and up-scaling. The young girl child who is inspired, empowered and equipped will be the greatest asset any country can have.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS



Dr. E Nwadinobi
AUGUST 2008

MEXICO