



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

My Story, My Turn

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Being inspired by greatness happens to be the best thing within my eyes for any person. Forgetting all the negative, looking towards the light... easy to say, harder to accomplish. I'm a teen with a story, for some out there it's similar, but for others it seems impossible. Here is my story.

Between the years of 2009 and 2012, my life was drowning in abuse and violence, both physical and verbal. From my parents, to my neighbours, to even my friends. There was no way out. Every twist and turn seemed to fill my mind with these acidic experiences.

In 2011, things within my family became very explosive. My father's alcoholism and my mother's dry drunken disease were on the verge

of majorly affecting the course of my life. The fights began to worsen and the defensive offence of my family spirit grew.

In 2012, the tides changed and rough seas calmed. My father found sobriety and has been clean ever since. My parents had made conscious decisions to lead a better life... their reasoning swept me off of my feet. It was us! Me and my sister. Somewhere in the cloud of chaos they saw the effects. The effects on me and my sister.

We had become extremely irritable. The violence began to affect our school work. Friendships and relationships broke due to our irritableness. Our thinking was messed up.

We were sick! Not by a disease

which a doctor can prescribe medication for. It was violence!

I didn't see the world around me as the nice place it was until I recognised this change.

In 2012 eyes were all on me in every poster around town. All were familiar ... they each had the same glow I had one time or another in my life. Some happy. Some sad. Some lost. Some blank. Some scared. My newfound inspiration was to help people dodge that chaotic cloud I had stumbled through. It was destiny maybe, but thanks to WITNESS project I can share my story and help all adults to look at their actions and see how their children are affected. It is my turn to inspire. Thank you, parents!



WITNESS Youth Working on their script for the August film camp.

Show Me Your Genitals

By WITNESS Youth Staff

A lot of people listen to music that just attracts them the first time they listen to it, but most of them don't even know what the words in the song are or mean. They are only attracted to these songs because of the melody, the singer's reputation and the dancing, and not to mention the women who dress like strippers. The thing they do not notice about the lyrics is the way the artist uses the song to send a message; a message that says women are just sex objects. We came to this conclusion after reviewing a few songs, including one called "Show me your genitals" by Jon Lajoie.

This was a very catchy song that we heard many high school students singing and seemed to enjoy. While reviewing the lyrics we noticed the first line said, "women are stupid and I don't respect them! That's right I just have sex with them." We instantly were dumbfounded by such a statement and thought it was

highly disrespectful to women and so unethical. We wonder if this artist would say these words to his mother or his other extended family. We do believe that none of our mothers or our father would agree with such a statement. We believe that women are nurturers of our world and to have such music produced in the music industry is very immoral. We do understand an artist's right to expression, but we clearly see this gives them the right to be mean and dirty.

Another lyric we would like to share from Jon Lajoie's song would be "I can't have sex with your personality and I can't put my penis in your college degree." We didn't understand how to go about analyzing this, but based on what is said we understand that girls without personality and females who are like zombies are acceptable for him since he only wants sex. The other part seems very unjust

which states, "I can't have sex with your college degree." This is simply terrible since it denotes a female's education, and seems as though he does not care if they are educated or not which is very sad.

When all is said and done, we came to some simple conclusions that a song of such context should be banned and should not dirty the minds of the youths who listen to it. We wonder why someone would write a song of such content. Not bashing the artist, but we believe that he has some deep-seated memory of his past that maybe causes him to think this way about women or he just simply dislikes or believes women are nothing but mere sex objects.

All in all, a terrible and disgusting song to females out there, for we believe that all should be treated equally and with respect, women included.

The Incident

By WITNESS Youth Staff

It was a Wednesday evening around 7:15 p.m. I was with my cousin at the supermarket because he had to pick up some stuff for his workplace. After a couple of minutes he realised that he had forgotten his cellular phone in his car and asked me if I could go get it for him. I told him, "Yeah sure," and I left the supermarket and approached his car. I took out the phone from inside the car and just before I was about to close the car door, I saw an East Indian girl walking past. The girl was being followed by a guy riding on a bicycle. The guy was asking her, "What is your phone number?", "Where do you live?", "Do you want a ride?" He was asking a lot of ridiculous questions and the girl didn't even know him. However, the girl didn't answer him and she started to walk very fast.

The guy then came off the bike and he approached her. He was trying to touch her and get closer to her, but she screamed aloud and managed to push him away. Starting to cry, she ran away as fast as she could. Neighbours from nearby heard the scream and came out to see what happened, but by then the girl had already left and the boy had picked up his bike and rode away. I then went into the supermarket to give my cousin the cell phone and he asked me, "Why did you take so long?" and I told him what happened and he was shocked. We then bought the stuff and drove home. When I had reached home, I thought back about the incident and I said, "The way that the guy behaved with the girl was completely disrespectful and he intruded on her personal space."



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"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.