



2019 REPORT

# NATIONAL CHILDREN'S EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT CAMP

(NACED CAMP 2019)

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## FORWARD

Violence against children remain a global threat especially on the African Continent, and it is pervasive in all forms in Liberia, recognized as one of the major impediment to the development of a country and the full realization of the rights of children.

The Camp Report is an operational document that mirrors the views and aspiration of the children and youth in Liberia. This has been identified as one of the symptom and leading influencing factor of violence and abuse with children in the country.

This report ultimately seeks to provide an integrated vision and clear direction to all sectors at various levels involved with prevention and protection to response effectively in addressing the issues intimated in this report.

However, children and youth deserve their own space and with that I would like to extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Fund for Global Human Rights for believing in this vision and supporting the Right Holders Network through YOCEL. Also I want to thank the Organizing team for attracting one of the biggest concession company in the country Firestone, Liberia for supporting this year's camp and looking forward to establishing a stronger partnership.

As you read through the amazing work done by the Right Holders Network and its members with the National Children Education & Development Camp, kindly remember that children and youth groups can do much more better if they have the support they need we at YOCEL remain committed to putting children and youth in charge of transforming their lives and their communities. Our support to the Right Holders Network is the beginning of a new movement where children and youth are not just at the Centre of discussions but are in charge.



**Beyan Flomo Pewee**  
*Executive Director*  
YOCEL

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are excited to see how successful the second convening of the NACED Camp was. This journey begun just about a year and half ago with a relatively few likeminded advocates who saw the need to create a civic space that will serve as a national policy advocacy and engagement platform for children and adolescents to share their initiatives, Inspire, mobilize and support each other. With the indicators of progress, we are certain of the fruition of this great aspiration.

The quest to create this space has been increasingly challenging and calls for not just the commitment of us the vision bearers but all who see child protection and participation as a must. We were very fortunate enough to have had some of these actors involved with this initiative but there is still a room for you out there to join the process and stop being a spectator of what you can do. We appreciate the children and adolescents of Liberia for taking ownership of the process through their total involvement, evident by the overwhelming turnout during the past two convenings.

This vision could not have been a reality without the support of YOCEL and KidsRights Foundation who saw it from a very embryonic stage and believe in us as a small group that we can actualize it with the passion and commitment they saw in us. We again convey our deepest esteem to our parent institution YOCEL and The Fund for Global Human Rights as well as Firestone Liberia for their financial and technical support to this year's convening. The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has also gotten fully involved by officially endorsing this event as an annual national policy advocacy and engagement platform for children and adolescents.

We extend our profound gratitude to the Special Organizing Team comprising of our Right Holders Advocates, our partner Kids Development Initiative and the volunteers. We also appreciate you our campers for making this a reality.



**Ballah Flomo Saywala**  
*Chairman*  
– RHN



## Background of the Camp

### Background

“Making Children’s Voices Count” was the project that supported the hosting of the first ever National Children’s Education and Development (NACED Camp) held in Liberia, through the support from KidsRights. This has become a flagship program of the Right Holders Network and now a premier national policy advocacy and engagement platform for children and adolescents across the country.

Over the years, our engagement with children and young people have given us a better appreciation that when children have the fundamental understanding of their rights and responsibility, the fight to protect them can be stronger as they become fully involved to mobilize the community’s support.

More than two decades now, Liberia and the world at large have experienced the rapid evolvement of information and communication technologies- specifically social media that has massively increased the awareness of violence against children with children themselves helping the fight. YOCEL implemented the phase one of the project which was based on creating awareness about children’s rights and having children informed about using social media for advocacy. However, while social media have been successful in ensuring that the rights of children are protected and promoted, we did recognize the need to invest more in the capacity development of children through the Right Holders Network, support them in community lead offline peer to peer learning methodology. Because when their capacities are strengthened, they can engage the community through dialogue and awareness and also share and learn from each other.

