



Sexual Violence Against Children in Somaliland

Town Hall Meeting Sparks Debate and Puts Forward Solutions

4 February 2020

On 4 February 2020, at 7:00 p.m. Horn Cable TV will broadcast a one-hour film about a town hall meeting organized by Horizon Institute in Hargeisa on 30 January 2020 to discuss the troubling, and very real, problem of sexual violence against children in Somaliland.

The objective of this meeting, and of future town hall meetings, is to give an opportunity to ordinary people to talk about the issues that directly affect their lives, families and communities. Informed, and constructive, public debates, no matter how sensitive the issue, are necessary in the search for meaningful solutions based on the experiences and perspective of those who are directly concerned.

The discussion was, indeed, lively and productive. The participants engaged with each other, with the panel members and with the moderator. They spoke of how the problem of rape against children has impacted their communities, and they put forward bold and practical suggestions for how Somaliland can collectively tackle the prevalence and consequences of sexual violence against children. The consensus that rape against children, some of them very young, happens both in urban centres and in the rural areas, was unambiguous. Everyone agreed that silence only brings more harm, both physical and psychological, to the children who have already suffered the trauma of rape, and to their families.

Draw your own conclusions by watching the broadcast of the town hall discussion on Horn Cable TV on 4 February at 7:00 p.m.