INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE IS NECESSARY

Justice Avis Fisher on Humanity
Difficulties are an excuse that History never accepts, so we have to triumph. I state this with a careless abandon knowing all too well that facts can prove me right, better yet, in this 10th issue we get a one on one chance with an ‘against all odds’ Lady Justice Avis Fisher of the Special Courts for Sierra Leonne. This calm and easy natured Vermont(U.S) grown Lawyer saw no difficulty enough to quell her dreams and went on to make history by being the first female to graduate with a degree in Law majoring in poverty and Human Rights. If a Kenyan story is tad too traditionally scripted to you, for famility breeds contempt, then this is bound to give you back the inspoiration you well need. Moving on, Crime is sacred if you ask the positivist me; crime is a necessity in a society. There’s the obviousness of crime in a society that Law exists, but when crime persists, its anarchy that exists and not Law; I refer to Lamu and environs whose unrest embrace is but a mockery of Law and order we as Kenya pride in. am not the one to advise on it but, come on, a comment isn’t too ambitious, is it? Still progressing to give you nothing short of the best, this is Issue #10 of the Kenyan Legal Magazine; Real Kenya, Real Issues. Welcome.

REGARDS,

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Is Sex Education in Schools the Way to Go?

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In the recent past there has been a raging debate on whether sex education should be introduced in primary schools. This comes in the wake of unplanned early pregnancies that has been witnessed among the adolescence aged between 13 years and above. Just the other day there were reports that twelve primary pupils in the same school in Elgeyo Marakwet were said to be pregnant. Credible source within the school indicated that the twelve were impregnated by one boy in the same class. This begs the big question: should sex education be introduced to schools at an early age?

According to S Hamilton from the Centre for Youth Studies while making reference to Daily Nation’s statistics, indicate that 10,000 girls abandon studies each year due to unwanted pregnancies. A study conducted by Professor J.K. Mati at the University Of Nairobi School Of Medicine indicates the challenges facing Kenya:

- At age 14 a teenage is most likely to have sex.
- 42% of rural and 24% of urban girls have had sex.
- 53% of boys believe sex is the only way to show love and necessary to keep love affair going.
- 62% of girls believe that only married persons should have sex.
- 47% of the boys believe that only married persons should have sex.
- About 35% of boys and 60% of girls believe a woman cannot get pregnant if she has sex during menstruation period.
- 94% of urban girls and 96% of rural girls do not use contraceptives.

It is this shocking revelations that makes teenage pregnancies a major catastrophe in our society today. Something needs to be done urgently to reverse this worrying trend otherwise the problem will reach a state where it would be uncontrollable. When the National Censures statistics were released in 2009 by the then Minister of Planning Mr. Wycliffe Oparanya which put the country’s population at 40.6 million Kenyans translating to a growth rate of one million people per year, there were ewe and cry that the government and all the stakeholders had to do something drastic to bring this worsening situation into control.

You ask yourself, if 42% of rural and 24% of urban girls have had sex at only age 14, then you can just but wonder how our country going to control the ever-increasing population growth rate.
can just but wonder how our country going to control the ever-increasing population growth rate. It is a high time both the parents and the government take responsibility for the many teenage pregnancies being experienced today because they have failed in their role to ensure that they provide contraceptives and civil education to school-going children.

We can’t hide our heads in the sand and say that we can’t do anything about it now because that will disastrous and an act of cowardice. The government should move with speed and ensure that it provides the adolescents in schools with contraceptives. Gone are the days when sex talk within a family setting was prohibited because it was seen as a taboo. Gone are the days when condom adverts were seen as a source for increased immorality among the youth.

Moreover, if teenage pregnancies are to reduce then parents must be ready to play their rightful roles in ensuring that they act as role models to their children. Parents have been accused of focusing on their career development and forgetting that they have a role to play in the upbringing of their children. Many teenage pregnancies can be avoided if only good parenting policies can be adopted. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that parent spend at least four hours a day with their children. It is only then that they will be able to detect behavior change in their children.

I was shocked the other day when I read an article which said that parents in Tanzania were taking children as young as three years to boarding schools. This is a clear indicator of the deteriorating parenthood. It is highly advisable that parents spend quality time with their children between when they are born and age 5 because that is the most critical period in the development of a child. This is true because it is in this period that habits are developed. It is also true that the more time a parent spends on their children the better the children become. This is premised on the fact that they are able to learn good behavior tendencies under the keen eye of the parents.

Similarly, it is also advisable that parents develop the habit of eating together with their children so that they can be able to: first, detect any behavioral change and second, have sex talk with their children. Many teenagers will tell you that it is curiosity to know the unknown that drove them to go and seek answers to their questions and since most parents have dedicated most of their time to their career development the teenagers end up getting wrong advice from their peers.

In conclusion, it is high time the parents shouldered their parental responsibility and avoid taking their children to boarding schools at an early age because they deny their children an opportunity to experience parental love, care and good upbringing. Finally, if Kenya is to deal with the problem of high population growth rate then strategies should be put to control the high teenage pregnancies in schools through the incorporation of sex education in school curriculum and provide free contraceptives to school-going children. Only then will the country be able to bring the already worsening situation. It is time to take the bull by its horns, no short cuts will work!!!

Joseph Agwata is an Alumnus of Kenyatta University School of Law (LL.B 2014).