Right Holders Advocates are also able to adequately fight against injustices and advocate for their rights. The second phase of the project was focused on building a movement of children rights advocates, who are knowledgeable of their rights and have the requisite skills to effectively respond to children issues across the country, led by the Right Holders Network. As part of this initiative, the idea of convening a National Children’s Education and Development Camp was nursed by the RHN in 2018, supported by YOCEL and KidsRights. The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social

Protection after reading the outcome document of the first camp report and evaluating its impact, officially endorsed the 2019 Camp as a National Policy Advocacy and Engagement Platform for Children and Adolescents between the ages of 14 – 24 years to share their experiences, listen, engage and mobilize local and national stakeholders and support each other initiatives.

### RIGHT HOLDERS NETWORK – RHN IN BRIEF

RHN is a child and youth led advocacy platform aimed at raising awareness on issues affecting children in rural & urban communities in Liberia and amplifying their voices in fighting violence against children through the use of Information Communication Technology – ICT, Policy Dialogues, Community Action Initiative and their full participation into national and local decision making processes. In 2017, YOCEL was among four (4) partners selected by KidsRights to implement the International Children Peace Prize 2015 Project won by Abraham Keita; YOCEL developed their project name “Making Children Voices Count (MCVC+) Project”. Through the project, a network coined “Right Holders Network-RHN” was also established; initially the Network had 20 passionate youth and children ages 15-25 that were involved in the Child Rights Advocacy after the evaluation period a restructuring process took place and today we have 15 passionate Children and Youth ages 15 – 24 years that are member of the Right Holders Network.

YOCEL is working with these passionate children rights champions to strengthen their capacity, further boost their online engagements and empower them to actively engage in national policy engagement dialogues, advocacy campaign, community action initiative and organizing the annual National Children’s Education and Development Camp- NACED Camp.

The Right Holders Network is also a voluntary child rights network that is advocating for government to achieve the sustainable Development Goals 3, 4 and 16, which includes good Health, and Well-Being; Quality Education and Peace and Justice respectively.



RHN members are children and youth with representation of the 15 counties of Liberia both in secondary school and are university students.

RHN have been given an office space at the Head Office of YOCEL which has enable us to become fully functional and have enable us to become a full member of the Child Right Coalition of Liberia among others.

## RHN Programs Thematic

### Social Media Advocacy and Campaign:

We create, manage and update our social media pages with good contents, generate more followers and sustain our engagements with social media users on issues that protect and promote the rights of children.

### Community Action Initiatives:

With mentorship from YOCEL, we design advocacy campaigns and carry out community outreaches on issues that relates to children and young people. We

stand for all children and advocate for social justice. We constructively engage and dialogue with stakeholders at all levels of our advocacies.

### Children and Youth Voices Program:

Based on our goal, the Right Holders Advocates use both print and electronic media platforms to flag out issues affecting children and young people in Liberia. The advocates often use this as a platform to call on stakeholders to buy-in to our advocacy and to gain the public attention for the redress on specific issues.

### National Children's Education and Development Camp:

Education is a human right and as such, it is our priority as an advocacy network. Globally, Education has become a top development agenda at almost every gathering the Sustainable Development Goals, and the focus of the 2018, World Development Report of the World Bank.



Camp Fire



Lunch



SOT Meeting



Plenary Session



## Our Mission:

The Right Holders Network Mission and Vision are parallel to that of YOCEL, that envisages a society where every child regardless of their status will be given equal opportunity to acquire quality affordable education and to ensure that all of their rights are restored, promoted and protected.

## Our Core Values:

We are dedicated to Service, Accountability, Honesty, Merits, Impartiality, Partnership, and Dignity & Respect for every child considering diversity.

