



Young Girls Connect

Achieve News

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African Women's Welfare Group

Young Girls Connect achieve bronze award

A group of young African teenage girls met with Jenny, a member of the Forward Organisation, to discuss various topics and ways they can have an impact on their community. During the meeting the girls conversed a controversial issue that was rife in the African community and ways they can tackle this widespread issue. They realised many girls were living with the consequences of Female Genital Mutilation, and how it was and still is a social pressure to practice it. Therefore the girls aimed to raise awareness about FGM.

The six months media project was aimed at 16-19 year old to alert and encourage their peers and their community to abandon the inhumane practices of FGM

With the help and funding from FORWARD we was able to put our plans in action.

We were ready to lead on all aspects of the project performance to raise awareness of FGM in the UK, capture real experiences and motivate other young people to turn out to be actively involved in

preventing brutality, violation against their rights to women and girls in the UK and world wide.



These bright teenagers which are from London are now trying to put together an effective solution to help other young girls their age to have the courage to break the silence and ask for help. The film is being used for educational purposes

Visit us at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TL04lpinhhg>

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The projects Skills and Achievements.

Improved knowledge, skills and confidence to speak out against FGM.

Enhanced understanding of other cultures and capability to make safe and healthy choices.

Increase profile and voice of young

people, their achievements and positive contribution to affecting change in the community.

Motivation for the sessions:

- ♦ FGM is a sensitive and forbidden topic within practicing communities.
- ♦ Young girls to break the silence of FGM
- ♦ Zero tolerance to FGM
- ♦ Taking bold steps against FGM
- ♦ TOGETHER WE CAN!

Act now

“In July 2010, 20 young Somali and West African women took part in an anti terrorism exercise in Tottenham to learn about how the police cooperate with communities and partners to work on the threat from terrorism and violent extremism. The exercise, known as ‘ACT NOW’ (All Communities Together Now) police officers saw the girls at AWWG youth club during the sessions. The exercise

involved the Girls taking on the role as counter terrorist investigators having to deal with a real-time, but fictitious terrorist event. During the course the young girls aged 13-25 received information and intelligence that they considered before making important decisions such as the safety and security of the entire community. The investigators were expected to deal with the pressure from the media and the citizens to assure them of the investigation.



Haringey’s Prevent engagement officer Phivos Kavallares, who helped run the session, was delighted with the contribution made by the community. He said: “Some of the players were initially reluctant to get involved as they had a negative view of the police. However, by the time the session had ended they had made a valuable contribution to the group activity. One participant stated “the training

was brilliant; the video looked real and has helped me to understand the police.

I enjoyed it”

“Some of the players were initially reluctant to get involved as they had a negative view of the police”

I now have a different view about the police, it is great”. Another participant said “more sessions like this one are needed and will help us young girls to understand and respect the police more,



London Excel

AWWG youths made a day trip to Excel London in Oct 2010 as part of the Global Peace & Unity Event. Two coaches bursting with young girls and women aged 12-20years old made an exciting trip to East London to share in the fun of the day and support the program. Here’s what a few of the members



had to say: - Aisha “The trip to Excel, East London was really beneficial because it gave us the opportunity to go out as a youth group and have fun together.” “We met up at 9 o’clock to get into the coach and made our way, Everyone was on time and everything went smoothly for the first time ever.”- Amaal “We as a group all had fun together, we also did a charity 100m run for Gaza which was really fun and everyone enjoyed it.. “It was a great day out, Thank you

Mentoring

The Girls have recently started a mentoring training course to help them to gain skills and knowledge which will impact on their lives. This will provide them the skills and experience of what mentoring is like, moreover it will give them the opportunity to know what being a mentor is like.

What we achieved during class.

We achieve communication skills, listening skills and we get a level two mentoring certificate at the end of this course. Anyone that wants to progress to a level 3 certificate can do so or they can go straight work.



The girls were focused on group work during one of the sessions

The highlights of skills achieved

- Listening, speaking and critical writing skills
- Analytical & Planning skills
- Interpersonal, self discipline, reflective learning and self awareness skills.
- Mentoring, problem solving, decision making, critical thinking skills & support skills
- citizenship and civic rights, understanding equality issues, women's right, and preparation for work

Sewing

Young girls connect run design and dress making classes, making their own designs and sewing them. We are taught to use machines, take measurement, cut fabric and be creative. These useful skills give us as young women a kick start in the fashion industry.

Experiences.

- The ability to use a machine will help us both at home and in later life.
- Meet new people.
- Make our own dresses



This picture was taken during a sewing session

What has been learnt.

- How to design clothes.
- Health and safety whilst using the machine.
- Measurement of garments and models.
- Various ways of stitching
- How to use sewing machine
- How to be creative with fabrics
- Cutting materials and be able to mend dresses.

Young girls connect join Haringey Youth Council.

Four young girls represented AWWG youths in Haringey youth council.

Out of these four girls one stood up for recent cabinet elections as a senior champion. Throughout this amazing process her aim was to change the views of young girls by standing up for what she believes in and what she thinks as a senior champion she can change. This whole process has enabled her to be more confident in herself and to have more strength to support her peers.



Anab Abdi-Ali

Though she lost just by a vote she has made us very proud, considering it was her very first time to get involved in activities like this.

Anab will continue to represent young girls connect as a shadow senior champion in the youth cabinet, Anab 17 said "this experience was very enlighten and has been a journey of self-discovery it has made me a better person. I can now with confidence represent the views of young girls in my community and support them as well"

Creating opportunities, fulfilling potentials



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Young



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What We Have Achieved

Young girls connect are now coming to an end of this current journey of the mentoring and sewing courses.

The journey has been very rewarding at the moment some of us now know how to make our own clothes, and help our parents mend clothes, moreover we now are a very close community and we are not stopping here.

In addition to this the mentoring course has helped us to understand , appreciate and develop skills to deal with challenging issues amongst young people. We are now more confident in supporting our peers and helping anyone in difficult situation. The mentoring course is so helpful because it has helped some of us that are currently not in education to gain a national diploma and this would be a stepping stone to our future prospect.

Future and current activities, Trips and award Ceremonies

Activities:

Zumba - Wednesday 7:00-8:00 pm

Exploration Time: Thursday 5-8pm

Mentoring -Saturday 11:00-3:00 pm

Visit to: Wesley Chapel - **Tues** 29th March

Ice skating - Sat 16th April

Stop & Search Role Play - Wed 20th April

End of Project Conference - Thurs 21st April

For more information, call **0208 885 5822



Comments and views of members of Young Girls Connects

"I love the fact that I can come to AWWG to learn and still see my friends" -*Faduma*

"Mentoring helped me to be able to have patience and to have the proper communication skills to deal with future mentees".- *Sadia*

"The activities provided by young girls connect has improved me and helped me to re-focus".-*Mariama*



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