BREAKING BARRIERS
SAFE SCHOOLS: EVERY GIRL’S RIGHT

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
All girls have the right to an education. This right is essential not only for girls to grow and learn, but also so that they are able to be independent and make their own choices in their lives. But some schools are not just places to learn and realize potential – some are also places of fear and violence at the hands of teachers, school staff or other students. Join forces in the global call for violence-free schools for girls. You have the power to make schools safe for girls!

www.amnesty.org

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The cover image is based on a photo of a young girl leaping through the ribbon as she wins a race in Dhaka, Bangladesh. © 2004 Roobon/The Hunger Project-Bangladesh, Courtesy of Photoshare

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HMM A NEW SCHOOL... I WONDER WHAT THIS ONE WILL BE LIKE!

FITTING IN IS ALWAYS TOUGH... BUT I'VE DONE IT BEFORE...

DEEP BREATH LILLY... HERE GOES, A NEW DAY A NEW CHALLENGE...

WELCOME, WE CAN BEGIN NOW...
Hi Lilly, I'm Zook from your class, so how's your first day going?

Great thanks, it seems like a cool school...

Really enjoying it.
What did you like about your last school?

The teachers were just great and we all wanted to achieve something. It was easy to just be myself and I felt comfortable.

It was a good school. It gave me confidence. I always felt like I could do my best there.

School should be a safe place for us, somewhere for us to learn and have fun.

It's not always about winning and coming first...

But it helps!!!!

Race you then, first to the river wins.
Next Day at School

Sorry Sir, sorry

Angela, I’ve told you before, never be late for my class...

My mother is sick sir, sorry

Hold out your hand Angela, you know the punishment

THWACK

Why aren’t the others as angry as me? Do they think it’s alright to punish students like this?

That’s so wrong! It’s not okay to hit kids like that! Violence is never okay. Any violence, from teachers or from other students!
WE KNOW WHAT YOU DID

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

IT'S JUST A BIT OF FUN.
SHE'S NOT LIKE US,
SHE DOESN'T FIT IN
HERE AND WE DON'T
LIKE PEOPLE WHO ARE
DIFFERENT

THAT'S BULLYING, BUT
HOW DO I SAY IT'S
WRONG, THEY'LL HATE
ME TOO THEN

LATER

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT
ZOOK, TO FEEL
FRAUGHTENED ABOUT
COMING TO SCHOOL
EVERY DAY?

BUT ZOOK IT'S
BULLYING
IN MY LAST SCHOOL BULLYING WAS NOT TOLERATED, THE TEACHERS AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES STAMPED ON IT... MADE IT TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE

WE NEED TO DO THAT HERE, THIS IS WRONG AND MUST BE STOPPED

YOU DO KNOW THAT WHAT THEY DID IS BULLYING, AND IT'S NOT RIGHT

WE CAN FIND A WAY TO CHALLENGE IT TOGETHER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE IT ON YOUR OWN

YES, I THINK I CAN STAND UP TO THEM, THANK YOU LILLY, THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME TO FIND THE CONFIDENCE
THE NEXT DAY

HOW WILL THE NEW GIRL DO???

BIG DAY FOR US

WE’VE GOT TO WIN

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

WHERE IS RITA TODAY?

SHE’S NEVER MISSED A MATCH BEFORE

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PLAY ONE GIRL SHORT
THUMP!

GOAL!

GREEN  RED
0 3

WE WOULD HAVE WON WITH RITA PLAYING

SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON HERE

SO UNLIKE HER TO MISS THE MATCH
NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL

AS YOU'RE NEW HERE, I THINK WE MIGHT HAVE TO CONSIDER SOME PERSONAL ONE TO ONE TUTION

I WONDER WHAT HE MEANS? I DON'T NEED ANY EXTRA TUTION.... I WAS GOOD AT MOST SUBJECTS, AND HE KNOWS THAT

DO YOU THINK I NEED IT, SIR?

