



HEAR *THEIR* ROAR

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Our Work Supporting Children and Young People

There is a demonstrable parity between the needs of Children and Young People within social care and education systems whether in the UK or Africa; unfortunately, there is also demonstrable evidence that the same gaps exist in terms of the strong connections between those receiving these services and those providing them. Connections are the key to success of any form of meaningful intervention in a young person's life.

Through many years of involvement in the education, health and social care systems in the UK we have developed a broad understanding of symptoms that arise from the challenges that exist between those with the potential to make positive changes in a child's life and those children which are systematically failed; those ultimately left to drift to the fringes of society.

The key recurrent theme we see is a lack of meaningful connection – a theme that is core to our vision:

“We want to develop meaningful connections between Children and Young People and the societal structures that they live within; reconnection built on mutuality of respect, active listening and inclusion”

Our Core Objectives

To help meet this vision we have set out a series of objectives to help steer and guide



To develop the capacity and skills of members of disadvantaged communities



To support peer charities and organisations in the advancement of mental, physical and moral capabilities for Children and Young people



To promote the rights set out in the UNCRC in communities with whom we work

There is a real and avoidable deficit in the support of Children and Young People in Africa despite growing inward aid and investment in the third sector.

Much resource is focussed towards management of symptoms of social deprivation whilst the next generation are not adequately being engaged with to realise substantive, long-term transformation in patterns and behaviours that underlie their situation.



How We Do This

We have focussed on three key programmes where we feel our experiences and capabilities can be leveraged to create the greatest impact in the communities with whom we work. These support the promotion of the UNCRC Article 19 which is our focus.

1. Supporting: Emotional Wellbeing in Disadvantaged Communities

Through our projects in this area it has been clear there is a breakdown of relationships and communication between Children and Young People and their communities leading to a deficit in emotional connections which is being played out in abusive expression.

Through this programme we undertake sessions with all sections of the community to help transform their view of communication and relationships.

We find our support is heard and understood and with the communities underlying desire for change we are able to make relationships grow. This demonstrably leads to less abusive consequences, be that corporal punishment or the neglect which stems from giving in to circumstance.

2. Engaging: Children and Young People with Social Care Needs

Children and Young People have unexpressed thoughts and feelings which play out in challenging behaviours. They are living with adults who are not able to correctly parent or look after them. This is damaging and in many cases abusive.

We connect Children and Young People in the first instance by using play, the underlying principle of UNCRC article 31, then moving into workshops focusing on understanding their emotions and ability to communicate. This becomes much more powerful in combination with work in the area of emotional wellbeing of the community as it feeds on the improvement in relationship and communication with the adults.

Children and Young People who have been through our projects feel better equipped emotionally to understand and cope with the challenges of life.

3. Empowering: Non-Violent Resistance and Tools to Support Change

Corporal punishment, escalatory relationships and communication, lack of human connection between adults and Children and Young People can be abusive and damaging but is normalised into the community.

We advocate the use of NVR as it empowers adults to take control of an escalating situation in a way that is not harmful to the child. It reduces escalation, it strengthens relationships, builds communication and has practical tools to manage Children and Young Peoples challenging behaviour. As NVR becomes an effective and embedded cultural norm abusive and disconnected relationship diminishes as a result. This impact is seen as a reduction in harm to Children and Young People and improvement in emotional wellbeing for all in the society.

We use volunteers to come and support this work. These volunteers now include Military Veterans. Mark Wheeler, a recently medically discharged, Royal Marine Commando with the Queens Bravery Award, will be involved in identifying Veterans who could support our work but also, importantly, gain in their own mental health by volunteering with us.



Charities Who Have Engaged Us



Projects in Sierra Leone

Emotional Wellbeing in Disadvantaged Communities

- 2019 - Street Child; 18 social workers at Street Child Kenema office
- 2019 - Street Child; 20 teachers at St John's Secondary School
- 2019 - Street Child; 25 teachers at Ansurul Islamic Secondary School
- 2019 - Street Child; 30 teachers at Ahmadiyya Islamic Secondary School
- 2019 - Street Child; 9 foster carers at the carer support group

Children and Young People with Social Care Needs

- 2019 - Street Child; 40 teenage mothers at the teens support group
- 2019 - Street Child; 250 teenagers at St John's Secondary School
- 2019 - Street Child; 500 children and teens in various workshops

Non-Violent Resistance and Tools to Support Change

This has been a core enabler of all of the above projects in this particularly challenging area driven by the fundamental

Projects in Kenya

Children and Young People with Social Care Needs

- 2018 - AMREF; 55 teenagers
- 2019 - AMREF; 30 children, 28 teenagers, 3 teachers
- 2018 - Seedsowing Network; 90 children
- 2019 - Seedsowing Network; 90 children
- 2018 - Heshima School; The whole school and teachers
- 2019 - Heshima School; The whole school and teachers

Non-Violent Resistance and Tools to Support Change

- 2018 – AMREF; 3 teachers, 1 psychologist



Feedback Quotes

Kenema, Sierra Leone.