## Leadership Structure:

The Network is managed by a secretariat which is led by a Chairperson and assisted by a Co – Chairperson with the help of other officers to run the day to day activities of the network. Within the organic realm of the Network, we have established county chapters called the Right Holders Movement currently in Three (3) counties (Montserrado, Lofa and Grand Gedeh Counties) with a membership of over 1,000 Right Holders Members across these three countries

## Day One

### Opening Ceremony (Good Will Messages)

The camp commenced with an official indoor program on December 28, 2019 and entertained speeches, lectures, setting of expectations, ground rules and experience sharing amongst others. Influential speakers and prominent stakeholders in promoting children rights also graced the occasion. Speaking during the official opening ceremony, Mr. Henry Brent who is the Chief of Office Staff in the Office of Representative Ivar K. Jones serve as proxy for his boss and delivered the key note address, he stressed the urgency for government to invest in quality education and support these kinds of platform for children. He mentioned that with his thirteen years of advocacy this was the first time for him to attend an event that is organized and led by children themselves, "I can see the passion and commitment and I am impressed". Mr. Brant encouraged the campers to always engage in these venture to create the space for children, he shared his experience when he visited Rwanda in 2013, similar program was organized but the national government took responsibility and said he will convey the message to his boss to make some intervention. He also admonishes children and adolescent never to relent in their advocacy for quality education in Liberia. "Liberia is the oldest independent country in Africa but yet, the poorest because of lack of quality education" he added.

"Education ends when you are in the grave; it is a passport to your future. Advocacy is key to impacting the society and Social networking is key to building our economy. As you gather here today, consider this as an opportunity to network and prepare yourself because when preparedness and opportunity meets success is bound to flow. **"Mr. Henry Brent - Key note speaker"**



Also speaking on the topic: ***How can Advocates build Synergy with the Media to Advance the fight against Cyberbullying and other Forms of violence against Children***, Mr. Abraham Godsent Wheon a Liberian Journalist and Deputy Director General for Operation at Renascence Communications Incorporated – RCI described the media as a vehicle to reach out to people. He further explained that the media have a role to help advocates disseminate their information since they are able to reach out to a larger audience. Explaining how advocacy enlightens the minds of people to danger in society, Mr. Wheon told advocates to always try to work with the media to ensure that their messages reach to a larger audience.

"Advocacy enlightens the minds of people to danger in their society and on the other hand, the media is a vehicle to reach out to many people. Let's build synergy and improve impacts. **"Mr. Abraham Godsent Wheon"**



Another lecturer **Mr. Thomas Williams Fomba** spoke on the Sub Topic: ***Cyber-Security; is the Vital World Safe? Securing your password***. He explained that everyone using online tools has a data to protect and we must have secured passwords to help us



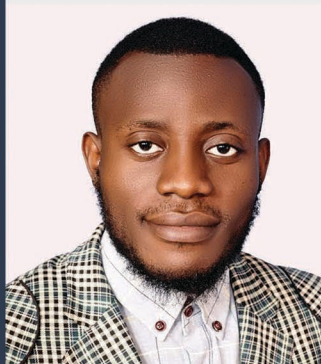
protect our data. He further that password security is about making a password that is hard for people to guess because it help you to keep your information secure.  
It lowers the chance of one account being hacked.

“Everyone using online tools has a data to protect and we must have secured passwords to help us protect our data.” *“Mr. Thomas Williams Fomba”*

### Arise and Shine

we continue to encourage regular bodily exercise during the early morning hours of each camp day so as to improve sportsmanship and fitness of our campers. This exercise sets the stage for our campers to refresh their minds and prepare for the day sessions. During this period, the campers are allowed to leave the comfort of their beds and gathered at an open field for a series of body building and stress free exercises. This component also helped to improve the spirit of networking amongst campers.