YOUR GRADES WILL IMPROVE WITH MY PERSONAL HELP?

MANY OTHER GIRLS HAD RECEIVED EXTRA TUTION FROM THIS TEACHER BEFORE AND SOME OF THEM HAD SIMPLY DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL. THERE IS SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT THIS GUY.
Are you sure there's something bad going on here, Lilly? Rita could have skipped school for lots of reasons.

Maybe you're right... but it scares me when kids are being hit in class and some just drop out.

No, something is wrong and I'm going to work out what it is.

It's just not like Rita to skip our most important game like that.
MMMM IT'S STARTING TO ADD UP NOW

GIRLS ARE DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL... AND I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE
AT HOME LILLY TALKS TO HER
PARENTS

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

WHAT SHOULD I DO? SO MANY
GIRLS ARE MISSING SCHOOL....

I WANT TO MAKE IT STOP. I
WANT EDUCATION BUT NOT VIOLENCE!

IS IT DANGEROUS? WILL YOU BE
SAFE IF YOU START TO TRY
TO CHANGE THINGS?

I THINK I’LL BE
ALRIGHT IF I CAN TALK TO ONE
OF THE OTHER TEACHERS FIRST
AND ASK FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

YOU KNOW WE WILL SUPPORT YOU....
STEP 1: PROHIBIT ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS
STEP 2: MAKE SCHOOLS SAFE FOR GIRLS
STEP 3: RESPOND TO INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS
STEP 4: PROVIDE SUPPORT SERVICES FOR GIRLS
STEP 5: REMOVE BARRIERS TO GIRLS’ ACCESS TO SCHOOL
STEP 6: PROTECT GIRLS FROM ABUSE

This is my human right.
I understand and it sounds as if there is a problem, but I think we need to prove what's going on.

But if we want things to change then we have to get more evidence.

Yes, he's done it before.

We're all scared of his personal tuition.

I know of six girls this term who have dropped out.

I've been beaten for no reason at all... or worse...

I don't want to be humiliated and beaten.

Felt uncomfortable, he shouldn't have touched me.
DO YOU THINK WE HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE?

YOU KNOW WE MIGHT GET INTO TROUBLE DOING THIS?

YES I DO.... BUT THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!

WE'VE COME TO SEE YOU BECAUSE WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING GOING ON IN THE SCHOOL.

IT'S JUST HER WORD AGAINST HIS.

THIS IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE IGNORED.

THAT'S THAT THEN!

NO IT'S NOT.

WE'RE RIGHT AND WE CAN CHANGE THINGS, EVEN IF HE WON'T.
Together we can change things

She's right...
This is wrong
Something must be done about this

Petition

Petition

Safe Schools: Every Girl's Right
WE WANT A SAFE SCHOOL

SAFE SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS

NO VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS

SAFE SCHOOLS NOW

WOW THIS IS GREAT

LOOK AT THE RESPONSE
NEXT TERM THINGS HAVE CHANGED
WE MADE THINGS HAPPEN. IT'S MORE FUN HERE NOW

EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT

SCHOOL'S SAFE FOR EVERY GIRL!
REMEMBER THE SIX STEPS...

STEP 1: ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS MUST BE BANNED

STEP 2: SCHOOLS MUST BE MADE SAFE FOR GIRLS

STEP 3: INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS MUST NOT BE IGNORED

STEP 4: SUPPORT SERVICES FOR GIRLS MUST BE PROVIDED

STEP 5: BARRIERS PREVENTING GIRLS GOING TO SCHOOL MUST BE REMOVED

STEP 6: GIRLS MUST BE PROTECTED FROM ABUSE

THERE CAN BE NO EXCUSES, NO EXCEPTIONS AND NO DELAYS...
IT'S EVERY GIRL'S RIGHT!
Amnesty International is a global movement of 2.2 million people in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights. Our vision is for every person, whoever they are, wherever they live, to enjoy all their human rights. We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion – funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

FIND OUT MORE

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