How Can Technology Be Harnessed to Safeguard Children Against Sexual Exploitation in Sub-Saharan Africa?

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What do you know about Malawi?
THE Warm Heart of Africa

- Wales, Scotland, Ireland; Belgium, Netherlands & = England)
- Agro-economy
- Chambo/Batala
- British Colony (political & legal system)
Child Protection


• The focus has largely been child labour

• 2017 ‘banned’ child marriages

• However, the situation remains gloomy
'All this is Malawi: The warm & cruel heart Africa'
UK appeal court rules in favour of Malawian women in rape case

The England and Wales Court of Appeal has rejected a Billiton-sponsored appeal in a case in which Malawian women want compensation for alleged rape, sexual assault and harassment at tea and macadamia nut plantations owned by Billiton.

Man jailed 14 years for raping one-year-old baby

The Phalombe First Grade Magistrate’s Court on Thursday sentenced a 25-year-old man to 14 years imprisonment with hard labour for raping a one-year-old baby.

Superstition Blamed for Rise in Malawi Rape Cases

51-year-old man rapes 2 year-old girl

Pastor rapes girl, 10, infects her with HIV

Man aged 31 rapes 5-month-old baby

(Malawi Government, 2014)
MALAWI: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WRECKS MALAWI REFUGEE CAMP

MALAWI police arrest HIV-positive man over sex assault on girl, 4; Infected her

July 10, 2017

Malawi Police in Mchinji are keeping in custody a 45-years old man Peter Disto, for allegedly defiling a 4 years old baby and infecting her with human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV).

Child sexual offences worsens in Salima

July 10, 2017

Oswin Khamba - Nyasa Times 1 Comment

Malawi Police in Salima have sounded an SOS, saying child defilement cases are on the rise in the lakeshore district.

Former MASM executive Andrew Ngomwa sentenced to 35 years in prison for raping child

Mar 08, 2013

Russell Kondowe - Top News

Alliance for Democracy (APD) has appealed as a NEC member a suspected rapist who is accused of defiling a girl aged 5. The accused pseudoplate is currently out on bail. What message is Abbott sending to women girls & all rape victims?

Mzuzu City Council prays for alleged rapist MCP Mayor but not his victim

Aug 16, 2022

Mzuzu24 Reporter - Top News

Mzuzu City Council has said It is praying for its Mayor Gits Desire Ngirinda who has been arrested for allegedly raping a child.

Malawi has over 2100 child rapists in its prisons

Oct 30, 2020

Daniel Sapuli - Top News

Mothers warned against harboring husbands on defilement cases

Sep 30, 2020

Mzuzu24 Reporter - Human Rights

98 child sexual abuse cases recorded in Mangochi in 2020

Mzuzu24 Reporter - Top News

Malawi, the warm heart of rapists

We are disturbed by a police report that a 60 year old man has raped three innocent girls aged between 7 & 8 in Nkhotakota. Such an appalling thing from this monstrous man. We will follow this case and advocate for a maximum sentence.
• 25% of all children in Malawi experienced multiple forms of violence.
• 20% of females and 14% of males in Malawi experienced sexual abuse before the age of 18, with 68.4% of them experiencing multiple incidents of sexual abuse.
• Among those who had their first sexual intercourse prior to age 18, one-third of females were forced or coerced.
• In the 12 months preceding the survey, nearly 20% of girls experienced at least one incident of sexual abuse, with over three-quarters of them reporting multiple incidents.

(Malawi Government, 2014; 2017)
What has patriarchy to do with this?

• Gender biases among young adults aged 18 to 24:
  • 90% of females and 80% of males endorsed one or more gender biases.

• Commonly endorsed gender biases:
  • Men should decide when to have sex (‘endorsed’ by Malawi’s legal definition of the marital rape is archaic).
  • Men need more sex than women.
  • Men need other women.
  • Women should tolerate violence to maintain relationships (and in parts this is celebrated).

• Malawi is predominantly a patriarchy (Malawian Government, 2016)
How can technology be harnessed?

• Child-centred and user friendly support, reporting and information portal
  • **Less than 3%** (13-17 years) and 10% (18-24 years) received professional support among the two-thirds who disclosed their abuse.

• Multisectoral & cross-country collaborative (**AU, EU, UN**) – a sex offenders’ register; what happens when the 2100 are released?

• **Social media companies** – the focus has been more on the global north.
How can technology be harnessed?

A participatory action research with children & young people with lived experiences of CSE: policy/practice interventions & multi-theory approach  

(Clark, 2010; McIntyre, 2008)
YEWU
References


• McIntyre, A. (2008) Participatory Action Research. SAGE.


