



We See

What We See
Changes
Who We Are

WITNESS Project Youth Page is made possible by the Margaret Clemons Foundation and The Ministry of Education

The First Encounter

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Violence isn't foreign to me. I see it everywhere: at home, at school and on the streets. It seems to me that I am always drawn into it, as though it was a magnet, and I, a piece of iron.

The first time I was fortunate enough to witness violence, was in my home. It didn't come as a surprise to me, but I was scared. It started the same way like all the other nights, with my dad coming home late and drunk. But there was something different about that night. The atmosphere was tenser and I was restless. After the argument began and I got rapidly aggressive. All I could have done was watch, and be quite. My mother got slapped, my body went numb, and my heart raced. But my mother was strong. As quick as she was slapped, she reacted, and pushed him to the wall. My father was outraged that my mother had retaliated and became even more aggressive. He reached to choke her, but my mother didn't give up, and was able to loosen his hands from around her neck. Witnessing my mother's strength gave me courage to react to the fight. At this point my father tried to kick my sister's bedroom door open right after he had pushed my mother out of the way. While my father was trying to get my sister out of the room, my mom was able to call the police. My father saw my mom with the phone, rushed to her, threw the phone across the room, and scrambled my mom by her neck once again; but this time I wasn't

going to let my mom struggle alone. I wasn't as scared as before. I had built up some courage to hurt my father, to let him free my mother. I ran to him and tried pulling his arms from around her neck, but he was too strong for me to fight off and I was pushed back. Realising that I couldn't pull his hands away, I decided to punch him in the back several times, rapidly, so he could free her. By this time my mother's face was red and swollen and she was about to faint; luckily my little stunt worked, and he let go of her. He was about to choke her again, when the police arrived, and were able to restrain him.

I have met a lot of people in my lifetime that say they have witnessed worse acts of violence and were unaffected. I believe that after witnessing something so violent, everyone in and around violence, are affected in some way. Earlier in my story I said that I was "fortunate" to witness violence. If I wasn't fortunate enough to witness these events I would have never felt the way I did; which has led me to try hard to prevent others from witnessing violence and having the feelings and thoughts that I did.

I am glad to be able to share what I've witnessed, and to also let others understand what it felt like to be a part of a violent situation. As French artist, JR said, "What we see changes who we are!" While that is true, what's even more important to note is: it's what we do that makes the difference!



Canadian High Commissioner David Devine, his staff, volunteers and some of the WITNESS Youth in front of the High Commission Building, ready to install face posters on the walls. Portraits on posters were taken by WITNESS Youth of people who support an end to violence against women and children.



The Margaret Clemons Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Education presented the WITNESS Youth with certificates of achievement and participation after they completed the poster project roll out in January 2012. Left to right: Kwesi Archer, Verney Henry, Kaesia Munroe, Nakasi Noel, Rajendra Ramesh, Danita Jaundoo, Devi Sankar, Teriq Mohammed, Neatram Sookram, Chantel Lewis, Marcel Persaud, Shakera Hoosain, Daisha Henry, Mark Davidson, and Krissy Morgan (not pictured.)

Always Being Judged

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Don't Judge me because I'm beautiful,
Because my beauty will someday fail me
Don't Judge me by the weakness of my self- concept
Because this is the path to my resilience and excessive strength
Don't Judge me by my chronological age,
Because one day I will surely grow older
Don't Judge me by the way I dress
Because someday things are going to get better
Don't Judge me because I'm poor
Because I will be rich with the power vested in me
Don't Judge me by the color of my skin
Because my color is just an external appearance
Judge me by my coherent ability to work
Judge me by my personality and characteristics
But tell me, who are you to judge me?

Occupation

By WITNESS Youth Staff

T	E	C	I	S	T	R	E	R	T	H	W	A	T	H	L	E	T	E	A	S
J	B	A	R	B	E	R	O	A	I	H	O	M	E	I	S	T	H	E	B	F
A	C	J	C	L	U	I	P	H	E	T	S	A	N	T	A	K	G	D	E	J
C	G	Q	B	E	Y	O	J	N	S	D	N	D	U	T	C	H	D	D	D	U
K	G	B	H	S	O	K	O	I	B	E	G	O	O	D	K	D	R	A	Y	N
L	O	T	K	P	L	F	D	W	H	A	T	W	E	S	E	E	M	E	P	J
C	E	G	H	A	T	O	G	C	H	A	N	G	E	S	H	I	A	R	I	U
A	D	G	B	E	P	L	A	W	H	O	W	E	A	C	T	Y	N	E	T	S
Z	X	U	T	O	K	L	R	O	A	R	E	T	T	N	L	I	A	K	B	T
K	N	C	R	G	H	K	B	D	N	D	D	U	A	I	O	I	I	A	U	I
U	L	I	A	S	D	F	A	C	R	O	B	A	T	L	K	H	C	M	L	N
T	H	Y	U	I	O	P	G	E	A	O	D	E	M	S	D	G	I	T	L	B
C	A	D	D	I	E	T	E	I	O	R	S	E	A	A	A	P	N	E	E	I
E	L	Q	W	E	R	N	M	R	Y	U	P	H	V	U	R	O	H	N	R	E
T	M	K	L	Q	O	L	A	M	Q	W	E	E	E	I	T	K	C	I	J	B
I	A	J	W	I	A	R	N	N	B	V	T	C	N	N	W	I	E	B	O	E
H	O	G	T	H	M	U	J	K	L	U	Z	S	X	T	I	I	T	A	R	R
C	G	C	S	E	U	E	H	G	A	F	W	R	D	S	E	A	T	C	P	P
R	U	F	D	D	R	F	Q	E	W	W	E	R	T	E	Y	R	N	E	A	O
A	F	C	O	U	F	F	B	H	K	I	D	N	T	C	R	Y	A	S	Y	N
R	I	A	G	O	F	U	O	C	H	E	F	S	M	I	L	E	Y	S	A	I
T	O	N	R	H	U	A	H	S	S	H	O	T	T	N	T	U	D	A	Y	U
I	U	M	N	E	N	H	A	W	E	L	L	H	E	L	L	O	T	H	E	R
S	A	U	C	A	R	C	O	N	T	R	O	L	L	E	R	R	H	T	I	H
T	F	E	M	A	R	S	H	M	E	L	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	K	O	L

<input type="checkbox"/>	Acrobat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barber	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chauffeur
<input type="checkbox"/>	Announcer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beautician	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chef
<input type="checkbox"/>	Architect	<input type="checkbox"/>	Butcher	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chiroprapist
<input type="checkbox"/>	Artist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabinetmaker	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cobbler
<input type="checkbox"/>	Athlete	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caddie	<input type="checkbox"/>	Garbage man
<input type="checkbox"/>	Auctioneer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cashier	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teacher

WITNESS Project Youth Reporters

- Kwesi Archer
- Haresh Bhagwan
- Judith Cameron
- Mark Davidson
- Reanna Douglas
- Daisha Henry
- Verney Henry
- Shakera Hoosain
- Danita Jaundoo
- Kevon Jones
- Linda-Deyi Lin
- Chantel Lewis
- Fiona Maughn
- Teriq Mohammad
- Krissy Morgan
- Kimberly Morgan
- Kaesia Munroe
- Nakasi Noel
- Marcel Persaud
- Rajendra Ramesh
- Devi Sankar
- Anthony Vishnu

"what we see changes who we are" - JR

Are you a witness or victim of violence? You are not alone. Make your anonymous call to Help & Shelter today and speak with a live counselor on 227-3454 or 225-4731.