

The voices of the children and adolescents from Madagascar



“Children have the right to be with their parents. In my neighborhood, some children do not live with their parents. They live with other members of the family, and I notice that some of them are not happy. There are those who ask when it will be that one will be fully joyful in the presence of the parents. I have a friend who lives with her uncle; she said that she misses her parents very much. She is not at peace at her uncle’s home, she works instead of going to school, and she follows the order of her uncles, since she lives in his house”.

RAFANOMEZANTSOA Nadirah Michela Reinharda, 15 years.



“Concerning the rights of children, some children do not profit of those rights, in a neighborhood called 67Ha Sud, in the capital of Madagascar, some children do not have any rights. I take the example of children who study in the public primary school of this neighborhood, because the parents cannot pay the expenses in private schools. There is a certain pressure, and the education that the children receive is not very good. And the other children cannot continue to secondary school since the parents are poor. That right to education still remains a great challenge for us here in Madagascar, the State cannot do too much, and there is also the political problem that still exists”.

RAMANDIMBIARISON Imahalimanana Pâcome, 14 years.



“In daily life, we speak all the time about the rights of children but we do not apply them well. In Madagascar, as a developing country, one is aware that the rights of children are not a priority. The criminals, the robberies, the violence are things that mark that lack of respect towards the children. In certain cases, it is not the will of the people, of parents, but it is because of poverty”.

RAKOTONDAFARA Tahiry Nomena Eleonore, 15 years.



“Children have rights because they are innocent and incapable of defending themselves. These rights allow them to do some things that they like or they want to do in life. These children have the right to live peacefully so that they can live and grow to become adults. In my country Madagascar, the parents send their children to work or to beg on the street. There are still so many things that one can still say about the lack of respect for the rights of children, but I speak only in the name of all those children who suffer very much in my country”.

ANDRIANAIVO Loïca, 13 years.



“I see that in my neighborhood, respect of those rights is not applied. In the first place, the child has the right to study and to go to school, and however this is not the case. It seems that 60% of the children do not go to school and what is worse, those children do some small work to help the parents.

In the second place, the child has the right to be protected, to eat well, to be taken care of... the parents are concerned about their children; they wish to give us protection, health, something to eat, but the great problem is poverty.

This poverty does not favor the respect of rights of children; this is what I can see especially in my neighborhood.

In the third place, according to me, to go to school forms part of my spare time, of my leisure, I go and find friends, teachers who educate me and show me the good path to follow. A child who works and does not go to school would not be able to benefit from that time. This right to education is still a challenge that I have noticed, if the child does not receive enough education, it will be difficult for him to find some distraction and wellbeing or happiness.

And lastly, the child also has the right to express himself and what he will say should not hurt the others. I see that at home, this occasion does not exist as it should; the child has very little chance to express himself and to speak about his concerns.

At present I speak in the name of all the children of my neighborhood, please, listen to us, understand us and help us”.

FELAHARIMALALA Mialinavalona Stellah, 14 years.



“Madagascar is an island abundant in natural resources, the fauna, flowers are all wonderful. It is in this sublime country that I live. Unfortunately, my country is going through numerous difficulties such as insecurity, hunger, unemployment, violence ... This reality is the result of the instability and of those who are victims. They are given no attention, their rights are not respected.

According to what I have observed, we Madagascan children go through numerous difficulties concerning the rights of children. The rate of those without schooling and the drop outs from school is always on the increase. The parents do not have enough money to pay the expenses for the school, and the children leave the school to work and help the parents. This situation brings with it other problems for the children. There are some who go to prostitution (the young girls), thinking that they can easily get money, robbing for some, and which evidently leads them to insecurity. There are also those who take drugs.

Finally, in Madagascar, only a few rights are respected and accepted by all, but just the same, we try the best we can so that those rights are respected and understood. There are organizations and associations that work to promote the rights of children”.

MAMIARIMANITRA Fanambinana Jaquelina, 15 years.



“A large number of children in Madagascar suffer from malnutrition. There are those who do not have the opportunity to go to school, especially the children from the countryside. I am aware that there are several rights but they are not respected, like the right to express oneself freely, the right to health, the right to live with the parents...

Nevertheless, it is still difficult to apply them. That lack of respect for the rights of children has negative consequences for the future; it could be bad behavior, delinquency. On the contrary, if those rights are respected, the children could have a better life, and the possibility of having a future with greater security and splendour”.

RAKOTOARIMANANA Fanilo Antenaina, 15 years.



“We have been told that one calls child those who are less than 18 years of age and that there is no distinction or difference. It is necessary to think that all the children have the same reaction when they are touched, and they cry when they are hurt. And in addition those children have above all the same rights and they need respect.

In my neighborhood, the interdiction or prohibition to make children work is not respected, many do not go to school. They are obliged to work to nourish the family, to help the parents.

The little boys become carriers or messenger boys, or work in the market and the little girls are in charge of doing the tasks at home for the family. But there are cases which make me sad. There are some parents who make a contract with some master and the salaries go directly to the

parents and they are happy with the money, with the salary while the child suffers very much and receives nothing. There are still many rights that are not respected, but these are only examples”.

RAOLIJON Nandrianina Prisca Jenny, 15 years.



“Dear friends, as you already know, a child is every human being who is less than 18 years of age, therefore, we are children. We have the same desire, the same sentiment but we are still under the influence of our parents and of our neighbors. The reality is that certain children do not have their own rights especially the children who live in under developed or in developing countries, like in my country; in Madagascar, this is practically in the South.

On the Western side of the Island, the children suffer; they will never have their rights as a child.

The parents do not work and the children do not go to school, they suffer from hunger... but the Government does not react, and does not help them. However, children have their own rights. They deserve to go to school, to dress properly, not to work too hard physically... Briefly, the majority of the children who live in my country do not really have the rights that they deserve, but what is it that we can do?”

AVOTRINIAINA Myriam Euph nie, 15 years.