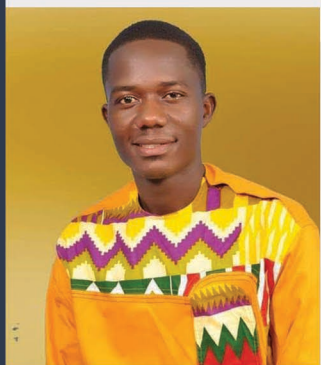
### Meet our facilitators



— Foldestine Paye —



— Daniel N. Gayflor —



— Willie Bee Tingba —



— Thomas William Fomba —

## Day Two

### Learning Hub Sessions

Campers at NACED Camp are divided into four color houses (Red House, Yellow House, Blue House and Green House). During the learning hub session, children and adolescents are divided into separate hubs (Small learning Groups) according to their colors. Each of these learning hubs was considered as a special committee and assigned to a specific topic with an expert facilitator. After thorough research and group discussions, the committees dotted down points which could be included in their resolutions to be presented during the General Congress.

### Green House

This color house was named Committee on Government Action to Advance the Fight against cyber-bullying and had the focus topic: **Why should Government Legislate Cyber Security Law and how can Government engage with Telecommunication Companies to provide Safer Online Platforms for the Children and Young People?** The facilitator Mr. Foldestine Paye, president of the Liberia Information Technology Student Union- LITSU identified the lack of Cyber security / Data protection laws and the lack of standardized procedures to handle child online abuse as some major issues that pose threat to the safety of children online. He further urged the campers to avoid accepting friend request from un-known people online, not to install apps from free websites online. He further recommended that since there's no cyber security law in Liberia, national government should work with companies to create policies and management processes to mitigate the negative impact of ICT on children and ensure that all companies in Liberia develop a child and youth safeguarding policy.





### Red House

Campers in Red house were placed in the Committee on Private Sector Engagement with focused topic: **How can we influence the interventions of NGOs and the private institutions to strengthen the fight against Cyber-bullying?** During this committee research, the facilitator Mr. Daniel N. Gayflor explained to the participants that cyber bullying involves online threats and aggressive or rude texts, tweets, messages, or posting personal information, pictures, or videos designed to hurt or embarrass someone else. He stated that the private sector consists of all privately owned, for-profit businesses in the economy. Mr. Gayflor further that private sector tends to make up a larger share of the economy in free market, capitalist based societies. According to him, private sector businesses can also collaborate with government run agencies in arrangements called public-private partnerships.

In his conclusion, he explained that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a self-regulating business model that helps a company be socially accountable—to itself, its stakeholders, and the public. By practicing corporate social responsibility, also called corporate citizenship, companies can be conscious of the kind of impact they are having on all aspects of society, including economic, social, and environmental.



### Blue House

This is the committee on the eradication of cyber-bullying through the implementation of laws and policies with assigned topic: **Critically analyze the Existing legal mechanism that addresses the**

**Situation of Cyber-bullying in Liberia and Recommend Approaches and Legal Reforms Needed?** This committee research identified cyberbullying is one of the factors that affect the lives of children and youth in the digital world. The committee facilitator Mr. Willie Bee Tingba explained that the Liberia Government has not established an adequate mechanism in the fight to eradicate cyberbullying within the Liberian cyber space. He urged his committee members to take advantage of a platform provided by UNICEF called U-report, a mobile technology program that is use for reporting issues that affect children.



### Yellow House

Yellow house was called Committee on the Creation of civic space to end cyber-bullying and their research were focused on the specific topic: **What roles can non-state actors play to discourage negative social norms that promote the practice of cyber-bullying?** The committee facilitator Mr. Thomas Williams Fomba noted that the Government alone cannot achieve the fight of Cyberbullying, therefore, the need for non-state actors to get involved cannot be overly emphasize as urgent as it is relevant.





