

## Testimonies from Guatemala



*“In order to be able to detect the ill treatment that is given to children, it is necessary to dialogue with them so that they feel free to express themselves and say how they feel in the environment where they are. For a child it is very easy to make known the state in which he finds himself, the only thing necessary is to give him some attention and dedication in order to see where he feels unsatisfied, and in order to avoid the ill treatment, respect and protection for the children should be promoted, since they are the future and the new generation. For this reason it is necessary to count on qualified personnel to deal with them”.*

**Marisol Pixcar, ITECK, Chichicastenango.**



*“In order to be able to intensify the rights of the child it is very important that the parents have employment, because if the parents do not have a good income the children will not be able to study and in that case the right to study is not fulfilled. In Guatemala many families are poor and because of lack of money the parents send their children to work; the children work and because they work they do not go to school, nor do they relate with other children of their age. A child does not only need to study, he also needs the love of his parents. I think that in Guatemala employment and study are essential in order to fight against poverty and in order that children can study and know their rights”.  
que los niños estudien y conozcan sus derechos”.*

**Mario Javier Lux Macario, ITECK,  
Chichicastenango.**



*“Education is the fundamental base for every right, as well as for every employment. We know that from integral education values are born, values which are fostered not only in one’s own life, but also in that of others and from every academic education opportunities of work are born, for a sustainable economic wellbeing.*

*Therefore, a person with values, a person who knows the rights, his own as well as those of others, has the capacity to transmit his integrity to others!”*

**Sergio León Urrutia, ITECK, Chichicastenango.**



*At present there are many children who are punished especially in the cases of those children who fail in a subject or examination in school, or because they disobey. They are hurt and punished corporally and perhaps in the future they will suffer some mental illness or keep some resentment toward other persons. In what I have seen personally I am aware that certain parents punish their children by hitting them with belts, wires used for electricity or some other instrument and this for the only reason that the child failed an examination; but many times the parents do it without being conscious, aware of their own acts, since every child needs the help, the company of his parents, their help. But to punish the children is not the only solution, but it would be better to speak with them and ask them what has happened and if they can be helped”.*

**Heidy Susana Tiniguario Tzoc, Instituto Tecnológico K’iché, El Quiché, Chichicastenango.**



*“To be able to indicate or show an efficient change before this situation, it is necessary to study the problem in its very roots or origin, since our life begins at home, I consider that what I will be in the future will depend on this, since having as an almost unavoidable model, we become a reflection of what we have seen during our first years, in being impressed or affected by violent images, man then takes in himself the examples that he has seen. I consider that this is the cause of the ill treatment to children, we can also attribute to this that in school the ill treatment to children results from the lack of vocation of the educators, but we also have to face the new problem named bullying by which children who have other problems brought from home, lack personality and they desire to despise others to consider them less”.*

**Kevin Nelson Tol Ventovo, Instituto Tecnológico K’iché, El Quiché, Chichicastenango.**



*"The majority of the Guatemalan citizens are of indigenous origin. For this reason, sometimes, because of lack of education, or due to the fact of low income, they live in poverty and especially they lack food. Those especially affected by this situation are the children. The parents do not have sufficient resources to consume healthy food of good quality, because the price of these is very high, or simply they do not have sufficient information concerning basic nourishment.*

*In Guatemala malnutrition is a problem that affects the country, especially the poorest. A solution that I see for this is to guarantee their rights as citizens. The more affected are the indigenous people. We all should learn to eat in a healthy manner guaranteeing the economic resources to live better"*

**Juana Veronica Jerónimo Nix.**



*"Children should be taught the rights in a way they can understand, thinking like they do, using games and enjoying. We do not want a senseless life and without value neither do we want to live in ignorance. Rights exist and these should not only favor the children born in a golden cradle, but also the children who live in the countryside from infancy, who work from the age of 11 and 12 years having to carry on their shoulders the needs of their families. We want the rights to guarantee the opportunity to study, to play, to have leisure time, and*

*time of rest. In this way, acquire wisdom and intelligence, so that Guatemala can grow and progress to receive new generations of children".*

**Fatima Lorenzo.**



*"It is important to foster in our society values such as respect, humility, tolerance, and solidarity and to practice these, in order to eliminate discrimination. On the other side, it is important to promote the participation of children with disability, to create the conditions so that they can feel secure and can trust. Besides, persons should also have to accept them and help them, encourage them and support them to keep on going and to participate in a higher level in our society. After*

*all, we are all human beings and children of God. A person with some disability that she can overcome these problems becomes an example for everyone”.*

**Brayan Steven López de León.**