Feedback from a few school teachers after training sessions based around discipline in schools. Sierra Leone

'We know your intervention in Sierra Leone can make remarkable mark positively in life of children, teachers and parents'

M.Koroma teacher

'We don't want to bid you farewell. Some of us were hungry when you arrived, now we are full'

Vice Principle, Ansarul Islamic Secondary School

'I have seen perfect examples of where we can use these techniques even just this morning at work'

Teacher at Ansarul Secondary School

'We had 10 years of civil war and there is so much trauma in our teachers, in our adults and in our children. We need what you are teaching us'

Teacher at Ansarul Secondary School

'We have learnt some completely new techniques to discipline. It has opened our eyes to new possibilities.'

Chief Discipline Officer, Ansarul Secondary School

'Other organisations come here and completely condemn our discipline. You have explained to us a balance between praise and discipline'

Teacher, Ahmadiyya Islamic Secondary School

'Please continue to come, your presence here is motivation to us'

Teacher, Ahmadiyya Islamic Secondary School

Feedback from some of our training sessions with Street Child's social workers in Kenema, Sierra Leone

'HTR is supportive; we have missed things like this for too long. There are some things [ideas] that are completely new'

Street Child social worker manager

'I am enriched by your lessons, I am already implementing the things we learnt and my answers to care givers questions are now excellent'

'Yes, we can use P.A.C.E to connect with our difficult teenagers'

'Your techniques are very peculiar to me. I have learnt a lot'

'What you are teaching us is brilliant, fantastic and powerful. If we can adopt it in our hearts we can make a real change'

'When you come here and set up an office, you will surely be able to change Sierra Leone. What you do, it works, we need you'

'I have been telling everyone I know about you all. You are extraordinary'

Feedback following a session where we looked at the disconnect between Street Child's social workers and care givers (foster carers)

'I now see that if we change the way we see care givers in our hearts, we can change their hearts to benefit the children'

'For the first time I have realised the care givers are angry, ungrateful and rude to us because of their own pressures, thoughts and feelings'

'I now see the value in accountability and saying sorry. We have felt too big to say sorry'

Nairobi, Kenya.

Feedback from Nicky Blundel Brown for our work at AMREF Dagoretti Centre in Kenya

I was delighted to hear from Patricia (Dagoretti Child Protection and Development Centre Manager) what a great success Hear the Roar's visit had been and that the children were so excited by the group's program that the original 20 very quickly became 50! Please pass special thanks to Megan, and her two v special colleagues for their time energy and thinking.

Feedback from Sarah AMREF Councillor, Kenya

From the time the group (HTR) came here I've seen there is a big difference with the way you have worked with them (the young people). Especially with the skills of music, decision making, making good choice / bad choices.

It has made them to improve on their self-esteem, confidence.

I consider it a change, from their faces you can tell they have improved.

That is what I have seen.

Feedback from Steve, Seed Sowing Network, after our first trip to Nairobi Kenya

There were three possible challenges, meaning places, where you could have applied your skills and in ascending order of difficulty they were

- My Toto's (Steve's school for 3-6 year olds)
- A local high school
- And or AMREF (Child Protection and Development Centre)

You took the toughest of the challenges (AMREF) and stuck it out when I am sure others would have given up.

What you have done is confirmed to yourselves that you have a very viable offering for children with deep wounds and that Hear Their Roar are equal to the challenge.

So in conclusion take strength from what you have achieved.

God bless all. You three are doing its kingdom and so needed at this time.

All quotes are verifiable.



Megan Tanner Founder & Director

Megan is a communication consultant and presenter and has facilitated workshops and presentations in small business to FTSE 100 companies and also in schools up and down the country since 2007.



Megan is also a professional actress, singer and vocal coach, graduating from Drama College in 2001.

Megan is a foster carer for highly challenging children and adolescents. Since 2013 she has fostered 6 teenagers and 3 children. Megan is also an advocate in UK fostering. Her advocacy includes: being part of The Fostering Network 'Keep Connected' campaign and also being part of their 'State Of The Nation' fostering survey by taking part in their podcast, encouraging foster carers to speak out for change. Megan and her supervising social worker have also changed agency policy for foster children's benefit.

Megan's areas of specialist interest are:

- Childhood and adolescent development
- Equality and children's rights
- Behaviour and emotional support
- Fostering service and carer support
- Safeguarding and child protection
- Attachment principles
- Abuse and trauma





Meet The Teams