## Day Three

### General Congress

At the General Congress, campers use the parliamentary procedures to debate their Resolutions and convince their colleagues to vote the passage of their resolution to form part of the NACED Camp outcome document. The congress was presided over by Jutomue Doetien, Former speaker of the Liberian National Children's Representatives Forum and deputized by Christine Wuraola, Member of Right Holders Network. The general congress allotted the four committees equal time to present their resolutions which was opened for parliamentary debate and adoption. During the deliberations there were several amendments made in some committee resolutions, after all of those amendments and parliamentary deliberation each committees recommended the following:

### COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ADVANCE THE FIGHT AGAINST CYBER-BULLYING

**Focus Topic: "Why should government legislate Cyber Security Law and how can Government engage with telecommunication companies to provide safer online platforms for the children and young people?"**

The committee recognized cyberbullying as a very serious issue stressing that it is emotionally damaging and even lead to tragic consequences. They alarmed that it is happening enough that as a country we need to do more on addressing this issues. The committee defined cyberbullying as when a child or teen becomes a target of actions by others – using computers, cellphones or other devices – that are intended to embarrass, humiliate, torment, threaten or harass. They maintained that it can start as early as age eight or nine, but the majority of cyberbullying takes place in the teenage years, up to age 17, and many of these situation happens and we don't recognize them as such.

Accordingly, most often cyberbullying is sustained and repeated over a period of time. But whether it is sharing fone's humiliating photo or harmful text messages, it can damage a young person's feelings, self-esteem, reputation and mental health. The committee noted with concern that unlike

face-to-face bullying, cyberbullying can be relentless. It can reach a victim anywhere at any time: alone in their bedroom, walking home from school, or even on a family vacation.

The Committee furthered that as cyberbullying can spread quickly, to a wide audience, it is worthy to note that teens today have been involved in some way or other, either as a target, as a bully, as a silent observer, or as someone who participates on the sidelines and becomes part of the problem without realizing what they're doing. The range of cyberbullying tactics is wide, and is continually changing as new technology emerges and different social networking sites pop up.

The committee listed the below as some of the common ways that cyberbullying it is taking place among children and adolescents across Liberia:

- Sending of threatening messages by email, text or through comments on a social networking page.
- Spreading embarrassing rumors, secrets or gossip about another person through social networking sites, email, or texts.
- Taking an embarrassing picture or video of someone with a digital camera and sending it to others or posting it online without their knowledge or permission.
- Posting online stories, pictures, jokes, or cartoons that are intended to embarrass or humiliate.

**To address the aforementioned issues, the committee recommended the following:**

- National Government should pass the draft cyber Security act into law in order to ensure that:
- All companies develop a child protection policy
- Government through the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications establish grievance and reporting Unit on Child online abuse
- Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Liberia National Police and Ministry of



Post and Telecommunications shall collaborate to develop a standardized reporting procedure for cybercrimes in Liberia. The procedure shall ensure that:

- All companies or institutions in Liberia involved in disseminating information online and manually should have a system that will report sexual abuse materials and cyber bullying and such system should be monitored by government.
- Ministry of gender, Children and social Protection and Liberia National Police Shall create functional and active hot-line, so that children can quickly report cases of online sexual abuse and cyberbullying.

Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Post and Telecommunication must engage Telecommunication Companies (Orange and Lonestar Cell MTN) to ensure that:

- They include in their Cooperate Social Responsibilities the need to educate children, parents, teachers etc. about children online safety and responsible use of ICT.
- The government information services are accessible and safe for children online.
- The government through the Ministry of Education focuses on building the capacities of youth and children online (through creating publicity on the Education sector development plan, the National curriculum at various educational levels.etc)

## Committee on Private Sector Engagement

**Committee Topic: How can we influence the Interventions of NGOs and the private institutions to strengthen the fight Against cyber-bullying?**

The committee premised their research on a 2017 report from the International Telecommunication Union which states that 70% of the world's youth population (ages 15-24) is online using the internet. They further referenced dosomething.com by alarming that about 37% of young people between the ages of 12 and 17 have been bullied online and 30% have had it happen more than once. Narrowing It is evident that the effects of cyberbullying are more severe because wider audiences can be

reached through the internet and material can be stored online, resulting in victims reliving denigrating experiences more often. The committee research proved that in Liberia, most private sector actors directly or indirectly involved with internet provision or usage are directing little or no resources towards the fight against Cyberbullying and that Bullies are more likely to allow children skip school or drop out of school, smoke, drink alcohol, get into fights and be arrested at some point in their lives. Alarmed by the aforementioned, the committee therefore resolved and recommend the following:

- Child and youth protection institutions, communities and schools shall develop innovative social initiatives (programs / projects) that facilitate private sector (most especially those involve with the provision or usage of internet) involvement in the protection of children against cyberbullying. Private sector support shall be Logistical, Financial or technical and directed towards campaigns, organizing conferences, seminars and interventions gear towards increasing education on cyber bullying and safe usage of the internet for the protection of children.
- Advocates and pressure groups shall lobby with the national government to engage private sector to establish framework that enforce the inclusion of the fight against cyberbullying in cooperate social responsibility initiatives. Under said framework, private sectors shall be able to engage with advocacy organizations to organize Anti-Cyberbullying activities in schools, work places, communities, and homes to ensure the reduction of cyberbullying.
- The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications shall commit to engaging and mandating key actors in the private sector to establish and implement child protection framework against cyberbullying within their scope of operations.
- A joint taskforce to effectively monitor and develop a report on the implementation of cyberbullying frameworks and campaigns by private institutions shall be constituted by the Ministries of Gender Children and Social Protection, Post and Telecommunications and other line ministries and agencies.



## COMMITTEE ON THE ERADICATION OF CYBERBULLYING THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS AND POLICIES

### **Focus Topic: Critically Analyze the Existing Legal Mechanisms that Address the Situation of Cyberbullying in Liberia and Recommend Approaches and Legal Reforms Needed"**

The committee noted that over the decade, Technology has transcended to become one of the driving forces in the lives of people across the world. They stressed the fact that Children are growing up in a world where social media, mobile technologies, online forums, dating sites, and gaming sites are fundamental to the way they learn, communicate, interact and develop. After series of research and observations, the committee realized that the cyber space in Liberia is face with many problems.

The internet has a direct and indirect impact on the society, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – that every child has the right to freedom of information from diverse sources. The committee also established that eradicating cyberbullying has been a major challenge for advocates and stakeholders and linked it to the fact that many people on the cyber space are illiterate when it comes to the issues of Cyberbullying and the way it works. Noting with deep concern that Liberia has not established an adequate legal mechanism in the fight to eradicate cyberbullying, the committee resolved and recommended the following legal reforms;

- The Ministry of Justice should establish a Unit to deal with cyber offenses
- The government of Liberia through the Legislature should ensure the passages of the draft cyber security Act that will protect victims of cyberbullying and ensure their rights are protected and the cyber space is safer for children.
- The government shall ensure all telecommunication companies develop a safeguarding cyberbullying policy for children.

## COMMITTEE ON THE CREATION OF CIVIC SPACE FOR COLLECTIVE ACTIONS TO END CYBERBULLYING.

### **Focus Topic: What Roles Can Non-State Actors Play to Discourage Negative Social Norms That Promotes the Practice of Cyberbullying?**

The committee like all others defined cyberbullying as the use of mobile, SMS, Text messages and other technologies by an individual or a group of people to deliberately and repeatedly upset or harass another person. They clearly pointed out the fact that the Government alone cannot achieve in the fight against cyberbullying and stressed the need for the total involvement and inclusion of non-state actors. Liberia as a country needs to include Non-state Actors in the fight against cyberbullying.

Findings from the committee's research highlighted the United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) and UN special Representative on Violence against children September 4, 2017 report indicate that there are around one-in-three young people across thirty countries which say they have been bullied online, while one-in-five report that they have skipped school because of it.

Children and young people in both high and low income countries are bullied online. That it is affecting their education and Liberia's ICT sector lacks cyber security policies and it is not in conformity with international standardized protocols. Additionally, they named the lack of online portal and poor report mechanisms in Liberia coupled with low awareness among children, parents, teachers, government agencies, social welfare CSOs etc. as major loop holes in the fight against cyberbullying in Liberia.

