

My Opinion! - Examples

Girls have rights too

“How often do we read in the newspaper about girls who were pressurized into sex by more powerful, older or rich men? Or girls who were abused by an uncle because they were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time?

What is wrong with this country? Girls have the right to say NO to men and boys. If they say NO it means NO, even if it is to older or more powerful men or even if they are shy or soft-spoken.”

Mwai, 18 years old, Zomba



Stop the pressure!

“You know what the problem is when it comes to negative sexual experiences? We push each other too hard into having sex. Boys keep telling each other that it is their right to have sex with a girl, they are going out with, especially when she isn't a virgin anymore. We keep teasing the ones among us who haven't done it yet. Boys keep pressurizing girls. They should STOP!

Now look at the results: girls get forced into sexual intercourse. Their lives are spoiled because they can never be fully intimate without feeling bad. I'm a 16-year-old boy and I promise all of you: I will never pressurize boys or girls into having sex anymore. Stop pressurizing each other: only make love if you both want to! Better wait a while than to spoil your feelings. This is a call to all of you, young people and adults.”

Pempha, 16 years old, Karonga

Respect is a Christian value

The bible talks about love and respect for each other, so I would never pressurize a girl into having sex.” *Mudds, 15 years, Mzuzu*

We signed the Human Rights Treaty

“Girls are being taught to be obedient and to please boys and men. But there is no reason for this. Malawi signed the Human Rights Treaty and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. That means we made internationally accepted agreements that **nobody** should force a girl or boy into doing anything they don't want to. Not even when someone is nice, respectable, powerful or rich. Help our girls and women to stand up for their rights. We are all together in this, whether you are male or female, young or old. “*Kali, 17 years old, Thyolo*

