



# 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

## A Youth's Vision

By WITNESS Youth Staff

I would like to live in a world free from violence and destruction, a world of peace and harmony, a world where everyone is happy, joyful, loving, caring and appreciative of one another.

To make this dream world a reality, everyone should try to be compassionate and understanding towards their fellow human beings, even if it's simply saying "good morning" every day with a smile on their face.

From my perspective, the greatest of all social ills is BULLYING. The reason why this is the most pressing issue in my society is that bullying affects one's psyche, emotional state, social and physical well-being.

I have to say that once upon a time I was bullied; I was bullied by my cousins who thought I was too skinny and my eyes too large.

Because they continuously teased me about my physical attributes, it started to play on my psyche and I became withdrawn and anti-social.

Because I believed the things they were telling me, I became emotionless, in the sense that my face always appeared the same. Then people would ask, "Why do you make your face like that? You should smile!" And then I would angrily reply, "Is soh me face stay!"

Well, I didn't do anything about it at first, but soon I found the courage to ignore the name calling and decided to do constructive things, so I joined a youth ministry.

To combat this ill, we should sensitise the public about this issue and its many effects. As a group, we can create plays and dramatic poetry so others can see

these effects clearly.

As individuals, we need to take a stand for who we are and what we believe in, and not allow anyone to tease us or push us around physically. We should empower ourselves, ignore the bully and defend ourselves physically, not in a way that makes you a bully, but rather to show that you're an individual and not afraid of others.

The community can play an important role by holding workshops to educate people that teasing, laughing at people, and bullying are not good! Many people think it is good to be a bully because they get to exert power over their fellow humans, but this can also lead to the victim committing suicide.

Together we can stop bullying and create a better world. That is my dream!



A day of skits

## My Funny Bone

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Times have changed, progress has been made, legacies created, but the one thing that remains is laughter. We giggle, we crack up, we skin our teeth. Laughter was even medically proven to enhance a person's lifestyle and relieve stress. The key is an open mind.

We live in the era of electronics and social media, so verbal socialisation seems to be slowly fading, but nevertheless laughter remains. It comes now in the form of what we call "Memes", where a certain idea or catch phrase is associated with a certain character. They range from the Marvellous Troll Face: "Bitch Please" to the Sloth Character: "the Rape Artist". We often do not see the problem of

saying "bitch please," especially when we accomplish the task we were deemed unskilled to rise above.

We also do not realise the disrespect that comes from people using a sloth to portray what they would do to women. I do admit I find it madly funny but there are certain things I wish not to abide with. My wish is to place principle above personality.

Memes are funny, I do agree! But it would bother me deeply if someone tried saying that to my sister, even as a joke. I might even consider punching his teeth down his throat.

Memes are fun; memes are cool; let's motivate rather than degrade.



A day of skits

## "Puppeteer"

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Women are the backbone of society. Women hold the fabric of society together. Women are our mothers, sisters, friends, teachers, nurses etc. They nurture us and teach us values which carve who we become in society. Women are the epitome of strength, endurance and brilliance.

In the past, women were regarded as inferior (and many still are today) and the weaker sex. That thought became action and women were treated poorly. Time has evolved and so have the ways in which women are made to feel inferior. Modern day inferiority of women is now expressed through music which degrades women. The promotion of music which degrades the status and nobility of women is aggressively permeating our local as well as global environment. This

is a cross-cultural phenomenon. In the Caribbean, it can be assumed to be more prevalent.

An example of music which degrades women is 'Stop Sign' performed by artist Konshens. Throughout this production it is evident through the lyrics and video, that lawlessness and vulgarity is promoted, not to forget the scourging of the identity of women.

Women are portrayed as instruments used for sexual satisfaction. 'Stop Sign' is very degrading to women; the lyrics encourage men and even young boys to visualize and treat women like their only purpose is to submit to sex. This negative influence is consuming the youth like wildfire. It objectifies women by making them instruments of sex and frivolity.

Benie Man's "King Ah De Dancehall" is another example of music which sexualizes women. 'Pon bed'; 'pon floor'; 'against wall'; 'we sex dem all' are the initial words of the song; they describe the various ways men prefer to have sex with women and it also shows that women, in the eyes of men, are like rags which are thrown everywhere after being 'USED.'

Music should be uplifting to the heart and soul. It should move us positively rather than promote vulgarity and sexual messages. This only inappropriately educates the youth in society. Women are innately the builders of society and we need to honour them with everything we do, including the songs we sing.



A day of skits

## "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.