Considering the above alarming statistics and existing legal and structural gaps, the committee recommended the following:

- CBOs, CSOs, NGOs and INGOs begin rigorous capacity development training and awareness raising initiatives be conducted amongst school going kids, parents, non-governmental employees and the citizens of Liberia at large on Cyberbullying.
- Social workers (Advocates, Care givers and other service providers) must advance ethical



- standards and practices especially when handling sensitive information about victim of child rights violation in their social networks.
- Advocacy institutions (Right Holders Network, Liberia National Students Union, Liberia National Children's Parliament, Kids Development Initiative, etc.) Must engage government to create national standardized laws that promotes child online safety and ensure through constructive advocacy that Child Online Protection is taught in the various educational institution and among social welfare groups.
- Non-governmental organizations should help make available an application for basic psychosocial counseling and develop or create a child online portal as a means to report online violence.

### Delegates Testimonies



Participating in NACED camp 2019 was for me a great experience. I was able to learn new things meet new friends and most of all, I did achieved my overall purpose and intent for attending the Camp which was to make my inputs in the outcome document to end cyberbullying and protect children online. My journey from Sinoe County to Margibi County was not a waste as I was able to engage into knowledge and experience sharing with my peers. I have attended lot of conferences and Summit but the NACED Camp 2019 was for me the best especially that I was awarded the most popular Camper of the year. I had the opportunity to interact

with many experienced Facilitators, Speakers and presenters. I was so much impress by how organized the activities were, especially the plenary session which was my first experience in participating in such Programs and practicing the parliamentary procedure.

With the knowledge I have gained, I'm now making my fellows understand the effects of cyber bullying and mobilizing them for the next convening. Truly, NACED Camp is the best place to Learn, Unlearn, and Relearn.

**- Mark Gray**



I had a great experience at NACED Camp and had learned new things about Networking and child online protection, this year is my first year at the camp and with what I have learned, I can now go out as an ambassador to share the message based on the knowledge gained about Cyberbullying. I am motivated to see young people like myself taking action to drive social change.

As a result of the camp, I can now educate my friends in school and my community about advocacy, the child protection circle and the various forms of bullying mechanisms and how they transform into cyberbullying. Oh! NACED Camp, what an impactful event you are. I can't wait for next year to see a cross session of Liberia's young changemakers gather again at a single venue to discuss their roles in protecting children and adolescents.

**- Joel Tarpeh**





I am very happy to be a part of NACED Camp 2019. I learned new things through the teachings. During the training sessions, I learned that when I want to speak out about any problem that I face I should do it with respect. I also want the organizers to bring more children under the age of 10 years during the next Camp. I will also like for the organizers to take us out to see some places (Site seeing).

**- Dearest Sumo**

My experiences at the 2019 Camp was so exciting, fine and memorable. On the first day, the camp was a bit boring to me when we arrived at the venue "Konola SDA Mission" because I wanted it to be held at the previous venue "BWI Campus" because of the first experience I had there during the 2018 NACED camp.

After the first day at of active activities at the camp, I begun to interact with some of my old friends who participated in the 2018 Camp as well as some new faces. The meet and greet session was a perfect opportunity that helped me network and make new friends. I later set up my expectations and adjusted to the new environment. My most memorable experience has been to emerge as winner of the Miss NACED Camp 2019 Competition.

With the help of our facilitators during the learning hub session, I learned about using the internet wisely and making strong and secure password for myself that nobody will be able to easily hack my account and enter my privacy which may later end up into cyberbullying. It is my kindest call to all children and youths around the 15 counties to begin mobilizing themselves and form part of this year Camp. Trust me, it is a moment you will not regret.

**- Daralyn Williams**





## NACED Camp 2019 ENGAGEMENT

### Statement of Call-to-Action

#### By Us, For Us

#### Introduction

The children and adolescents of Liberia through a child and youth led advocacy platform; Right Holders Network, converged at the second convening of the National Children's Education and Development Camp (NACED Camp 2019) from December 27 to 30, 2019 at Konola SDA Academy in Kakata City Margibi county. This year's event attracted about 100 children and adolescents below the age of 24 years from nine (9) counties in Liberia including: Montserrado, Sinoe, Lofa, Bomi, Cape mount, Bong, Grand Bassa, Gbarpolu and the host, Margibi.

The discussions were premised on the eradication of cyber bullying and child online protection. The 2019 camp opened the stage for the competition of ideas amongst the campers through committee research, parliamentary sessions and group works. After nearly a week of deliberation, the campers hereby announce their issues and now call on the Local Governments, Child protection stakeholders and the National Government to the urgency of the below issues:

**Note: All actions meant to be children and youth-led with support from relevant stakeholders.**

**Goal 1:** An Urgent call to Action to develop ways to educate citizens especially children and young people on the eradication of cyberbullying.

Key Actions:

- Create challenging social norms to tackle cyberbullying.
- School authorities, local and National Child friendly organizations and INGOs should invest in training programs directly toward the mass education of the Liberian children on the use of ICT and the prevention of cyberbullying.
- National government to engage private sector corporations to establish mandates that enforce the inclusion of the fight against cyberbullying in cooperate social responsibility initiatives.

- Government should equip the relevant units responsible for child protection including the security services on how to deal with issues of child online abuse.
- A joint taskforce to effectively monitor and table a report on the implementation of cyberbullying frameworks and campaigns by private institutions.

## Focus Partner Organizations

Government (Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications and Ministry of Finance), Child protection and advocacy institutions (Right Holders Network, Liberia National Children's Parliament, Kids Development Initiative, Plan International, UNICEF, Safe the Children Liberia, etc.)

**Goal 2:** An Urgent call to Action towards the creation of laws and policies on cyberbullying and the remedy for legal redress.

#### Key Actions:

- The special unit to handle issues of cyberbullying should be established to handle and prosecute cyber cases.
- The draft Liberia Cyber Crime Law must be passed by the Legislature (House of Representative and Senate)
- Government should review and popularize her internal internet safety policy taking into considerations the best interest of children and young people and ensure that they stay safe online.
- Government shall commit to engaging and mandating key actors in the private sector to establish and implement child protection framework against cyberbullying.

**Focus Partners:** Governments (Legislature, Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications and Ministry of Finance).



## Conclusion, Recommendation and Next Steps

Over the past two years, the National children's Education and Development Camp (NACED Camp) has become a center of attraction for many children and adolescents across the country. We have received overwhelming expression of interest from many change maker wishing to participate especially from rural counties of Liberia. Road connectivity is poor thereby leading to high cost of transportation, a challenge which has hampered the participation of many rural children and adolescents. Additionally, there are also other change maker who are still in their adolescence but above conventional age of childhood and would like to participate but the name of the event is serving as a barricade to them.

With these key concerns from campers over the past two years, coupled with RHN financial incapacity to transport all campers from across the country, the membership of the Right Holders Network and the Special Organizing Team- SOT of NACED Camp convened an emergency meeting and resolved upon the following:

- In an effort to achieve the total inclusion of children and adolescents from across the country and ensure that they take ownership of the program, NACED Camp should be rotational within the counties. The effort is geared towards finding child and adolescent-led approaches to the prevailing issues within the various counties and soliciting support from adult stakeholders to aid them to take their actions for social change.
- As of 2020, the name National Children's Education and Development Camp shall be amended to National Adolescents' Education and Development Camp (NACED Camp). Against this amendment, the working definition for adolescent shall be "A young person between the ages of 10 – 25 years who is transitioning from childhood and adulthood."





MEET OUR TEAM



- |                       |                      |                     |                    |
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